



Rover Scouts

*What
They
Are!*

The Boy Scouts Association



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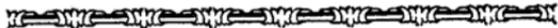


Editor’s Note:

The reader is reminded that these texts have been written a long time ago. Consequently, they may use some terms or express sentiments which were current at the time, regardless of what we may think of them at the beginning of the 21st century. For reasons of historical accuracy they have been preserved in their original form.

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ROVER SCOUTS

What They Are



A WORD FROM THE CHIEF SCOUT

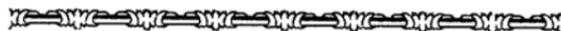
ROVER Scouts are a Brotherhood of the **Open Air and Service**. They are Hikers on the Open Road and Campers of the Woods, able to shift for themselves, but equally able and ready to be of some service to others. They are in point of fact a senior branch of the Boy Scout Movement— young men of over seventeen years of age.

The four main aims of the Scout training in Woodcraft are to develop these points:

- Character and Intelligence.
- Handcraft and Skill.
- Health and Strength.
- Service for others and Citizenship.

The Rover Scout brotherhood has been organized all over Great Britain and in the British Oversea States. It has also spread to many foreign countries.

It is not only a brotherhood but a **jolly** brotherhood with its camp comradeship, its uniform, and its "dens" or meeting-places all the world over.



Since it is a **Brotherhood** of wanderers, you can, as a member of it, extend your travels to foreign countries and there make your friendships with Brother Scouts of other nationalities.

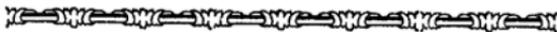
This side of our Movement is not only interesting and educative but is going to make a real step in ensuring the future peace of the world through mutual good will.

If you have already been a Boy Scout you will know pretty much what there is to know about it.

If you have not been a Scout the first things needed are a pair of stout shoes and a stout heart. Then beg, borrow—or get hold of—a copy of **Scouting for Boys**. This will give you the details for hiking and camping for you to go upon.

In a series of "Camp Fire Yarns" it gives the detail of—

1. Scoutcraft and Scouts' work.
2. Campaigning.
3. Camp Life.
4. Tracking.
5. Woodcraft and Nature Lore.
6. Health and Strength.
7. Chivalry.
8. Life Saving and dealing with accidents.
9. Duty as Citizens.



The Aim of Rover Scouting is Brotherhood and Service for Others

THE object of the Rover Scout training is to enable young men to develop themselves as

Happy
Healthy } Citizens
Useful }

and to give each his chance of making a useful career for himself.

It gives the older boy an aim for remaining under helpful influences at the difficult time of his life when he is just entering on manhood.

It provides Scouting for young men with its joys of Backwoodsmanship and Nature-craft. (So many men have asked me how they could get the fun of Scouting, and this gives a way for doing it.)

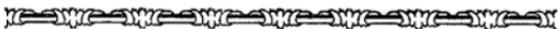
It helps young men of over eighteen years of age, who may desire it, to train for warrant rank of Scoutmasters or Instructors in the Scout Movement.

It gives young men the opportunity of doing useful service for others on a recognised footing.



*"A poor man, served by thee,
shall make thee rich;
A sick man, helped by thee,
shall make thee strong;
Thou shalt be served thyself
by every sense
Of Service which thou renderest."*

—E. B. BROWNING.



How it is Worked

ROVER Scouts are organised as a "Crew" under a "Rover Scout Leader."

In order to be admitted to a Rover Crew you must be 17, but preferably 18, years of age, and if you are not already a Boy Scout you have to be willing to take to the open-air life of camping or hiking, and to carry out the Scout Law.

With the approval of the Rover Leader and the Rover Scout Crew you join on probation to see whether Rovering suits you or whether you suit Rovering.

You are expected to study the Scout Promise and Law and Scouting as it is given in **Scouting for Boys** and in **Rovering to Success** where it is developed to suit the older fellow.

After this you will, if approved by the Rover Scout Leader, be invested as a Rover Scout.

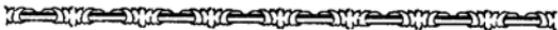
The investiture is a ceremony of admission. It is carried out according to the custom of the Crew and the wishes of the candidate.

It is meant to show that you mean to take Rover Scouting really seriously, and to do your best to understand its objects and methods and to carry them out.

For this reason you should think the matter over very carefully to yourself beforehand.

The ceremony includes your making the Scout Promise, which is as follows:

On my honour I promise that I will do my best—
To do my duty to God and the King,
To help other people at all times,
To obey the Scout Law.



How to Start

THE unit of Rover Scouts is the Crew. No minimum number is fixed for a Crew, which is subdivided into Patrols as may be suitable. The Rover Scout Crew is a part of a Scout Group which consists of all three sections of the Scout Brotherhood—Cub Pack, Scout Troop, and Rover Scout Crew.

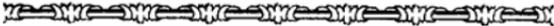


*A complete Group
consists of
Rovers, Scouts and
Cubs.*

It is at all times a good thing for Rover Scouts to meet together for their activities; especially is this valuable where the numbers in each Rover Scout Section are small.

Where there is no Scout Group to which Rover Scouts can be attached, a new Group can be registered with the Local Association commencing with a Rover Scout Section only, but it should always be borne in mind that by starting Cub and Scout Sections as soon as possible there will be a splendid opening for Service for a number of the Rover Scouts.

Each member of the Crew should, as far as possible, have his own special duties in the work of the Patrol, such as Keeper of Camp Stores, the Scribe, the Purseholder, Hike Manager, Study Leader, Social Entertainment Manager, and so on. Also, where possible, each member should be assigned a certain day in the week on which he would be "on duty"—ready to take up any specified service or to answer any call.



When the aim of the team is not merely that of winning at games, its members will realise that Rover Scouting is not merely taken up as a pastime for the individual members, but for the opportunity that it gives them of qualifying themselves to do good work and for doing service for their fellow men.

Rover Dens

SPECIAL Club rooms, called Rover Dens, should be provided for Rover Scouts apart from Scouts, etc.

These Dens should be under the Rover Scouts' own management and should be open every evening for work or social activity.

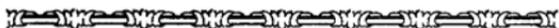
More than one Crew might, if desired, co-operate in running one Den between them and a common programme.

It is not possible to run Rover Scouts efficiently without a Den.

Activities

SERVICE is the practical outcome of Scouting for Rovers.

All Rover Scouts should be encouraged to help in every possible way in the running of their own (or other) Troops, or Wolf Cub Packs: thus gaining the practical experience in training Scouts which helps to fit them for becoming Scoutmasters and fathers in the future: they should be given responsibility for definite departments in helping the Scouters of the Group.



Activities naturally fall under two heads:

- (a) Scout Service; (b) Public Service.
- (a) Service in their own Groups, as Cubmasters, Secretaries, Games Organisers, Instructors, Badge Examiners, Committeemen, Assistant Scoutmasters, etc.; service in helping other Groups; Sea Scouts; Scouts in Hospitals and Homes; helping at Rallies, Sports, Camps, etc.
- (b) Patrols can be formed and trained as "Local Aid Detachments" for service, such as the following:

Accident First Aiders (for dealing with accidents of every kind, crowds, etc.).

Assistant Welfare Officers in factories, play centres, etc.

Coastwatchers or Assistants to Coastguards.

Cyclist Despatch Riders and Motor Drivers.

Assistants or Instructors in play centres, boys' clubs, etc.

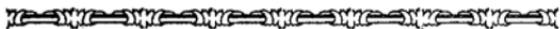
Fire Brigade in village, town, factory, hospital, etc.

Rocket apparatus men.

Lifeboat men or launchers.

Special Constables or Assistants to Police.

It is important that camping and outdoor games should be carried out to the utmost (and appropriate recreation and rest for Sundays should not be lost sight of). "Parlour Scouting" to be avoided. The following are examples:





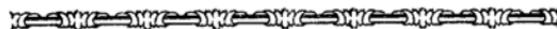
Outdoors—

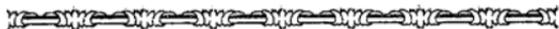
Athletics	Cruises on Canals and Rivers
Walking Tours	Hockey
Coasting Voyages	Hare and Hounds
Football	Swimming
Cycling	Nature and History Rambles
Scouting	Visits of Instruction to Municipal Offices, Courts of Justice, Museums, Factories, etc.
Baseball	Tours abroad to visit foreign Rovers, etc.
Gymnastics Display	
Boating	
Tree and Rock Climbing	
Camping	
Tracking	

Indoors—for mutual improvement, such as—

Lectures by experts on any subject, vocational or social	Study Circles (for Civic Instruction, etc.)
Choral Society	Gymnastics and Free Exercises
Dancing	Judo
Debating Society	Orchestral Society
Dramatic Troupe	Scouts' Own
Folk Dancing	Sing-Songs
Indoor Games	Social Evenings
Sketching Club	

It is a valuable help to get experts to come and hold informal talks and demonstrations or to conduct rambles.





The Responsibility of a Rover Scout

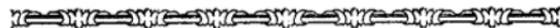
AS a Rover Scout, besides making yourself a better man and a better citizen, you are, whether you know it or not, being looked up to by boys in your Scout Group and your neighbourhood. Boys are awful imitators, and I use the word "awful" advisedly, because it fills one with awe when one thinks what harm or what good one might be doing for the boys in the examples we set them.

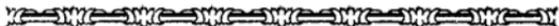
So it is that, as a Rover Scout or older boy among your younger brothers, you have a responsibility on your shoulders which at first you may not realise. You may be guiding many a boy to good or to bad according to what you do or say yourself.

"To be good is noble—but to teach others how to be good is nobler—and much less trouble." That is what Mark Twain says, but I am doubtful about the last phrase, since the teaching is largely through personal example; so you have to be careful.

Be careful, if not on your own, at least on their account. You can see for yourself that you have here a tremendous opportunity if you like to use it for doing a great good for your younger brothers. You can set the line for them to follow by your own behaviour in the direction of cheery and manly friendliness and straight living and clean talk.

So far as those who are already members of the Scout Brotherhood are concerned—and others, too, for that matter—I would lay stress on the possibility and necessity of "service" in the ordinary surroundings of the Rover Scout's life and would point out

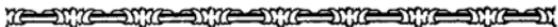


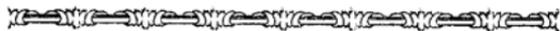


that the Rover Scout must first of all try to apply his ideals in his ordinary life. This seems to me to be a better crown of Scouting experience than sending the fellow on to find new special fields in which to function. In this way I hope we will consolidate the whole idea that lies behind Scouting and emphasise what we really want, which is to bring the ideals of Scouting into our everyday life, and thus to bring it to pass that other people are touched by its magic and helped by its ideals.

Happiness is yours if only you paddle your canoe aright. With all my heart I wish you success, and the Scouts' wish—GOOD CAMPING.

(This is from the Chief Scout's book, ROVERING TO SUCCESS.)





HOW TO BECOME A ROVER SCOUT



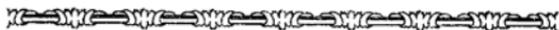
Those Who Are Already Scouts

THE first thing to do is to talk the whole question over with your Scoutmaster. If there is already a Rover Scout Crew in existence connected with your Scout Group, then the matter is very simple for you will naturally pass on into it with the approval of the S.M. and of the Crew. If, however, you are moving from the neighbourhood, your Scoutmaster will be able to give you a transfer form and an introduction to the Scout Group nearest to your new home, or to some Scouter who will do what he can to assure that you remain within the Scout Brotherhood. In any case get hold of a copy of **Rovering to Success** and read through it very carefully.



Those Who Are Not Yet Members of the Scout Brotherhood

IF you can, get hold of a copy of **Rovering to Success** and study it thoroughly. Look around for someone, among your friends if possible, who is a Rover Scout and talk to him about it. Then get into touch with a Rover Scout Crew in the neighbourhood or with a Scouter who will be in a position to advise or assist you.





If, however, none of these means of getting information are available, write to The Boy Scouts Association, 306 Metcalfe St., Ottawa, Ontario, who will put you in touch with the Local Association whose duty it is to help you as far as lies in their power.



Conditions of Membership

BEFORE a young man may be admitted to a Rover Crew he must:—

(a) Be approved by the Crew and the Rover Scout Leader.

(b) If not previously a Scout, pass the Tenderfoot Scout tests and be invested as a Scout.

(c) Be at least seventeen years of age; but since physical and mental development of boys in their progress toward manhood differ, the Rover Crew may require a higher age than seventeen.

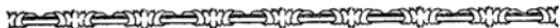
On admission to the Crew he is known as a Rover Squire until such time as he is invested as a Rover Scout.

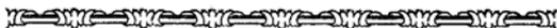


Training as a Rover Squire

BEFORE a Rover Squire may be invested as a Rover he must have fulfilled the following conditions to the satisfaction of the Rover Scout Leader:—

(a) Have read and studied **Scouting for Boys** and **Rovering to Success**.



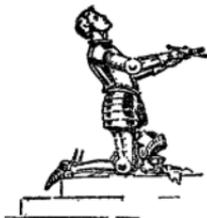


- (b) Have studied and understood the Scout Promise and Scout Law as they concern Rovers, and be applying them in a spirit of unselfish service to life in general.
- (c) Have sufficient knowledge to train a boy of Scout age in the Tenderfoot tests.
- (d) Have undergone a period of probation of at least three months or such further period as the Rover Scout Leader and Crew may require.

The Rover Squire's training is supervised by two sponsors who present him for investiture as a Rover Scout. (For subsequent training as a Rover Scout see latest issue of **Policy, Organization and Rules for Canada.**)

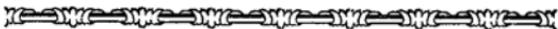


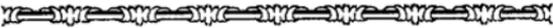
Investiture Ceremony



A FORM of enrolment called the Investiture of a Rover Scout has been drawn up by the Chief Scout. Too much emphasis cannot be laid on the importance of seeing that the young man, before presenting himself, has a proper understanding of the principles underlying

Rovering. Copies of this ceremony may be had upon application to Provincial Headquarters.





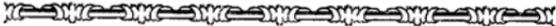
HOW TO BECOME A ROVER SCOUT LEADER

TO men of over 30 the job of Rover Scout Leader is an opportunity for the best kind of service to the younger generation.

Leadership of young men is quite different from the leadership required for boys; it is a job for the older man, with experience of life. A young Scoutmaster should obtain the help of an older man if he wishes to start Rovers in his Group.

The qualifications for the Rover Scout Leader are:—

- (a) A general knowledge of **Scouting for Boys, Roving to Success** and **Policy, Organization and Rules**.
- (b) A full appreciation of the religious and moral aims underlying the scheme of Scouting. A general knowledge of the social needs of the community in his neighbourhood, and ability to find service for his Rovers.
- (c) A personal standing, character and experience of life such as will enable him to lead young men, and an understanding of the principles of leadership involved
- (d) Age not less than 30.
- (e) Three months service with a Rover Crew.
- (f) Acceptance by the Rovers of the Crew concerned.



HOW TO START A ROVER SCOUT CREW

IF you wish to get a Rover Scout Crew started in your neighbourhood or in connection with your parish or other institution, go straight to the local District Scout Commissioner.

A Rover Crew is one of the sections of a Scout Group and is under the guidance of a Rover Scout Leader. It uses the name and number of the Group with which it is affiliated and wears the Group neckerchief.

The minimum number for a Rover Crew is four. No maximum number is fixed.

The Crew consists of one or more patrols, each of which is usually called after a famous man.

Where the size of the Crew renders it desirable, a Court of Honour may be formed, similar in composition to that of the Troop, to deal with internal matters of discipline and administration, including the expenditure of Crew funds in accordance with Sec. 4 (d) of P. O. & R.

Registration of a Rover Crew is effected by filing at Provincial Headquarters an application for same along with the application for Group Charter or renewal of Group Charter. An annual registration fee of fifty cents per Rover is payable at the time of application for Charter or renewal or as soon after as possible.

Uniform of a Rover Scout

THE uniform of a Rover Scout is the well known Scout uniform, that is, shirt, shorts and Scout hat, with special badges as follows:—A bar with RS thereon in front of the hat on the hat band. Green shoulder straps



bearing the special R S Badge. Shoulder knot of red, green and yellow, 6 inches long. For wearing in mufti there is also a buttonhole Badge, of light metal with the letters RS superimposed. (See latest issue of **Policy, Organization and Rules.**)

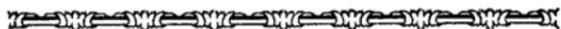
After joining a Rover Crew, and up to the time of his investiture, the Rover Squire will wear uniform as for a Scout except that the shoulder knot will be green and yellow.

Rovers in an Association or District may, with the permission of the District Commissioner and Local Association, wear a special neckerchief other than their own Group neckerchief, on occasions when they meet together for combined activities.



Further Information

Can be obtained on any particular matter by writing to Provincial Headquarters.



Books Recommended

Rovering to Success by Lord Baden-Powell	
Board Cover.....	.85
Paper Cover.....	.35
Life's Snags by Lord Baden-Powell.....	.85
Rover Scouting by F. W. W. Griffin.....	.50
Rover Quests in Practice10
Rover Scouts by Gilcraft.....	.50
Policy, Organization and Rules25
Rover Scouts, What They Are	Free
Investiture of a Rover Scout	Free
The Vigil of a Rover Scout	Free
The Scout Law and Promise Interpreted for Rovers.....	Free

The Scout Leader—Official Monthly, sent free to all Canadian Cubmasters, Scoutmasters, Rover Leaders and Commissioners; to others, **50c. a year**. Send subscriptions to Dominion Headquarters, Ottawa.

The Scouter—Published by Imperial Headquarters. Annual subscription 4s 6d post free. Address, 25 Buckingham Palace Rd., London, S.W.1.

The Rover World—Annual subscription 7s 6d, same address.

