



THE BROWNSEA GAZETTE

NEWSLETTER OF THE BPSA IN CANADA

NUMBER 5

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FROM THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER'S DESK

When your group is faced with a project that will require a considerable sum of money what do you do?

14th Dragon Lake group faced the prospect of having to put new roof on a couple of buildings at Camp Puntchesakut which will require more funds than had been previously allowed for in the operating budget. What to do, what to do? That was the question.

The resourcefulness of Scouter Ric came to the forefront and an application for a grant from the Quesnel Community Foundation was duly filled out and submitted on behalf of BPSA-BC.

On Saturday, April 9, 2011 I was privileged to attend the 10th Annual Quesnel Community Foundation Awards Gala 2011. We were one of 12 organizations receiving a grant this year. Of the twelve, BPSA-BC was one of two groups receiving a grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 each. These were the two highest amounts awarded.

Over 200 dignitaries attended this prestigious event and I am pleased to say that along with myself, Ric and Tammy Raynor and Michel Robert attended this event in full uniform and were able to do a great deal of Public Relations on behalf of BPSA-BC and some people even made commitments to enrol their youth and perhaps themselves in our organization.

As part of my acceptance speech I was able to present an overview of what BPSA is all about and it was well received by members of the audience. Thanks Ric, for your help on putting the speech together.

On another note, 14th Dragon Lake group has made plans to replace the roof on two buildings this May and plans are underway to replace the foundations of a few buildings in late July and during August, after we return from the World Jamboree. Machinery and materials are already arranged. Other help is always needed throughout the year. There is always something that needs fixing or improving. If you would like to help, contact Ric Raynor at 250-747-4334. All help is greatly appreciated and remember this camp is for all of our members to enjoy.

The Third WFIS World Jamboree, takes place in Mexico from July 16th thru July 23rd, 2011. Do not let your youth miss out on this once in a lifetime opportunity. I know of one group which is offering an interest free loan to parents who do not have the cash in one lump sum. This is to be paid back over a one or two year period. What a great idea. Kudos to the group who came up with this brilliant idea.

Check this issue for dates for Summer Camp, July 3-9th with Explorers coming a day or two earlier, and for training dates for your leaders.

Till next time this is Scouter Mike saying,
so long, keep smiling and have a great day!



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Almost everyone living in BC has used a provincial park at one time or another. With summer just around the corner, it is time to reacquaint yourself with some of the finest BC has to offer.

This is the 100th anniversary of the founding of British Columbia's parks system. What better time to get out the tent pegs and hiking boots or spruce up the "Tin Tent" and head for one of the province's campgrounds?

More than 10,000 campsites are accessible by vehicle, ideal for families, seniors or the less inclined to real wilderness, but although not usually for Otters, another 2,000 are available to trekkers who don't mind packing their supplies into the back country.

After a century, our parks system offers 6,000 kilometres of hiking trails — you could walk across Canada from Estevan Point on Vancouver Island to Cape Spears, N. L., and not complete that distance — but only 1,138 kilometres of roads, so the parks remain a largely a wilderness experience, but more than 230 parks have facilities for the disabled so our parks are truly for everyone.

British Columbians are blessed with the second biggest park system in Canada, bested only by the national parks. From the snows of Mount Robson to the grizzly sanctuary of the Khutzeymateen and from the beautiful Gulf Islands to the glacial Tatshenshini/Alsek, outdoor enthusiasts have a banquet before them that's like no other on the continent. There are some of the top-ranked hot springs in North America at Fort Liard in northern BC; the rainforests of the Kitlope; the wild boreal forests and lava flows of the Spatsizi; the arid grasslands of the South Okanagan. For those who welcome the hike, the continent's highest waterfall graces Strathcona Park on Vancouver Island and shining beaches provide the right-of-way for the Nootka Trail on the wild West Coast (that one is on my bucket list). For those who like their adventures a little closer to home, there are stunning campgrounds to be found within an hour's drive of just about everywhere. <http://www.bcparks.com/>

The Otter Camping Badge requires five nights of camping, and it does not have to be with the Raft. Summer is the best time to get outdoors and enjoy everything Mother Nature and the Great Spirit have provided for us. Learn to fish, to hike, to explore – but be prepared! The outdoors, even in our parks, can harbour hidden dangers. The more time you spend camping and in the outdoors, the better prepared you will be when you swim up to Timber Wolves.

Enjoy your summer!



Grey Wolf



Editors' Notebook



I have watched, as probably many of you did, the recent wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton. While all the pageantry and ceremonies were impressive, there was another thing I noticed. Something that probably escaped most viewers: the joy of Prince Harry. He looked so happy for his brother, you'd think he was the one getting married.

I started looking for this and found it again while watching the Stanley Cup play offs. We all notice when a player scores a goal, his team mates come around and congratulate him. But also what most of us do not see is that even when a player has a really good shift on the ice, when he gets to the bench, his team mates pat him on the back and have a few words of appreciation and encouragement. More importantly, when a goalie gets scored on, his team mates usually come around to encourage him and show their support.

That started me thinking that we in Scouting are also team mates and brothers to each other. Our 4th Law says so. The question is are we good brothers like Prince Harry to take pleasure in our brothers' joy? Are we encouraging each other like the hockey players? Do we support each other and appreciate each other's accomplishments?

At a camp few years ago, we did something that left a real impression on me. In the evening, before lighting our camp

fire, every camper in turn would stand up and recognize somebody else for a good deed that other person had done in the day, or an accomplishment, or just for being a good Scout and team mate.

I don't think we do that enough. So let us resolve not only for this Summer, but in all our Scouting, to notice and appreciate the accomplishments of others. Let us try to imitate those amongst us who go out of their way to play a Good Game for the team, those who lend a hand to their brothers and sisters without having to be asked and those who join us in enjoying our own accomplishments as well as encourage us when things do not go as well for us as we would like. Let's recognize the good work of our own team mates. Those are the true Scouts who make our lives better and who live in the Scouting Spirit.

Ribbons and badges are fine, but they can't beat an appreciative handshake or a simple pat on the back from your own brother or sister. Doing a good deed is not only its own reward, it is also an inspiration to others to be and do good like you.

As an old friend of mine used to teach me: "*It feels good to do good*". Let's go and do some good. After all, that's what we have promised to do as Scouts.

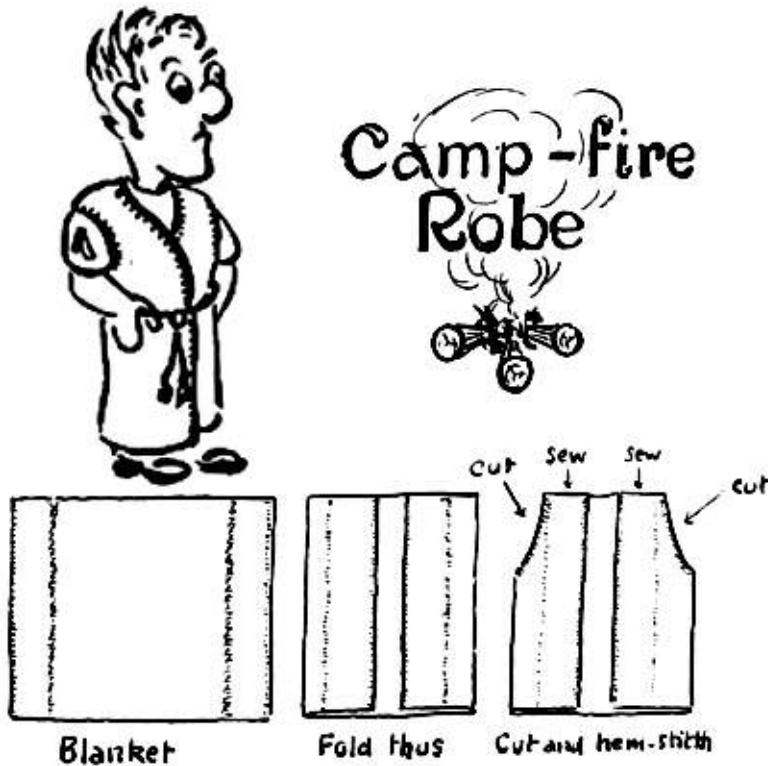
Your Editors

CAMPFIRE BLANKET

If you don't have a campfire blanket you are missing out on one of the best parts of Scouting. Not only are badges and crests fun to collect and mount but your blanket can become a diary of your Scouting life.

Start your blanket today! The sooner you begin, the better, because this means you can have a more complete history of all you will do as an Otter, Timber Wolf, Explorer, Rover or Leader. Plan it carefully and it can record many wonderful adventures and valued memories.

Some blankets are truly magnificent! Their style doesn't really matter — poncho, cape or coat seems to mean very little. But the collection of badges sewn out in a logical pattern is what does the trick.



The diagram shows you how the camp-fire robe is made.

a sincere handshake. Also remember that such trading is not your sole purpose for going to camps and Jamborees! Don't make a career of badgering but a career of Scouting that the badges represent.

You will also collect the badges of other nations, particularly if you are fortunate enough to attend a World Jamboree or other international event. These too can be grouped by country or continent to give your blanket a very special design.

A campfire blanket is colourful, practical and very enjoyable. Collecting and mounting is only the beginning of the fun. The best part will be the memories recalled further down the road.

How to Make It

- * You can either find an old blanket or buy a camping blanket (special blanket for use in swags).
- * If you make one you should make it big enough to keep you warm when you are older and bigger. We suggest it is about 200 by 160 cm (80 by 60 inches).
- * Find the centre of the blanket by folding it into quarters and then cut a 'T' shaped slit in the centre of the blanket big enough for you to get your head through. Don't make this too big, but remember that your head will grow. We suggest it is no larger than 22 cm across.
- * Finish the edge of the slit by folding it under and sewing around with blanket stitch.

For example: if you were an Otter you will have a few mementos from Camps that you will want to sew in place. How about at the bottom on one side? Above them you can put all the souvenirs of your Timber Wolf life. First your investment insignia, followed by all of your proficiency badges and then the reminders of Camps and all kinds of other outings.

Above the Timber Wolf history you will want to record your time as an Explorer. Think about this carefully because the badges at this level are the most numerous. Plan ahead. Reserve certain rows of your blanket for certain types of badges. You may eventually want all your challenge badges together after you move on to Rovers. You may return many years to an annual Camporee and will want to keep those souvenirs side by side in chronological order. As you become a Rover you will add these on in appropriate order, telling the story of your Scouting life.

Having a campfire blanket also leads to trading with other members of your movement. This is great fun but please remember that such business transactions must always be fair and honest and concluded with

- * If you are worried about it falling off you can also add a toggle or button around the neck hole to help keep the blanket on.
- * You might like to cut the corners off and make the blanket an oval shape. This will stop the corners dipping in the mud while you are not so tall. If you do, the edge of the blanket will need to be finished off with blanket stitch to prevent it fraying.
- * Sew all your badges on to your blanket - but not the ones still on your uniform! Don't forget that the top of the blanket is where your head goes, try not to put badges on upside down.

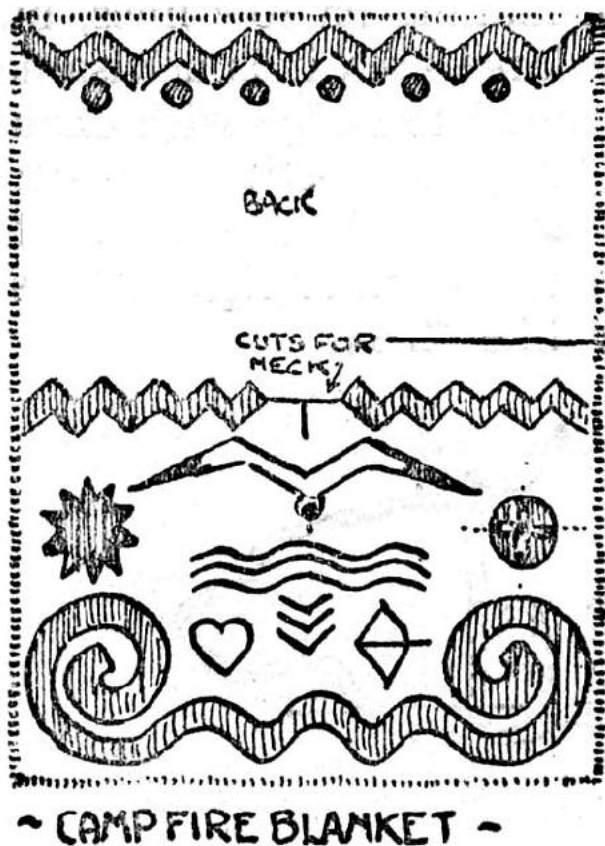
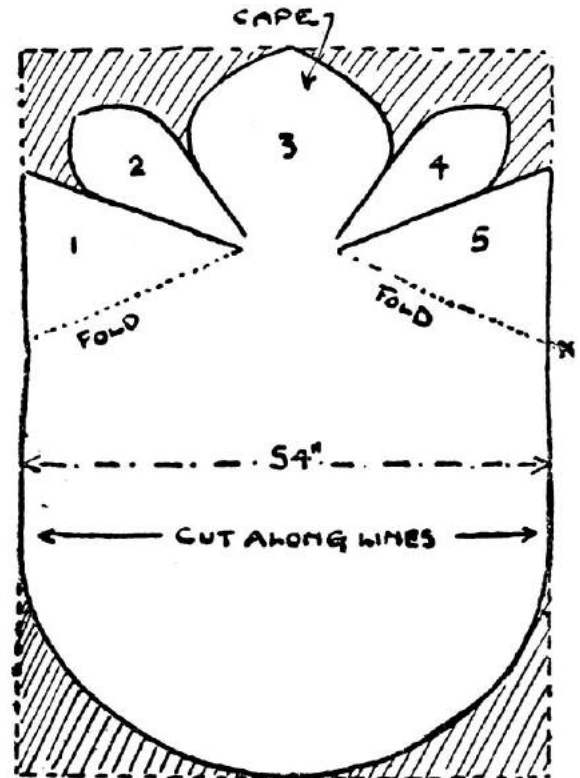
A camp blanket is usually made by taking a standard blanket and cutting a hole in the middle so that it can be worn like a poncho.

The "hole" needs to be reinforced by blanket stitch or by sewing on some binding tape. A blanket can also be made by hemming one end and threading a cord through so that it can be worn like a cape.

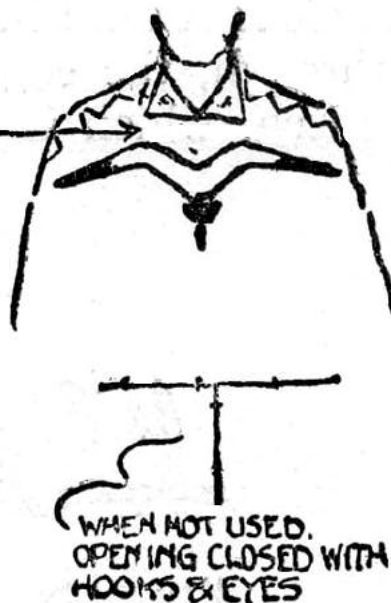
A third option is just to throw it over your shoulders with no holes or fastenings at all - it really is up to you!

Some people sew their badges on in "pretty patterns", others prefer a more random look. Similarly some people start at the edge of the blanket and "work in", others at the neck or the middle of one side and "work out".

Occasionally people also sew scarves or neckers from special events or camps onto their blankets as well. A camp blanket is an "evolving" thing - as you add more badges, the look of the blanket changes and this is part of its charm.



There are as many different designs of campfire blankets as there are the individual Scouts who wear them. Their designs are only limited by your own imagination. We present here only a very few of the possibilities



REMEMBER - THERE IS NO "RIGHT" OR "WRONG" WAY TO DESIGN YOUR CAMP BLANKET

Compiled from various sources by Scouter Ric and Skip



WHAT IS GEOCACHING?

Geocaching is an outdoor sporting activity in which the participants use a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver or other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers, called "geocaches" or "caches". A typical cache is a small waterproof container containing a logbook where the geocacher enters the date they found it and signs it with their established code name. Larger containers such as plastic storage containers (tupperware or similar) or ammo boxes can also contain items for trading, usually toys or trinkets of little value. Geocaching is often described as a "game of high-tech hide and seek".

Geocaching is great for kids of all ages. Even the 14th Dragon Lake Otters have placed a geocache (GC26ZM6) and usually try to involve geocaching in their outings and day camps. More information and directions can be found at www.geocaching.com <<http://www.geocaching.com>>

As with all outdoor activities, there are certain "rules" and guidelines for geocaching. A good summary is the Geocacher's Creed:

Be Considerate of Others

- ✓ Don't spoil the hunt for others - allow them to experience the cache as its owner intended.
 - ▶ Avoid leaving tracks to the cache. Do not disrupt the cache area or mark the hiding spot.
 - ▶ Minimize giving unsolicited clues that reveal the cache (i.e. "spoilors").
 - ▶ Don't provide any hints if the cache description asks you not to. In all other cases, be cryptic or encrypt any hints or spoilors you enter in online logs.
 - ▶ Edit your log if the cache owner requests that you remove spoilors.
- ✓ Promptly alert the owner of any issues with their cache. Make minor repairs if you can, it will save the owner a trip.
- ✓ Cache owners appreciate feedback - write an online log, send an email, or otherwise let the owner know about your experience with their cache.
- ✓ Only place caches you can maintain and respond promptly to problem reports.
- ✓ If you exchange trade items, trade kindly: Consider what future finders would like and leave something equal to or better than what you take.
- ✓ If you place a traveling item into the game, attach a tag that describes its goal, so that others can help it along. If you pick up a traveling item with a tag describing its goal, move the item toward its goal if possible. Contact the owner if you hold a traveling item for more than a couple of weeks or so.
- ✓ Obtain permission from the originator before copying unique themes and techniques, adding to an existing series of caches, or placing a cache close to another.



Protect the Integrity of the Game Pieces

- ✓ The owner entrusts you to not damage or jeopardize the cache. Try to ensure the cache is ready for the next finder and is as good as or better than you found it.
- ✓ Make sure the container is properly closed to prevent the contents from getting wet or destroyed.
- ✓ Be inconspicuous in retrieving, signing in, and replacing a cache to avoid vandalism.
- ✓ Put the cache back where you found it and hide it well. Don't move a cache - if you suspect the cache is not in the intended spot, hide it the best you can and alert the owner as soon as possible.
- ✓ Don't collect traveling items meant to stay in the game. This is the same as stealing.
- ✓ Don't tamper with or involve a game piece in "alternate" games without the owner's permission.

Source: www.geocreed.info

DON'T FORGET !!

PROVINCIAL CAMP

JULY 3 -9, 2011

LAKE PUNTCHESAKUT



SEE DETAILS AT [HTTP://BPSA-BC.ORG/A-EVENTS.HTM](http://BPSA-BC.ORG/A-EVENTS.HTM)

EMAIL RRIC14@GMAIL.COM TO JOIN US!

POTLESS COOKING IN THE OUTDOORS.

This month I am presenting a novel way to prepare meals in the wilderness. This is not a new method of lightweight camping, nor a better way to cook. It is simply an opportunity to do something different, use imagination and have a bit of fun.

The simple idea is to plan a weekend camp where no metal pots or pans are used. The first basic requirement is a fire which has a bed of coals. This is best achieved by spreading part of an existing fire to one side. Alternately it could be done on a charcoal fire (but not a gas barbecue.) Because each Explorer will be cooking his own meal, we will need one fire for every 5 or 6 Explorers. Next we will need things to cook in. This is achieved by using some foods as sacrificial containers.

Here is a typical menu with instructions:

1. FRIDAY EVENING MUG- UP

HOT CHOCOLATE: Place a paper cup of water directly on the coals. You can even bank the coals around the cup. When the water boils add a couple of spoons of hot chocolate mix. Very important: The outside of the cup must be paper, not plastic or plasticized paper. The outside of the cup will scorch but will not catch fire. Remember which cup is yours! You can drink from the cup, carefully.

CINNAMON TWIST: Make a dough with Bisquick (or similar product) and cut into long strips about 3 cm (1") wide. Spread with butter; sprinkle on cinnamon and sugar and wrap around a stick in barber pole fashion. Cook over coals.

2. SATURDAY BREAKFAST

BACON & EGGS in the bag: Line the bottom of a paper bag with 4 rashers of bacon. Overlap the bacon so that it forms a dish inside the bag. Break one or two eggs into the bacon. Add your own seasonings. Fold over the top of the bag and stick it on a stick. Hold over very hot coals, as close as possible without setting the bag on fire. When the outside of the bag is thoroughly coated with bacon fat the eggs are probably done. (If the bag does catch fire, the food is still edible!)

TOAST?: Make a ball of Bisquick dough, stick on the end of a stick, cook in the coals. When it's done stuff jam or marmalade in the hole.

3. SATURDAY LUNCH

SOUP: Same method as for hot chocolate, except use an instant soup mix.

PUPPIES IN A BLANKET: Make dough with Bisquick or Pizza dough or some such. Flatten with your hands to make a square a little shorter than the hot dog. Wrap around the hot dog and stick it on a stick (carefully). Hold over coals until cooked. We recommend keeping hands covered with flour mix during the process to stop the dough from coming apart on your hands.

4. SATURDAY SUPPER

TIN FOIL STEW (The perennial favourite); Using 50 cm (18") of good heavy duty foil, place a layer of potato slices on the bottom. Add a layer of carrot slices, then a layer of onions. Put a layer of good meat on top of this. **Season with gravy mix, onion soup mix or mushroom soup mix** (this makes all the difference!) Add another 3 layers of onions, carrots and potatoes to make a sandwich. Add a teaspoon or two of water. Fold the foil using a lock-fold so that the package is sealed. Place directly on hot coals. Twenty minutes a side is just about right. Check it carefully. If the meat isn't cooked, rewrap and cook some more. Another idea is to use two sheets of foil with damp newspaper in between. The newspaper sandwich must be sealed. This will require longer cooking times but will reduce the chance of turning the potatoes into charcoal. This can be prepared at home to save time and bother.

SATURDAY SUPPER (continued)

APPLE CINNAMON BAKE (for dessert): Core an apple just over half-way. Fill the hollow with cinnamon and marshmallows. Skewer it on a forked stick and hold over the coals until the marshmallow melts and the apple is easy to puncture. This, too, can be prepared in advance at home.

5. SATURDAY MUG UP

You could do the same as for Friday, or for fun you could do **S'Mores**. If you don't know how to make **S'Mores**, ask one of your Explorers! (or look it up!)

6. SUNDAY BREAKFAST

POACHED EGGS A L'ORANGE: Cut an orange in half through the stem. Remove the insides and eat it for a vitamin C wake-up. Then break an egg into the orange cup, add salt and pepper to taste, and place directly on the coals. A foil tent helps to cook the tops. (You could also use an onion for a different taste. (Save the other half of the orange for lunch)

7. SUNDAY LUNCH

SCOUT FAJITA-BOBS: Start with a shish-ka-bob on a stick. Skewer bacon strips in a zig-zag pattern with onion, green pepper, and cherry tomatoes in between. The secret ingredient is barbecue sauce. When everything is just about cooked, drape a fajita over everything. When the fajita is warm, fold over the end, then the sides, and, wearing gloves, gently remove the stick.

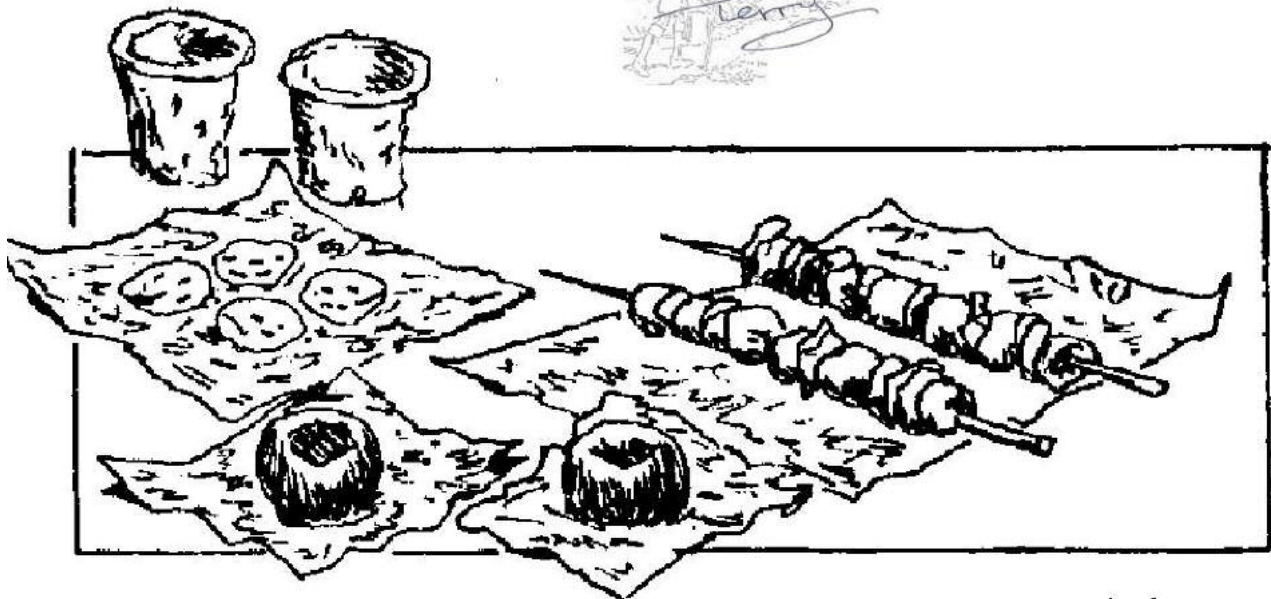
BLUEBERRY MUFFINS: . Use the other orange half from breakfast, make up a muffin mix and pour in the orange half until half full. Place directly on coals. Make a tent of a piece of foil and place over the muffins (not touching.)

I have had a lot of fun with this in the past. Not every meal works out perfectly (hence the fun) so I always allow extra supplies for do-overs and supplement with snack bars where necessary. Recently, I have had to use a charcoal stove because of fire restrictions. It actually works better on charcoal.

This is basically an Explorer activity. If it is to be tried with Timber Wolves, adults should do most of the cooking.

I'm sure you can think of other ways to cook over a camp fire without using pots and experimentation and imagination will carry the day. Do try it, have fun, and take lots of pictures.

Best wishes,



CALL OF NATURE

My, oh my! What a time of the year! Everything is in bloom, the air smells with the fresh moist aroma of late spring. Birds and animals are bringing out their young. Bees and hummingbirds are busy flying from one juicy sweet flower to another.

There is no better time to take a good long hike through the woods. But we are Scouts, we do not go into the woods just for a walk, to goof around on the trails, make noise and disturb everybody around us. Nope, that's not what we do. We are explorers who go into the woods to observe and learn from what we see. Here are a few suggestions what you can do on a day's hike:



A female wood duck with her young

- 🕶 observe water birds with their young to find out in which species does the male help out looking after the family and which just leave the female doing it.
- 🕶 collect leaves of at least 10 different trees and identify them.
- 🕶 keep a log of how many different species of birds you find
- 🕶 keep a log of how many different animals you find
- 🕶 make a list of edible plants you find
- 🕶 use map and compass to get where you are going.
- 🕶 include a geocache in your hike (see pages 6-7 in this issue for details).
- 🕶 identify a place that would be good for an overnight hike
- 🕶 use Scout trail signs to mark your trail
- 🕶 stage an "emergency" to practice First Aid in the wilderness
- 🕶 "read" the sky before you start on your hike, and try to predict the kind of weather you are going to have. The clouds can tell you a lot about what kind of weather is coming your way

There are many other things that you can do to make your hikes more interesting and educational. Let's face it, just going someplace and come back is kind of booooring on its own. If you add a little Scouting into your hike, it becomes an adventure.

There are a lot of Scout principles involved that can be used. The first, above all is "Be Prepared". Lord Baden-Powell had been asked many times "Be prepared for what?" And his answer was always the same: "Be prepared for any old thing." So our "Be Prepared" starts with being prepared for a day's hike. Making sure we have the proper shoes that are strong enough to protect our feet on a rough trail and light enough to make walking comfortable. It means making sure we have packed the right things in our backpack that will make the hike more fun. Have something to drink with you, dehydration is a rather dangerous thing to happen. But do not use any so called "energy drinks" They are not healthy. Pack a few snacks and fruit that will keep away hunger as well as provide you with the energy you need

Have a spare set of dry clothes, particularly spare pair of socks. Having to walk in wet socks can hurt your feet and make the hike a very miserable experience not only for you, but for the rest of your Patrol or Six as they will no doubt have to listen to your complaining. Be prepared for a change of weather. pack an extra shirt or sweater that you could put on if it turns a little colder. A large plastic bag will not take up any room in your back pack, but will keep you dry if it starts raining. Do not overpack. It's just a day's walk, not an Arctic Expedition. You will be back to civilization and mom's hot chocolate in a few hours, not in many months.

But the most important piece of equipment on your nature hike will be your attitude. If all you can think of is "Awww, do I haf to?" Don't go, you will not have any fun at all. But if your thinking is that it's great to spend a day in the woods with a bunch of your buddies, observing, learning and just having a good time, You're on the right track.

It will be a great day !! Enjoy yourself.

Yours in Scouting, Skip

photo ©Karl Pollak



SCOUT LAW No. 3

A SCOUT'S DUTY IS TO BE USEFUL AND TO HELP OTHERS.

Another installment of Scouter Roland Philipps' Letters to a Patrol Leader on the meaning of the Scout Law.

My dear Jim,

They are starting a new troop in Bethnal Green. I was yarning to the chaps the other night about Scouting. They were a splendid crew of about forty boys, all of whom were eager to join,

I told them of a small boy who jumped out from a crowd of staring and frightened people to stop a runaway horse that was galloping down the road. I described how difficult a thing it was to do, and how plucky it was of such a small chap to take the risk of trying it.

I asked the boys why they thought he had tried it at all. Their answer was: "Because it was his duty, sir."

I told them of a particularly gallant act where a woman fell over the edge of a pier just as a big liner was coming alongside, and a boy of thirteen dived down into the water and got her out of the way just in time to avoid being crushed.

I told them of the crowd of people, strong men, many of them, who were standing on the side shouting but doing nothing to help, and I asked them why this boy had been the one to make the first dive into the water. They gave the same answer as before:

"Because it was his duty, sir."

The answers that these boys gave me that night showed that they had already learnt a good deal about Scouting in a better way than by hearing a Commissioner talking to them.

They had learnt it by reading of the generous deeds and heroic actions performed by Boy Scouts all over the world, and they had learnt it by their personal acquaintance with the Scouts in their own neighbourhood, who, in spite of constant failure, were continually trying to do their duty in the spheres of everyday life.

You will soon be meeting your patrol to speak to them on the third Scout Law, the Law of Duty.

Duty is not the same for everybody. Some people have one duty to perform and some another. It may be one man's duty to emigrate to Canada, while it is another man's duty to look after his mother in England.

It may be one man's duty to work as hard as he can for eight or nine hours every day, while in a certain case it might be another man's duty to take a month's holiday for the sake of his health. But the duty of every Boy Scout is the same.

"A Scout's Duty is to be Useful and to Help Others." The Chief Scout goes on to say that the Scout will do his duty before anything else, even though he gives up his own pleasure, or comfort, or safety to do it. He must Be Prepared at any time to save life or to help injured people. The question you must ask your patrol is not: "Do you want to do your duty?" but "Can you do your duty?"

A Scout's Duty is to be Useful, but he cannot be useful by merely wanting to be. You must learn how to be useful and how to help others.

A great deal of the Scout training is based upon the knowledge that, unless properly trained, one is quite unable to be loyal to the second Scout Promise and to keep the third Scout Law.

If a man has broken his leg, you cannot help him by knowing how to cook rice pudding and how to make a model aeroplane to take him home in.

Scout Law No. 3 continued

If you find that one of your brother Scouts is walking about the streets on heels made of leather and soles made of flesh owing to the absence of that particular portion of his boots, you will not help him by being able to tie six kinds of knots blindfolded, nor by blowing a bugle into his left ear, but only by knowing something about the work of a cobbler.

A Scout finds that, if he really means to help others and to make himself useful, he must learn a little about everything, and a good deal about as much as he can.

The principle of knowing something about everything and everything about something is quite a good one for all Scouts to remember.

A Scout who means to be useful will work very hard to get his Proficiency Badges. He will be keen to get them, but he will be keener still to deserve them. There will be no idea of swank in his mind when he wears them on his arm.

A Scout will not merely win his Badges, but he will look for opportunities of using them.

The way to use an Ambulance Badge is not to run about looking for people with fractured thighs; nor will an Ambulance Scout be continually getting opportunities of practising what a Tenderfoot once aptly described as “artificial perspiration.”

The Ambulance work which a good Scout will practise is the attending to cuts and wounds amongst the other boys in his own troop and his own patrol, and also amongst the little boys whom he may meet from day to day in the street where he lives.

A Scout who is looking for broken thighs is like the man who was waiting for the river to flow past so that he might cross on dry land. He was still on the bank when he died. He died of a broken heart and never so much as hitched up his trousers to have a paddle.

A Missioner Scout can always find missioner work if he likes to look for it. In Hackney, some of the Missioner Scouts give up one night a week to visiting the blind.

In the same way, Scouts may make arrangements to pay regular visits to the children’s wards in some of the big hospitals, and also to cheer up crippled people by taking them books and newspapers in their own homes.



A good Leather Worker may show his loyalty to the third Scout Law by giving up one evening a month to repairing the boots of the poorest boys in his patrol.

A Handyman should never allow a chair or doorhandle at home to remain long broken.

A Carpenter ought to see that there is a bookcase at his troop headquarters, that there is a nice little stool for a Scout who wants to sit down, and that the frame for the picture of his Chief has not needed to be purchased from somebody outside.

A boy who has earned his Musician’s Badge will try continually to make himself more proficient in order that he may help things along at a concert; while a Scout Naturalist will not stop at sixty wild flowers, but will have a collection of 160 which will be of considerable interest to anyone he may meet who is interested in the study of natural history.

It is easy to talk about being useful, but it is hard to do these things in actual everyday life.

It is not so difficult, however, for a Scout, for the Scouts have got a magnificent way of reminding themselves to keep the third Scout Law.

The way is by tying a knot every morning in the corner of their handkerchief—if they are without a handkerchief an old boot-lace will do equally as well—and by not untying that knot until some definite Good Turn has been performed.

I know that you yourself have been carrying out this practice quite regularly ever since you joined, and the fact that your Scoutmaster is doing just the same must give a good deal of encouragement to the boys.

Scout Law No. 3 continued

You told me the other day that sometimes you found it really difficult to get your Good Turn done until quite late in the evening, and once you failed altogether, and so had to do two special Good Turns on the next day.

Some people who have never tied knots in their handkerchiefs except to remind themselves to have two helpings of pudding for dinner will laugh at Scouts, and tell them that a person with a kind heart does a great deal more than one good action every day.

If anyone tells you that, you must ask them to tie a knot for a week and tell them to get it undone.

The Scout's Good Turn does not mean some kindness that one would do in any case, but it means something that one has gone out of one's way to do to help other people.

In one troop they do not count it a Good Turn for a boy to give up his seat in a bus or in a tram. "Because," as one of their Seconds told me not long ago, "any chap who was a gentleman would do that, whether he was a Scout or not."

The Chief has likened the Boy Scouts to the knights of old, and you will remember that the knights of old took a great deal of trouble in looking for Good Turns to do.

They did not merely stay at home and stroke the cat and make the tea. We know that they were kind to the cats and to all other animals, and being Scoutlike people they would certainly have been able to make excellent tea.

Their Good Turns were done by deliberately going out into the world and looking for people who might need their help, and by giving their help gladly when the opportunity came.

Scouts do the same, they go about the world looking for opportunities of doing Good Turns.

Sometimes a Good Turn may consist in removing a piece of banana peel from the pavement or a bit of broken glass from the road. Sometimes it may consist in rescuing somebody from a burning house or in pulling a child out of a rushing stream.

It does not matter whether the Good Turn is a big one or a small one, whether it takes a long time or whether it takes a short time, whether it is difficult or whether it is easy.

The only thing that matters is that the Scout is moved by a spirit of sacrifice and of service, and that he goes about the world more gladly because he knows that a Scout's duty is to be Useful and to Help Others.

Your sincere brother Scout, Roland B. Philipps



Send us news from your Group. We would like to tell everyone what your members have achieved and what interesting things you have done lately. Let us know what you would like to see in the Gazette – you could even write a story for us!

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Don't be shy – drop us a line!

