

PUBLISHED BY
THE CANADIAN GENERAL COUNCIL
of
THE BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION
Ottawa :: Canada

PRICE FIVE CENTS

1925

Rules For Rover Scouts

* The editors of this e-edition would like to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of Scouter Dennis Trimble in the preparation of this book.

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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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“ROVERING TO SUCCESS”

Is a book of Life – sport for young men by Sir Robert Baden-Powell, Bt., with sixty illustrations from B-P’s own men.

If you would like to learn more about Rovering than it is possible to present within the limits of this pamphlet, read “ROVERING TO SUCCESS,” a book intended to help young men to get on the right track and make the best of their lives.

The author shows that by wrong use good things can become bad things, and healthy pleasure may develop into harmful self-indulgence.

He draws a distinction between true health-giving sport and the other thing.

In short, B-P expresses himself freely and frankly, as an old fellow to a lot of young fellows whose welfare he has at heart.

Every Rover Scout in Canada should own a copy of this book and read and re-read it from time to time. He will find it of immense value in helping him to make the most of his life.

Price 75c. (Post Paid).

The Stores Department,
Dominion Headquarters,
The Boys Scouts Association,
203-205 Wellington Street,
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Rover Scout Movement

SEC. 1 – WHAT THE ROVER SCOUT MOVEMENT IS

Rovers are a Brotherhood of the Open Air and Service. They are Bikers on the Open Road and Campers of the Woods, able to shift for themselves, but equally able and ready to be of service to others. They are, in point of fact, a Senior Branch of the Boy Scout Movement – young men of 16 and over.

It is not only a Brotherhood, but a Jolly Brotherhood, with its camp comradeship, its badges, its secret signs, its uniform and its “dens” or meeting places everywhere. The Rover Brotherhood has been organized all over Great Britain and is fast spreading throughout the world.

Rover Scouts form a Senior Branch off the Boy Scout Movement, the main aims of which are to develop

- Character and Intelligence,
- Hand-craft and Skill,
- Health and Strength,
- Service for Others and Citizenship.

SEC. 2 – ROVERS IN CANADA

Rovering in England has now passed the experimental stage, and is actually in practice to good effect. In Canada it is steadily gaining in favor. Where Scoutmasters have started Rovers in connection with their troops they have invariably been well satisfied with the results. In addition to successfully carrying out their own program, the Rovers have helped in the work with the troop and with the affiliated Wolf Cub pack.

As indicated above, the general idea of the Rover scheme is to assist the older boy to train himself for his life work and at the same time qualify him for service as a Scoutmaster, when older.

SEC. 3 – THE ROVER PATROL

The Rover Patrol consists of from four to eight members. A Patrol can be either a part of a Scout troop or an independent unit. Ordinarily the Rover Patrol, although receiving training, forms part of a Scout troop. The members should be 16 years of age or over on joining. A group of two or more patrols can form a Troop. Each Patrol will be under a Rover Mate, elected by the Patrol and approved by the Scoutmaster. The Rover Mate will act as its leader in all games, club arrangements, studies, public activities, etc. He will be assisted by a Second Mate selected by himself.

The Patrol is a gang,, and a gang is the natural band of pals into which young men form themselves in all grades of life. There is this difference in the Patrol, however, that through the spirit of comradeship runs the thread of higher aspiration and mutual ambition to do good to others and to one’s self. Each Patrol should, as far as possible, have its own “den” or particular part of the troop room. The Patrol should form the team for games, recreation and work. Where fellows are all working for the honour of the Team, the standard of achievement is bound to be raised. Each member of the Patrol should, as far as possible, have his own special duties in the

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work of the Patrol, such as Keeper of Camp Stores, the Scribe, the Purse Holder, Hike Manager, Study Leader, Social Entertainment Manager and so on. Also, where possible, each member should be assigned a certain day in the week upon which he would be “on duty”— ready to take up any specified work or to answer any call.

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

SEC. 4 – THE TROOP

Under special circumstances a Commissioner may recommend formation of a separate troop consisting of Rovers when the number available seems to warrant this course.

A Rover Troop consists of a minimum of two patrols, with a maximum of four or five patrols. It should be under the direction of a Rover Master and Assistant. The troop is registered at Provincial Headquarters in the same way as a Scout troop is registered. Where patrols belong to different Scout troops an additional patrol may be desirable for receiving unattached Rovers.

SEC. 5 – HOW TO START

The first thing to do is to find a headquarters, or “Rover Den,” where Rover meetings will be held. Next comes the selection of a Rover Master. Where there are only a couple of Rover patrols they will likely be attached to the Scout troop, and the Scoutmaster will be known as their Rover Master. Where, however, numbers make it necessary to form a separate Rover troop, apart from the Scout troop, it will be best to obtain a separate Rover Master; who should be a real man, and the unanimous choice of the boys who are to be Rovers.

The “Den” and the Rover Master found, the boys will get down to work at once, studying for the Rover badges. After they have passed, the first test (Sec. 11) and have been properly invested (Sec. 26), some will determine on qualifying for the First Class Rover’s badge within a year, others will begin fitting themselves to act as Rover Instructors (Sec. 18).

Each patrol will elect by ballot its Rover Mate, with the Approval of the Rover Master. In the same way, when there are more than two patrols, a Senior Rover Mate will be elected.

The Rover Court of Honour, which is the Executive Committee of the Rover Troop, is next formed (Sec. 21). The troop itself forms the Rovers in Council (Sec. 22).

It is important that the Rover Master should realize that Rovers practically run themselves, whereas before, as Scouts, the Scoutmaster was compelled to have them more or less constantly under his eye.

Before deciding on general activities for the Rover troop read Section 27.

SEC. 6 – ROVER MEETING NIGHTS

The Rover Patrol must have its own separate hour or night for meeting. This may present a difficulty. One solution is the holding of the Rover meeting after the Scout troop has finished its evening’s work in the same room. The boys will prefer, however, to have their own meeting place, which is always open to them, or to which all have keys.

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SEC. 7 – ROVERS AND THE SCOUTMASTER

To the already over-worked Scoutmaster it might seem impossible to find more time for training Rovers, but if some definite share of the Scoutmaster's own work is handed over to each Rover, the problem will readily be solved. Indeed the Scoutmaster probably will find more time than previously for directing and supervising — his best role.

An Assistant Scoutmaster (or Senior Rover Mate) should be appointed to supervise, under the Scoutmaster, the training of Rover Scouts.

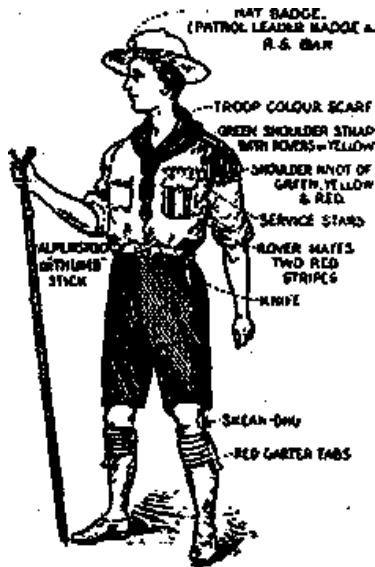
SEC. 8 – ROVERS AS INSTRUCTORS

Rover Scouts should be used as much as possible as Instructors In the Scout troop to which they are attached, or in other neighborhood troops. (See Sec. 18).

Rules

SEC. 9 – UNIFORM

Uniform of a Rover is the same as for a Scout. (See drawing.)



ROVER MATE'S UNIFORM

(1) Hat. – Khaki colour, flat brim, strap around crown, and lace. The bar with “R S” thereon is worn in front on the strap. (The lace should be worn at the back of the head and tied on the front of the hat.)

(2) Neckerchief. – Of the same colours as the neckerchief of the Scout Troop to which the Rover Troop is attached. The neckerchief is tied in an overhand or sailor's knot, and the ends similarly knotted. In lieu of a knot a scarf ring may be used.

(3) Shirt or sweater. – Khaki green, grey or blue. The shirt should have two patch pockets, buttoned, and green shoulder straps bearing the name “Rovers.”

(4) Shorts. – Blue or khaki. Scottish Scouts may wear the kilt and sporran instead of shorts. For correct length shorts should reach top of knee cap.

Provincial Councils may authorize troops to wear blue or khaki knickerbockers or cycling breeches buttoned below the knee in place of shorts.

It is not considered good form for Rover Scouts to appear in military breeches and puttees or leather leggings.

(5) Belt. – Brown leather or web.

(6) Stockings. – Blue or black, with khaki or green tops (or a neutral coloured “topped” stocking) worn turned down below the knee, with red garter tabs showing on the outside.

Skean Dhu. – (Optional.) This word is from the Gaelic “Sgiandubh,” meaning “black knife.” Some Rovers wear the Skean Dhu stuck in the left stocking,

(7) Boots or Shoes. – Brown or black.

Rules For Rover Scouts

- (8) Rucksack. – Worn as a knapsack.
 - (9) Thumb stick. – Most Rovers carry a thumb stick, which they should themselves cut from suitable natural wood. The length varies, but usually reaches up to about the centre of the shirt pocket.
 - (10) Shoulder knot. – 6” long, red, green and yellow.
 - (11) Knife. (Optional.) On belt or lanyard.
 - (12) Shoulder Badge. Giving the name of the Troop. May be worn on the right shoulder.
 - (13) Lanyard. (Optional.) To carry whistle.
 - (14) Mackinaw, etc. (Optional.) If not worn, to be carried on top of rucksack.
 - (15) Rover King’s Scout Badge. This badge is worn on the left arm above the elbow, without any qualifying badges.
 - (16) Proficiency Badges. – **ROVERS DO NOT WEAR PROFICIENCY BADGES.**
 - (17) Service Stars. – For each year’s Rover service. Scouts wear a 6 pointed white metal badge with red cloth over the left pocket.
- Buttonhole badges. – On their every day clothes Rover wear a special Rover Scout Buttonhole Badge made in metal.

SEC. 10 – ROVER AGE

The usual age at which a boy (whether previously Scout or not) may be admitted as a Rover Scout is 16, but in view of the fact that boys are often old or young for their age it is left to the discretion in individual cases.

Only in quite exceptional cases, however, should boys under 16 be admitted.

SEC. 11 – FIRST TESTS

Before a boy can be a Rover Scout he must satisfy his Scoutmaster that he knows: –

- (a) The Scout Law.
- (b) Signs and salutes.
- (c) Six knots; that is reef, sheet bend, clove-hitch, bowline, fisherman’s, and sheep-shank.
- (d) The right way to fly the Union Jack, what it stands for, and the underlying principles of the Constitution of the British Commonwealth.
- (e) First Aid as for Second Class Scout.
- (f) How to lay and light a fire and cook a simple meal.
- (g) The use of a compass and how to read a map.
- (h) How to look after his own health in matters of cleanliness, fresh air, food and clothing.
- (i) The danger of excessive use of tobacco and alcohol and the importance of continence.



He will then be enrolled as a Rover Scout (see Section 26 for the enrolment ceremony.)

In the case of those who have already been Scouts, the enrolment ceremony must be regarded as the occasion on which the Rover Scout is renewing his Scout promise.

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After his Investiture or the enrolment ceremony he is a Rover Scout, and is entitled to wear the Rover uniform.

SEC. 12 – 1st CLASS ROVER SCOUT

Before being awarded the First Class Rover Scout Badge a Rover Scout must pass the following tests to the satisfaction of a qualified examiner: –



**FIRST CLASS
ROVER BADGE**

(a) Swim 200 yards; or produce a doctor's certificate to the effect that this would be dangerous to his health and as a substitute qualify for the Rambler's Badge.

(b) Journey, hike, back-packing, 20 miles, taking two days, and sleeping out one night in improvised shelter, or tent carried in his pack. Make a detailed journey report on approved lines, with sketch map of route taken.

(c) Pass the senior competitive standard for first aid as defined in the text books of the St. John Ambulance Association.

(d) Pass for the Scout Campers' Badge.

(e) Judge distance, area, size, numbers, height and weight with reasonable accuracy.

(f) Thrift. – Show a knowledge of management of personal finance, savings bank, investments and national economy.

(g) Understand the principles of local government and the administration of justice.

(h) Service for Others. – Possess the Rover Instructor Badge (see Section 18) and have made use of it by instructing others for a period of not less than six months.

(i) Nature Lore – In any of such subjects as: Astronomy – knowledge of the stars; Bacteriology – germ study; Botany – knowledge of plants; Zoology – knowledge of animals; Biology – knowledge of origin and life of living things; Geology – knowledge of rock history, etc.; Chemistry and Electricity.

(j) Have had 12 months' service as a Rover Scout.

The badge is the same as that of a First Class Scout, but with a red border.

SEC. 13 – ROVER KING'S SCOUT



**ROVER KING'S
SCOUT BADGE**

Before a Rover may wear the Rover King's Scout Badge he must be a First Class Rover Scout, and must have passed the tests for four of the following Proficiency Badges (of which the Pathfinder is compulsory): – Ambulance, Cyclist (or Horseman), Marksman, Pathfinder, Signaller, Fireman, Rescuer, Interpreter. Public Health Man.

Tests for these Badges must be passed before at least one qualified examiner. The only badge worn to show that the above requirements have been complied with is the Rover King's Scout Badge, which is the same as the ordinary King's Scout Badge but

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with a red border. The badge is worn on the left arm above the elbow and, of course, without any of the qualifying badges.

SEC. 14 – ROVER SECOND

A Rover Second is selected by the Rover Mate to be his Assistant and to take charge when he himself is away.

Uniform. – As for Rover Scout, with single vertical Red Braid stripe 3” long, ½” wide, worn on right side of pleat of left shirt pocket.

SEC. 15 – ROVER MATE

A Rover Mate is elected by the Patrol, with the approval of the Scoutmaster.

Uniform. – As for Rover Scout, with 2 vertical Red Braid stripes 3” long, ½” wide, worn on either side of pleat of left pocket of shirt.

Badge. – The Rover Mate’s Badge consists of a white metal fleur-de-lis in front of hat, with an R S bar below it.



SEC. 16 – SENIOR ROVER MATE

Where there are more than two Rover Scout patrols in a troop they may elect a Senior Rover Mate, with the approval of the Scoutmaster.

Uniform. – Same as for Rover Mate, but with three vertical Red Braid stripes 3” long, ½” wide, worn on left pocket of shirt.

SEC. 17 – ROVER SCOUTS HOLDING WARRANTS

A Rover Scout on reaching the minimum age for that rank may become an Assistant Scoutmaster, Cubmaster, etc., without ceasing to be a Rover Scout. Possession of a Warrant, however, will not give him precedence as a Rover Scout.



SEC. 18 – ROVER INSTRUCTOR

Must show a knowledge of and ability to instruct in the subjects of the Scout First Class Tests or of one or more of the Scout Proficiency Badges.

The Badge is worn above the right breast pocket.

SEC. 19 – RAMBLER'S BADGE

Must walk an aggregate of 100 miles outside towns during or



**RAMBLER'S
BADGE**

holiday hikes (or alternatively canoe trips aggregating 200 miles); must keep a log of his journeys, to be handed in on completing the total of 100 miles. This log should give dates, places and distances, and should preferably give information that would be of use to other hikers, such as places of interest to be visited on route, good camping places, inns, hints for finding the way at difficult points; sketch maps and nature notes should be included.

The Badge is worn on the left shoulder strap.

SEC. 20 – ROVERS AND THE SCOUT TROOP

Rover Patrols although receiving special training, form part of a Scout troop. As soon as there are a sufficient number of Rovers available a Commissioner may recommend the formation of a separate Rover Troop.

A. Rover Scout may belong to only one troop, but he may be temporarily attached to another if eligible.

SEC. 21 – ROVER COURT OF HONOUR

The Rover Mates form the Court of Honour in a troop of Rovers, under the chairmanship of one of their number, usually the Senior Rover Mate, who is elected to the post.

The Court of Honour will carry on the administration of the troop, including discipline, recommendations for awards, and the general business of the troop, each separate department being managed by a member responsible.

The Scoutmaster has the right to attend the meetings and to speak, though he does not vote.

SEC. 22 – ROVERS-IN-COUNCIL

This Council is composed of all the Rovers of the troop, with the Rover Master as chairman. Here is where all the ideas come from. In its administration of the troop the Court of Honour will have constantly in mind suggestions made at Council meetings.

Nothing becomes law in the troop until finally passed by the Council by a majority vote.

Young men who are preparing themselves for the First Tests may attend meetings of Council, but, until after investiture, may not vote.

Candidates must appear before the Council and formally make application for permission to join the Rover Troop.

After Candidates have left the room the Council will decide on their admission by ballot and the Rover Master will notify them of the Court's decision.

SEC. 23 – TROOP COMMITTEES

Since the Rovers form a part of the Scout troop, they are the concern of the Troop Committee, and the Committee should assist the Scoutmaster with finances in connection with the Rovers, in securing camp sites, camp equipment, etc., if necessary. The Committee also may be helpful in securing employment for the Rovers.

SEC. 24 – “ROVERING TO SUCCESS”

This pamphlet is taken almost word for word from the Imperial Headquarters’ Rules and from “Rovering to Success,” the Rover Scout Handbook, by Sir Robert Baden-Powell.

“Rovering to Success” may be obtained from the Stores Department, Ottawa, at 75c post paid.

SEC. 25 – SERVICE BADGES (WOLF CUBS, SCOUTS AND ROVERS)

(a) For each year’s service Cubs may wear a six-pointed white metal badge with yellow cloth background above left pocket.

(b) Scouts may wear a similar badge with green cloth background for each year’s service.

(c) Rover Scouts, for each year’s service may wear a similar badge with red cloth background.

(d) For a year in which a boy serves partly in one rank and partly in another, he is entitled to the service badge of the type (a, b, or c) for which he may have served more than six months.

(e) A Scout may continue to wear badges of type (a) and a Rover Scout badges of types (a) and (b).

(f) A five pointed gilt metal badge, with cloth background of the appropriate colour, may be substituted for five of the above (a, b or c) of the same type.

(g) Officers may, if they desire, wear the above badges with a background of the colour appropriate to the nature of their service.

The above badges are also issued in embroidered cloth.

**SEC. 26 – ENROLMENT OR INVESTITURE
CEREMONY OF A ROVER**

The Troop is formed in a horseshoe formation with the Scoutmaster and the Assistant in the gap, with a Union Jack or Scout Flag. The Tenderfoot, with his Rover Mate, stands just inside the circle opposite the Scoutmaster. The Assistant holds the thumb stick and hat of the Tenderfoot.

The Rover Mate brings the Tenderfoot to the centre. The Tenderfoot holds a bit of the flag in his hand during this ceremony.

The Scoutmaster asks: “Do you know what your Honour is?”

Tenderfoot: “Yes, Sir. It means that I can be trusted to be truthful and honest in all that I say or do” (or words to that effect).

Scoutmaster: “Do you know the Scout Law?”

Tenderfoot: “Yes, Sir.”

Scoutmaster: “Can I trust you, on your Honour, to do your best: – To do your duty to God, and the King? To help other people at all times? To obey the Scout Law?”

The Tenderfoot then makes the half salute.

The whole Troop also makes the half salute while he says:

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“I promise, on my Honour, to do my best: – To do my duty to God, and the King. To help other people at all times. To obey the Scout Law.”

The salute then ceases, and the Scoutmaster then says:

“I trust you on your Honour to keep this promise. You are now one of the great Brotherhood of Rover Scouts.”

The Assistant then puts his hat on and gives him his stick.

The Scoutmaster shakes hands with him, with the left hand. The new Rover faces about and salutes the Troop. The Troop salute him in return. The Scoutmaster gives the words “To your Patrol,” and the new Scout and his Rover Mate rejoin the Patrol.

When taking the Promise, the Rover will stand holding his right hand raised to the level of his shoulder, palm to the front, thumb resting on the nail of the little finger and the other three fingers upright, pointing upwards.

SEC. 27 – ROVER SCOUT ACTIVITIES

It is difficult to lay down exactly what Rover Scout activities should be, since so much depends on the locality and conditions. The following are to be regarded as suggestions only: –

1. – Positions in Scout troops, such as Scribe, Treasurer, etc.
2. – Cub Instructors.
3. – Special Subject Instructors, e.g., Natural History, Swimming, Boxing, etc.
4. – Fire Brigade work, in small towns or villages.
5. – Ambulance Specialists in small towns or villages.
6. – Hospital Orderlies.
7. – Ushers at public functions, conventions, etc.
8. – Special Duty in cases of lost and strayed people, etc.
9. – Street Traffic Control, such as near schools when children are coming out, or on special occasions.
10. – Superintending game’s for children’s playgrounds.
11. – Looking after newcomers or foreign boys.
12. – Coast and Lake Rescue work.
13. – Forest Fire-fighters.
14. – Forest Conservation Patrols.
15. – Watching and Instructing Campers in the matter of fires.
16. – Ice Patrols where skating is dangerous.
17. – Game Protectors and Assistant to Wardens.
18. – Bird Wardens.
19. – Advisers on methods of Bird attraction and conservation in their own districts, particularly in cities.
20. – Carrier-Pigeon Flying for messenger work.
21. – Gathering Local History data.
22. – Snowsnoe Clubs for winter hiking.
23. – Building cabins or shelters for troop winter hikes, and club-room decoration.
24. – Information Service for Rovers’ Employment Agency.

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25. – Actively helping old people in need.
26. – Visiting Orphan's Home's to play games with children.
27. – Canoeing – long trips.
28. – Mountaineering.
29. – Village Signs – carving, or otherwise, ornamenting and erecting in suitable places.
Rovers do this in England.
30. – Local Information Bureau.
31. – Sea Scout activities.

From the above it will be seen that Rover activities cover all branches of Public Service. It must always be borne in mind that Public Service is the key-note of the Rover Movement, and opportunities for it will be occurring repeatedly if looked for by an active Patrol or Troop.

THE SCOUT LAW IS:

- (1) A Scout's honour is to be trusted.
- (2) A Scout is loyal to the King, his country, his officers, his parents, his employers and to those under him.
- (3) A Scout's duty is to be useful and to help others.
- (4) A Scout is a friend to all and a brother to every other Scout.
- (5) A Scout is courteous.
- (6) A Scout is a friend to animals.
- (7) A Scout obeys orders of his parents, Patrol Leader, or Scoutmaster without question.
- (8) A Scout smiles and whistles under all difficulties.
- (9) A Scout is thrifty.
- (10) A Scout is clean in thought, word and deed.

THE CANADIAN ROVER SCOUT'S LIBRARY

Every Canadian Rover Scout should, if possible, include the following books in his library: –

Scouting For Boys, by Sir Robert Baden-Powell. This book is the "Daddy" of all Scout books and should be read at least once a year by every one in Scouting. Price .75c. (Post Paid.)

Rovering to Success, by Sir Robert Baden-Powell, a book of life-sport for young men. Price .75c. (Post Paid)

Aids to Scoutmastership, by Sir Robert Baden-Powell. This is the handbook which gives the theory of training in Scoutmastership. Price .65c. (Post Paid)

Handbook for Canada, a complete volume of more than 600 pages, based on the system of training contained in "Scouting for Boys," and adapted to Canadian uses by Gerald H. Brown. Price .75c. (Post Paid)

Rules For Rover Scouts

How to Run a Troop, by E. Young. A practical book written by a practical Scoutmaster, that will be of great help to Rovers in running a Troop. Price .55c. (Post Paid)

Camping and Woodcraft, by Horace Kephart, a Handbook for vacation campers and for travelers in the wilderness. Obtainable in separate volumes. Price \$1.25. (Post Paid)

The Patrol System and Letters to a Patrol Leader, by Capt. The Hon. R. E. Philipps, a compact little volume which should be included in every Scout Library. Price .75c. (Post Paid)

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