History of Scouting

2017 Annual Report

Grand Teton Council
Boy Scouts of America
Robert Baden-Powell

FOUNDER OF SCOUTING

Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell, known as B-P, was born in Paddington, London on 22 February 1857. He was the eighth of ten children of Baden, a Professor at Oxford University, and Henrietta Powell. His father died when B-P was only three years old, leaving the family in a challenging situation.

B-P was given his first lessons by his mother and later attended Rose Hill School, where he gained a scholarship to Charterhouse School. He was always eager to learn new skills and played the piano and the violin. While at Charterhouse he began to exploit his interest in the arts of scouting and woodcraft.

In the woods around the school, B-P would hide from his masters as well as catch and cook rabbits, being careful not to let tell-tale smoke give his position away. The holidays were not wasted either. With his brothers he was always in search of adventure. One holiday they made a yachting expedition round the south coast of England. On another, they traced the Thames to its source by canoe. Through all this Baden-Powell was learning the arts and crafts, which were to prove so useful to him professionally. Not known for his high marks at school, B-P nevertheless took an examination for the army and placed second among several hundred applicants. He was commissioned straight into the 13th Hussars, bypassing the officer training establishments. Later, he became their Honorary Colonel.

In 1876, he went to India as a young army officer and specialized in scouting, map-making and reconnaissance. His success soon led to his training other soldiers. B-P's methods were unorthodox for those days; small units or patrols working together under one leader, with special recognition for those who did well. For proficiency, B-P awarded his trainees badges resembling the traditional design of the north compass point. Today's universal Scout badge is very similar.
Later he was stationed in the Balkans, South Africa and Malta. He returned to Africa to help defend the town of Mafeking during its 217-day siege at the start of the Boer War. It provided crucial tests for B-P’s scouting skills. The courage and resourcefulness shown by the young soldiers at Mafeking made a lasting impression on him. In turn, his deeds made a lasting impression in England.

Returning home in 1903 he found that he had become a national hero. He also found that the small handbook he had written for soldiers ("Aids to Scouting") was being used by youth leaders and teachers all over the country to teach observation and woodcraft.

He spoke at meetings and rallies and while at a Boys' Brigade gathering he was asked by its Founder, Sir William Smith, to work out a scheme for giving greater variety in the training of boys in good citizenship.

B-P set to work rewriting his "Aids to Scouting" as a nonmilitary field manual for adolescents that would also emphasize the importance of morality and good deeds.

In 1907, he held an experimental camp on Brownsea Island in Dorset, to try out his ideas. He brought together 22 boys, some from private schools and some from working class homes, and with the aid of other instructors, he taught the boys about camping, observation, deduction, woodcraft, boating, lifesaving, patriotism, and chivalry. Many of these lessons
were learned through inventive games that were very popular with the boys. This was to be considered the starting point of the Scout Movement.

"Scouting for Boys" was published in 1908 in six fortnightly parts. Sales of the book were tremendous. Boys formed themselves into Scout Patrols to try out ideas. What had been intended as a training aid for existing organizations became the handbook of a new and ultimately worldwide movement. "Scouting for Boys" has since been translated into all of the major languages of the world.

With the success of Scouting for Boys, Baden-Powell set up a central Boy Scouts office, which registered new Scouts and designed a uniform. By the end of 1908, there were 60,000 Boy Scouts, and troops began springing up in British Commonwealth countries across the globe. In September 1909, the first national Boy Scout meeting was held at the Crystal Palace in London. Ten thousand Scouts showed up, including a group of uniformed girls who called themselves the Girl Scouts. In 1910, Baden-Powell organized the Girl Guides as a separate organization.

He retired from the army in 1910, at the age of 53, on the advice of King Edward VII who suggested that he could now do more valuable service for his country within the Scout Movement.

With all his enthusiasm and energy now directed to the development of Boy Scouting and Girl Guiding, he travelled to all parts of the world, to encourage growth and give inspiration.

In 1912, he married Olave Soames who was his constant help and companion in all this work, and who became greatly involved in Guiding and Scouting. They had three children (Peter, Heather and Betty). Lady Olave Baden-Powell was later known as World Chief Guide.

The first World Scout Jamboree took place at Olympia, London in 1920. At its closing scene B-P was unanimously acclaimed as Chief Scout of the World.
At the third World Jamboree, also held in England, the Prince of Wales announced that B-P would be given Peerage by H.M. the King. B-P took the title of Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell; Gilwell Park being the international training centre he had created for Scout leaders.

B-P wrote no fewer than 32 books. He received honorary degrees from at least six universities. In addition, 28 foreign orders and decorations and 19 foreign Scout awards were bestowed upon him.

In 1938, suffering from ill-health, B-P returned to Africa, which had meant so much in his life, to live in semi-retirement at Nyeri, Kenya. Even there, he found it difficult to curb his energies, and he continued to produce books and sketches.

On 8 January 1941, at 83 years of age, B-P died. He was buried in a simple grave at Nyeri within sight of Mount Kenya. On his head stone are the words "Robert Baden-Powell, Chief Scout of the World" surmounted by the Boy Scout and Girl Guide Badges. Lady Olave Baden-Powell carried on his work, promoting Scouting and Girl Guiding around the world until her death in 1977. She is buried alongside Lord Baden-Powell at Nyeri.
Dear Scouts,

If you have ever seen the play “Peter Pan” you will remember how the pirate chief was always making his dying speech because he was afraid that possibly when the time came for him to die he might not have time to get it off his chest. It is much the same with me, and so, although I am not at this moment dying I shall be doing so one of these days, and I want to send you a parting word of goodbye.

Remember, it is the last you will ever hear from me, so think it over.

I have had a most happy life and I want each of you to have as happy a life, too.

I believe that God put us in this jolly world to be happy and enjoy life. Happiness doesn’t come from being rich, nor merely from being successful in your career, nor by self-indulgence. One step towards happiness is to make yourself healthy and strong while you are a boy, so that you can be useful and so can enjoy life when you are a man.

Nature study will show you how full of beautiful and wonderful things God has made the world for you to enjoy. Be contented with what you have got and make the best of it. Look on the bright side of things instead of the gloomy one.

But the real way to get happiness is by giving out happiness to other people. Try and leave this world a little better than you found it and when your turn comes to die, you can die happy in feeling that at any rate you have not wasted your time but have done your best. “Be prepared” in this way, to live happy and die happy—stick to your Scout promise always—even after you have ceased to be a boy—and God help you to do it.

Your friend,

Baden-Powell of Gilwell
Scouting was brought to America by William D. Boyce, a Chicago publisher, and the way Boyce discovered Scouting is one of the movement’s most colorful stories. Boyce, it seems, was in London in the fall of 1909 and was out in a famed London fog looking for an office in the center of the city.

Nearly at his wit's end, Boyce stopped a young man and asked directions. Not only did the youth tell Boyce how to reach his destination, he actually led Boyce there to make certain the American found his way without becoming lost again.

Boyce, to show his gratitude, offered the youth a tip, but the youth would not accept it. When asked why, the young man told Boyce he was a Boy Scout and taking a tip would negate the good deed he had done and violate his Scouting code.

The youth’s gesture impressed Boyce, who later visited with Lord Baden-Powell himself. Boyce was so taken with Baden-Powell and the Scouting idea that back in America he and other men interested in youth development founded the Boy Scouts of America in Washington, D.C., on February 8th, 1910.

No one knows who the Scout was who performed this Good Turn for Boyce, but he has not been forgotten. In Gilwell Park in London, American Scouts had a statue erected in his honor. A large-scale representation of the Silver Buffalo Award, the statue bears he inscription, "To the Unknown Scout Whose Faithfulness in the Performance of the Daily Good Turn Brought the Scout Movement to the United States of America."
WILLIAM D. BOYCE

In 1909, Chicago publisher William D. Boyce lost his way in a dense London fog. A boy came to his aid and, after guiding the man, refused a tip, explaining that as a Scout he would not take a tip for doing a Good turn. This gesture by an unknown Scout inspired a meeting with Robert Baden-Powell, the British founder of the Boy Scouts. As a result, William Boyce incorporated the Boy Scouts of America on February 8, 1910. He also created the Lone Scouts, which merged with the Boy Scouts of America in 1924.

ERNEST THOMPSON SETON

Born in Scotland, Ernest Thompson Seton immigrated to America as a youth in the 1880s. His fascination with the wilderness led him to become a naturalist, an artist, and an author, and through his works he influenced both youth and adults. Seton established a youth organization called the Woodcraft Indians, and his background of outdoor skills and interest in youth made him a logical choice for the position of first Chief Scout of the BSA in 1910. His many volumes of Scoutcraft became an integral part of Scouting, and his intelligence and enthusiasm helped turn an idea into reality.
WOODSMAN, ILLUSTRATOR, AND NATURALIST, DANIEL CARTER BEARD

Woodsman, illustrator, and naturalist, Daniel Carter Beard was a pioneering spirit of the Boy Scouts of America. Already 60 years old when the Boy Scouts of America was formed, he became a founder and merged it with his own boys' organization, the Sons of Daniel Boone. As the first national Scout commissioner, Beard helped design the original Scout uniform and introduced the elements of the First Class Scout badge. "Uncle Dan, as he was known to boys and leaders, will be remembered as a colorful figure dressed in buckskin who helped form Scouting in the United States.

JAMES E. WEST

James E. West was appointed the first Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America in 1911. Although orphaned and physically handicapped, he had the perseverance to graduate from law school and become a successful attorney. This same determination provided the impetus to help build Scouting into the largest and most effective youth organization in the world. When he retired in 1943, Dr. West was recognized throughout the country as the true architect of the Boy Scouts of America.
The Wolf Cub scheme was started by The Boy Scouts Association in 1916, nine years after the foundation of the Boy Scouts, in order to cater to the many younger boys who were too young to be Boy Scouts. During these first years many troops had either allowed younger boys to join or had set up unofficial junior or cadet Scout troops. However, Robert Baden-Powell wanted something quite different from a watered down Boy Scout program and recognized that too close an association between the junior program and the Boy Scouts would detract from both. Baden-Powell wanted a junior scheme with distinct name, uniform and other identity and program.

In 1916, Baden-Powell published his own outlines for such a scheme, it was to be called Wolf Cubs. Baden-Powell asked his friend Rudyard Kipling for the use of his Jungle Book history and universe as a motivational frame for the Wolf Cub scheme. The scheme was given a publicity launch at The Boy Scouts Association’s Imperial Headquarters in Buckingham Palace Road, Westminster, on Saturday 24 June 1916. Baden-Powell wrote a new book, The Wolf Cub’s Handbook, the first edition of which was published in December 1916.

Cub Scouting has ideals of spiritual and character growth, citizenship training, and personal fitness. Cub Scouting provides a positive, encouraging peer group, carefully selected leaders who provide good role models and a group setting where values are taught to reinforce positive qualities of character.
The BSA finally began some experimental Cub units in 1928 and in 1930 the BSA began registering the first Cub Scout packs. They created their own handbook entitled: THE BOY’S CUBBOOK which had three versions for Wolf, Bear, and Lions Dens.

The British Cubbing program used elements of Rudyard Kipling’s Jungle Book series, with the Cubmaster taking the role of Akela and the assistant Cubmaster the role of Baloo. The American program also syncretized American Indian elements, with all Cub Scouts belonging to the Webelos tribe, symbolized by the Arrow of Light and led by Akela. Webelos was also a portmanteau meaning Wolf, Bear, Lion, Scout; the name was later given a backronym of "WE'll BE LOyal Scouts". The initial rank structure was Wolf, Bear and Lion, with ages of 9, 10 and 11. Dens of six to eight Cubs were entirely led by a Boy Scout holding the position of den chief.
Lord Baden-Powell began awarding a brass badge in the shape of the fleur-de-lis arrowhead to army scouts whom he had trained while serving in India in 1897. He later issued a copper fleur-de-lis badge to all participants of the experimental Scout camp on Brownsea Island in 1907.

In Scouting’s early years, critics accused Baden-Powell of trying to turn boys into soldiers, holding up as evidence the Scout symbol, which they called “a spearhead, the emblem of battle and bloodshed”. The founder quickly replied, the crest is the “Fleur-de-Lis”, a lily, the emblem of peace and purity.

In truth, Baden-Powell had chosen it as Scouting’s emblem as it represented the sign for the North Point, universally shown on maps, charts and the compass rose (a navigation tool), because “it points in the right direction (and upwards), turning neither right nor left, since these lead backward again...”

The three plumes, petals of the fleur-de-lis became symbols for Service to Others, Duty to God, and Obedience to the Scout Law. These three principles form the Scout Promise which is made by new Scouts as they join the movement. The fleur-de-lis was modified shortly after to include the two five-pointed stars, which symbolize truth and knowledge. The ten points on the stars remind us of the ten points of the Scout Law. The ring holding the petals together represents the bond of brotherhood.

The emblem is surrounded by a circle of rope tied with a reef or square knot to symbolize the strength and unity of the world brotherhood of Scouting: “Even as one cannot undo a reef knot, no matter how hard one pulls on it, so as it expands, the movement remains united.”

The colors chosen have heraldic significance, with the white of the arrowhead and rope representing purity, and the royal purple denoting leadership and helping others.
Soon after founding the Scout movement, Robert Baden-Powell saw the need for leader training. He encouraged commissioners all over the United Kingdom to experiment with training courses for Scouters. In 1913, he devised a set of notes for use at Scouters' training camps.

Early Scoutmaster training camps were held in London and Yorkshire. Baden-Powell wanted practical training in the outdoors in campsites. World War I delayed the development of leader training, so the first formal Wood Badge course was not offered until 1919.

After the end of the War, on November 20th, 1918, Mr. W F de Bois Maclaren, a District Commissioner for Rosneath in Dumbartonshire, Scotland, dinned with B-P at Roland House, an International Hostel for Scouts, in London. They discussed the need for a permanent camping ground for London Scouts. Maclaren was forthcoming - "You find what you want and I will buy it."

A small committee was formed, including Percy Everett, and it was decided that the money would be best employed if the camping ground could be combined with "an Officers" Training Centre, where Scoutmasters, or those who wish to become Scoutmasters, will
be trained by competent old Scouts in the formation and training of troops, practical woodcraft and camping and the methods of the Boy Scouts generally."

Maclaren agreed and the committee quickly found Gilwell Park, a run-down estate that, at the time, was up for sale on the edge of Epping Forest near Chingford, Essex, which was ideally suited to the purpose. B-P impressed with their description, agreed to the purchase without a prior visit.

The first Wood Badge course held at Gilwell for Scoutmasters took place on September 8-19, 1919. It was patterned on what B.P. used in 1907 at the first camp for boys on Brownsea Island, and on notes he had written in the Headquarters Gazette. He described the framework of training at Gilwell in Aids to Scoutmastership, published shortly after the first training camp.

The Diploma Course for the Wood Badge, as B.P. called it, had three parts:

- Theoretical - aims and methods of Scout training as defined in Aids to Scoutmastership, Souting for Boys and Rules.
- Practical - four weekends or eight days in camp.
- Administration - practical administration of his troop for a period of 18 months.

Although the method of organizing the camp was based on B.P.’s 1913 notes, as time has passed, the content has changed to keep pace with changes in Scouting.
The course was attended by 18 participants, and other lecturers. At the course completion B-P had wondered what to give the successful participants. The thought came about a cherished bead necklace he had acquired while on a military campaign in South Africa. He decided to use the beads from that necklace and presented the participants with two wooden beads that were threaded onto a leather thong given him by an elderly South African in Mafeking, calling it the Wood Badge.

After this first course, Wood Badge training continued at Gilwell Park, and it became the home of leadership training in the Scout movement.

The origins of Wood Badge beads can be traced back to 1888, when Baden-Powell was on a military campaign in Zululand (a territory on the west coast of South Africa). He pursued Dinizulu, chief of the Usuthu Zulus, and nephew of Chief Cetewayo a Zulu king, who had led a revolt against the British.

Dinizulu was described as an intelligent, heavily built man, two metres (6 ft. 7 ins.) in height and, on state occasions, he wore a necklace some 3 to 3 ½ metres (10 to 12 feet) in length, consisting of over 1000 beads, ranging in size from tiny emblems to others four inches in length. Dinizulu's beads, threaded on a rawhide lace, were made of yellow acacia wood, which has a soft pith and formed a small natural nick on each end.

The necklace was considered sacred and was kept in a cave on a high mountain and guarded day and night. It was a distinction conferred on royalty and outstanding warriors; it had been passed down from generation to generation.

B-P chased Dinizulu for some time, but never managed to catch up with him. He later wrote about the campaign to subdue and capture Dinizulu: "Eventually Dinizulu took refuge in his stronghold, I had been sent forward on a Scouting expedition into his stronghold. He nipped out as we got in. In his haste he left his necklace behind - a very long chain of little wooden beads." Thus B-P became possessor of the Zulu chief's necklace.

After completion of the Wood Badge course, participants are awarded the insignia consisting of wood badge beads, the Gilwell scarf, and woggle.
The original scarf is made of dove grey cloth (the color of humility) with a
warm red lining (to signify warmth). It is adorned with a piece of the Scottish
Clan Maclaren tartan in honor of W F de Bois Maclaren who purchased Gilwell
Park for Scouting. It denotes membership in the 1st Gilwell Troop, accorded to
all Wood Badge holders.

Prior to the invention of the woggle the neckerchief was simply tied at the neck
in a loose knot. The woggle was first created in the early 1920’s by Bill Shankley,
a member of the Gilwell staff. It is simply a two-strand leather version of a Turk’s
head knot, which has no beginning or end, and symbolizes the commitment of
a Wood Badger to Scouting.

These leaders are henceforth called Gilwellians or Wood Badgers. It is
estimated that worldwide over 100,000 Scouters have completed their
Wood Badge training.
Sea Scouting had its beginning at a camp fire in England when Lord Baden-Powell voiced the hope that older Scouts would be interested in learning about boat management and seamanship. He stressed the need for young men to prepare themselves for service on their country’s ships.

Following the campfire, there was activity in England that resulted in Lord Baden-Powell’s older brother, Warington, writing a book called Sea Scouting and Seamanship for Boys. It was enthusiastically received by the young men of Britain and soon found its way to the United States.

Sea Scouting in America was founded in 1912. That year, Arthur A. Carey of Waltham, Massachusetts, had organized one of the first Sea Scout patrols. Carey prepared a pamphlet on Sea Scouting, “Cruising for Sea Scouts” which was the first literature related to Sea Scouting.

In February 1913, G.V.L. Meyer, Secretary of the Navy, encouraged the development of Sea Scouting and extended the cooperation of the Navy Department. This was the beginning of a fruitful period of cooperation for Sea Scouting with the nation’s armed services.

For many years the Sea Scout program was aimed at older boys who had graduated from Boy Scout troops. Sea Scout units began to be called ships. The age-old organization of skippers, mates, boatswains, coxswains, yeoman, purser, storekeeper and crews began to be used.
Over the years, one of the persons most responsible for the development of Sea Scouting was Commander Thomas J. Keane. Between 1922 and 1925, he completely revised the Sea Scout program. He wrote new advancement requirements, revised the Sea Scout Manual, and changed the uniforms into the seagoing version that resembles the US Navy enlisted style uniform. The so-called 'Cracker Jack' uniform comes in white or navy blue. To avoid confusion with Naval personnel, some changes are made to these uniforms. The 'Dixie cup' hat is also worn.

With a membership of more than 27,000, Sea Scouting served its country well in World War II.

Thousands upon thousands of former and active Sea Scouts joined the Navy and made a tremendous impression on Admiral Chester Nimitz, who sincerely believed that Sea Scouts were better trained and equipped to help the Navy win out over the enemy and the elements.

Throughout the rest of the 1940's, Sea Scouting continued to serve the boys of America who were interested in the lore of the sea. Sea Scouts all over the nation participated in flood relief and community service. They were in evidence at national jamborees. Sea Scout ships across the country held competitive events known as rendezvous and regattas.

The advancement scheme for Sea Scouts places an initial emphasis on nautical skills before encouraging the youth to take a major role in planning activities in the unit. Young men and women ages fourteen through twenty-one who are willing to abide by the requirements of BSA membership, including agreeing to live by the ideals expressed in the Sea Promise, Scout Oath, and Scout Law are eligible to join a Sea Scouting ship.
There was no doubt that during the early 1900's boys all over the country were becoming interested in aeronautics and the Scout movement at local and national level encouraged their interest. Suggestions to have an Air Scout Branch within The Boy Scouts Association were first put forward in May 1927. They were not accepted for fear the Branch might be 'led away by attractive non-essentials' and there was insufficient manpower in the Movement to maintain it.

By the late 1930s, while several countries had formed unofficial Air Scout Units, local Scout troops in the vicinity of airfields and gliding clubs were encouraged to include air activities in their programs and an 'Air Patrols' pamphlet was produced.

Air Scouts were established in January 1941, during the Second World War, as a provision for air-minded young people too young for the Air Transport Command (for which the minimum age was 16 at the time). The original program existed in the USA until 1949.

The Air Scout program had scouts learn about the world of aeronautics, as a pre-flight training program. This entailed them learning a great deal about flight, about how aircraft were built and operated, and how to fly them, short of actually doing so. They learned about a wide range of topics relating to flying, including engines, weather, radio, and more.

The response was immediate and enthusiastic, with many demands for literature and advice as Troops and Patrols were formed in many parts of the country. An official Air Scout Manual was introduced and the Aviation Merit Badge was split it into 4 separate merit badges: Aerodynamics, Aeronautics, Airplane Design,
and Airplane Structure. These lasted until 1952, when the Aviation Merit Badge was brought back.

The Air Scouts program had four ranks which recognized general Air Scout accomplishments: Apprentice, Observer, Craftsman, and Ace. Later in January of 1947, the Air Scout advancement program was revamped, and Specialist Badges (also called Ratings strips) were introduced that recognized specialized aviation knowledge. There were also the Air Candidate awards. These existed from 1941-48, and were intended for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class Scouts in Boy Scout Troops to earn. The idea to get these boys interested in Air Scouting, so that they might participate when they turned 15.

Air Scout Units were called Squadrons. These were subdivided into smaller groups originally called Flights then renamed Crews.

The Air Scout program existed until 1949 when it was renamed Air Explorers. With minor changes, this program lasted until 1965, when it was fully merged into the then existing Explorer program of the BSA as a specialty called 'Aviation Explorers'.

On 1 March 1985, the Boy Scouts of America officially ended powered aircraft flight in its Aviation Exploring program, citing difficulties with maintaining insurance coverage in the event of an aircraft accident. It still exists today as part of the BSA's Learning for Life Explorer program.
The Order of the Arrow (OA) is the National Honor Society of the Boy Scouts of America. The society was created by E. Urner Goodman, with the assistance of Carroll A. Edson, in 1915 as a means of reinforcing the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. It uses American Indian imagery for ceremonies bestowing recognition on Scouts elected by their peers as best exemplifying the ideals of Scouting. The OA promotes Scouting ideals, especially selfless leadership to help others, as lifelong values and encourages continued participation in Scouting and camping.

Influenced in part by Scout camp customs, and in part by Native American traditions and folklore, the OA uses "safeguarded" symbols, handshakes, and ceremonies to impart a sense of community. Inducted members, known as Arrowmen or Brothers, are organized into local youth-led lodges that harbor fellowship, promote camping, and render service to Boy Scout councils and their communities. Members wear identifying insignia on their uniforms, most notably the OA pocket flap that represents their individual OA lodge and the OA sash worn at official OA functions.

E. URNER GOODMAN

In 1915, E. Urner Goodman, a newly hired field executive for the Philadelphia Council, was assigned to serve as director of the council's summer camp at Treasure Island Scout Reservation on the Delaware River. He believed that the summer camp experience should do more than just teach proficiency in Scoutcraft skills; rather, the principles embodied in the Scout Oath and Scout Law should become realities in the lives of Scouts. Along with his assistant
camp director, Carroll A. Edson, decided that a "camp fraternity" was the way to improve the summer camp experience and to encourage older Scouts to continue attending Scout summer camp. In developing this program they borrowed from the traditions and practices of several organizations. Inspired by Ernest Thompson Seton’s previous Woodcraft Indians program, American Indian lore was used to make the organization interesting and appealing to youth.

Their experimental program was called Wimachtendienk ("Brotherhood" in the Lenape language), to recognize those Scouts best exemplifying those traits as an example to their peers. Using the lore and language of the Delaware Indians who had inhabited the area with the characters from James Fenimore Cooper’s "Last of the Mohicans" they developed dramatic induction ceremonies for their program. Their fledgling honor society became known as the "Order of the Arrow". Even today, these rites make a lasting impression on scouts who have been elected to the "Order of the Arrow".

By 1921, the idea had spread to a score of scout councils in the northeast and the first national meeting of the Order of the Arrow was held. Initially viewed with suspicion by many scouters as a secret society if not an affront to the egalitarian ideals of scouting, support was slow in coming from national headquarters. For many years, the "OA" was considered to be an "experimental" program only. Not until 1948 was E. Urner Goodman's innovation fully integrated into the Scouting program.
Key to the ongoing success of the Order of the Arrow was the purpose:

- To recognize those campers - Scout, Explorers, and Scouters - who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives and by such recognition cause other campers to conduct themselves in such manner as to warrant recognition.

- To develop and maintain camping traditions and spirit.

- To promote Scout camping, which relates its greatest effectiveness as part of the unit's camping program, and to help strengthen the district and council camping program, as directed by the camping committee of the council.

- To crystallize the Scout habit of helpfulness into a life purpose of leadership in cheerful service to others. The OA’s motto is, "Brotherhood of Cheerful Service".

*President Franklin D. Roosevelt inducted into the OA on Aug 23, 1933 receives a gift from a Scout*
Scout Handbooks
Who We Are

The Grand Teton Council serves more than 23,000 members with more than 12,000 adult volunteers throughout southeast Idaho, western Wyoming, and southwestern Montana.

MISSION
The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

SCOUT OATH
On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

SCOUT LAW
A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

MOTTO
Be Prepared

Who We Serve

7,710.....Boys ages 6 to 10 in Cub Scouting
13,627...Boys ages 11 to 17 in Boy Scouting and Varsity Scouting
1,924.....Youth ages 14 to 20 in Venturing
263 .......Youth ages 14 to 20 in Exploring career-based programs
23,524 ..Youth total

SCOUTING UNITS
502 .......Cub Scout Packs
945 ......Boy Scout Troops & Varsity Teams
457.......Venture Crews
16.........Explorer Posts
1,920.....Total Units

1928, Membership Card
Prepared for Leadership

There were 617 Scouts who earned the rank of Eagle in 2017. Eagle Scout service projects represented 66,442 hours of community service saving local communities over $1,419,201* in man hours.

“ON AVERAGE ONLY 4% OF ALL SCOUT EARN THE RANK OF EAGLE”

Prepared for Learning

The BSA prepares young people for learning by mentoring youth to set goals and work to reach them one step at a time. In 2017, Scouts earned 23,026 merit badges.

Prepared for Service

Scouts gave more than 351,430 hours of volunteer time annually, at a value of more than $7,506,544*

Scouting for Food Drive: 342,627 food items collected to help feed local needy families!

(*Based on the national volunteer hour of $21.36)

“...Yet one more item is needed to complete success, and that is the rendering of service to others in the community. Without this the mere satisfaction of selfish desire does not reach the top notch.”

- Robert Baden-Powell

1943, Scouts sorting metal scrap to aid war efforts.
Camp Attendance

A total of 9,782 youth attended our council camps.

Island Park Scout Camp ................................................ 1,341
Little Lemhi Scout Camp .................................................. 990
Treasure Mountain Scout Camp ................................. 839
Salmon River High Adventure Base ............................ 788
Krupp Scout Hollow ..................................................... 4,063
Portneuf Springs ............................................................ 1,761

102 youth attend the 2017 National Scout Jamboree at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia.

The council celebrated the Total Solar Eclipse as the path of totality came across our area. A total of 925 people enjoyed activities at our camps while watching this awe-inspiring astronomical event.

Treasurer's Report

EXPENSE

Camping & Program Services: ......$2,616,057 (77%)
Management & Administration: ......$237,823 (7%)
Fundraising: ......................................$543,596 (16%)

Total Expenses ......................... $3,397,476

REVENUE

Camping & Activities .....................$1,537,601
Direct Support ............................ $1,101,281
Special Events .............................. $154,977
Sale of Products & Supply ......... $188,884
Investment Income ....................... $75,000
Investment Transfers .................. $175,000
Rental ...................................... $219,886
United Way ............................... $28,207

Total Revenue ......................... $3,480,836*

*Report prepared from preliminary trial balance and subject to final audited adjustments
Distinguished Citizen Award

The Grand Teton Council presented the Distinguished Citizen Award to Frank L. VanderSloot, CEO of Melaleuca to recognize him for his support of Scouting and for his philanthropic support throughout our community. It is through his generosity and his selfless giving (most of which is often anonymous) that our community is made stronger and the lives of its citizens are enriched and blessed. He is a true leader who leads by example and Scouting is grateful to have him as a friend.

Frank has supported Scouting and our community in many ways:

- Scouting for Food Drive - corporate sponsor for over 20 years. More than 2,500 tons of food collected for the needy.
- New/larger Scout Office that allows us to better serve our Scouting families
- Melaleuca Freedom Festival
- Melaleuca Field Baseball Stadium
- Renovation of New Sweden Schoolhouse - housing the American Heritage Charter School
- Providing college scholarships for disadvantaged high school students
- Supporting 4-H programs
- Shepherd’s Inn - supporting at-risk teenage girls who are pregnant
- Supporting an orphanage in Quito, Ecuador
- Helping during natural disasters - providing food, humanitarian supplies & generators
Council Leadership

2017 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Council President ................................................. Dr. Benjamin Call
Council Commissioner ........................................... Ken Bernt
Treasurer ............................................................. Ryan Matthews
Exec VP – People/Strategic Plan ....................... David Smith
Exec VP – Properties & Program ................ Kent Bradley
VP Administration ............................................. Bonny Jennings
VP Alumni Relations ........................................... Dane Watkins Sr.
VP Communications .......................................... Shane Moulton
VP District Operations ................................... Thomas Barry
VP Finance .......................................................... Steve Hiltbrand
VP Major Gifts ...................................................... Todd Payne
VP Membership .................................................. Jill Kirkham
VP Nominations ................................................... Benjamin Davidson
VP Program ........................................................ Scott Peterson
VP Properties ...................................................... Dwayne Sudweeks
VP Social Media .................................................. Bennett Briggs
VP Training ........................................................... Don Scott
Scout Executive /CEO ........................................ Clarke Farrer

2017 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Walter D. Aldous
DarV el Andersen
Gary Archibald
Ed Axford
Karl A. Boehm
Elizabeth H. Bowen
Vince M. Bowen
David D. Boyce
Andrew R. Bradbury
Lynne Chaffin
Michael J. Chaffin
David A. Crasper, Sr.
Joel Davis
Dirk Driscoll

Roger W. Dye
Steve G. Earl
William Finerty
Larry R. Fisher
Steven W. Fuhriman
Lynn Goldman
Kent Harmon
Brian K. Harris
Randy K. Jennings
Leland Jensen
Aaron Johnson
Burley Johnson
Bryan Jones
Steven Juber

Rick D. Keller
Bill C. Kiestler
Kirk Kirkham
Ronald Klingler
Jared Klingonsmith
Jay F Kunze
Gregg W. Landon
Lary S. Larson
Gary L. Lovell
Kipp L. Manwaring
Curtice B. Mathews
Mike G. McKellar
Paul Moore
Dave Radford

Gary Simpson
Farrell Steiner
Robin S. Stewart
Brent Stolworthy
Halli H. Stone
Alma D. Stump
Trina M. Stump
Kathie Tomlinson
Leland D. Tomlinson
Arnell Walker
Jeffrey Wheeler
Jeremy L. Wheeler
Robert K. Wright

2017 DISTRICT CHAIRMEN (MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD)

Daniel Baird ................................................ Yellowstone
Sandra Bills ...................................................... Salmon
Bryan Davenport ........................................ Tendoy
Karma Fielding ............................................. Wolverine District
Richard C. Hill ............................................. Blackfoot District
Jeffrey A. Hoover ........................................ North Caribou District
Cleve Hymas ............................................... Lost River District
Clifford Kirkpatrick .................................. Jackson District
Larry Oja ....................................................... Malad District

Kirk Permann ............................................. Bing Pow District
Doug Pruitt ................................................ South Fork District
Gordon Robinson ........................................ Portneuf District
Gary Wallace .............................................. Eagle Rock
Ryan Webster ............................................. Teton District
Ronald Wilcox ........................................... Centennial
Blair L. Winward ......................................... South Caribou District
T. Deb Wolfley ........................................... Star Valley District

PRESIDENT’S ADVISORY COUNCIL

Don Aslett
Roger H. Ball
George Brunt
Doug R. Crabtree
Clay Dorsey
Michael Doyle
D. Benjamin Hansen
Arlo Luke
Bart Miller
Laurence Owens
Ralph Savage
Fritz Schmutz
Frank VanderSloot
Arnell Walker
Damond Watkins

2017 YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

Kavyn Abel
Cedar Badge #2
Kaylee Whitworth
Venturing Officers Association President

Marshall Briggs
Cedar Badge #1 (Speaker of the Chair)
Alexander FitzSimon
Order of the Arrow Lodge Chief

Sam Fisher
Cedar Badge #3
Professional Executive Staff

Peter Brown       Steve Godwin       George Torbett
Larnell Cleverley Lance Hawk       Richard Turpin
Dan Deakin       Terry Hoopes       Michael Vangelov
Jason Eborn       Jeff Jenson       David Widdison
Clarke Farrer     Elias Lopez       Erick Simmons
Albert Fullmer

Council Support Staff

Heather Branson   Stacy Howard       Rochelle Perkins
Marlee Briggs     Darla Hulse       Michelle Shaw
Rosalyn Chatterton Bobbie Johnson   Staci Smith
Joan Crossley     Marilyn Kelly     Deborah Summers
Cathy Curzon      Justine Moultrie  Angie Winterton
Brenda Dixon      Sheryl Packer     
Hannah Hill

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Feb. 11, 1915, Six Eagle Scouts received Presidential Awards for Heroism at the White House