

# HANDBOOK FOR BOYS



Norman  
Rockwell

BOY SCOUTS  
OF AMERICA

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HANDBOOK FOR BOYS



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## THE SCOUTING TRAIL

This is the Trail that the Scout shall know  
Where knightly qualities thrive and grow;  
The trail of honor and truth and worth  
And the strength that springs from the good brown earth;  
The trail that Scouts, in their seeking, blaze  
Through the toughest tangle, the deepest maze,  
Till out of Boyhood the Scout comes straight  
To Manhood's splendid and high estate!

—By Berton Braley.

# Revised Handbook for Boys

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## BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

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2 Park Avenue, New York 16, N. Y.

## INTRODUCTION

This HANDBOOK FOR BOYS, the Official Manual for Boy Scouts, since it was first published in 1910 has been the Country's best seller, with the exception of the Bible.

It sets forth the game of Scouting. In it you will find the learning and the wisdom of the Scout. It is a guide to the things that every boy — whether he lives in the city or the country, wants to learn and wants to do.

You will find there the ancient lore of woodcraft in God's out of doors. You will meet new friends, the trees, flowers, birds, animals, stars. You will gather the healing secrets in first aid. You will discover the latest scientific knowledge about life saving. You will come upon games and handicraft projects. You will learn outdoor skills, camping, and the wisdom of the Red man, the cave man and the Eskimo. You will be able to make yourself comfortable and safe in the deep woods, amid winter snows as well as in summer. There are good fun, skill and training within these pages.

You will find here the Scout Oath and Law and the Ideals of Scouting. You will read of the fundamentals of good citizenship and learn something of our American heritage.

As you advance along the trail of Scouting you will come to a wider understanding of what these ideals imply and your reverence for your Creator will increase with the years of your Scout life.

Many people have worked to bring this book to you. Men have explored the wisdom of ages to give you the program of Scouting and this **HANDBOOK FOR BOYS**.

When this Handbook was first published, no fewer than 4,600 persons reviewed the proof sheets. The Chief Scout, Dr. James E. West, for more than thirty years gave it his careful consideration and study.

Dr. H. W. Hurt served as editor of this edition, with the cooperation of the Editorial Service and others.

The 37th printing of the Handbook for Boys is produced as a war-time edition with narrow margins in the interest of conserving paper. In this edition, for the first time, appears the new nature section with entirely new text, which has been developed by experts. New illustrations and an entirely new treatment make this, it is believed, the most modern and helpful material of this sort produced for boys of Scout age.

This book is for the boys of the nation. It is the hope of all who have been connected with it, that it will inspire you as well as help you. Be constantly alert for opportunities to help other people, in the spirit of Scouting. Be tolerant and respect the rights of others. Develop courage and self-reliance. Be vigilant, and show by your speech and your action your faith in America and your faith in God.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

		PAGE
	<b>PART I—What is Scouting?</b>	
I.	What is a Boy Scout? .....	8
II.	The Boy Scouts of America .....	10
III.	The "Good Turn" and Knighthood .....	16
	<b>PART II—The Trail to Tenderfoot Rank</b>	
IV.	How to Become a Tenderfoot Scout.....	29
V.	Your Patrol Belongs to You .....	77
VI.	Getting on the Team .....	81
VII.	Let's Go on a Hike .....	85
VIII.	Every Scout's Chance to Advance .....	89
IX.	The Scout Troop in Action .....	92
X.	Some Special Scouting Opportunities .....	98
	<b>PART III—The Trail to Second Class Rank</b>	
XI.	How to Become a Second Class Scout.....	106
XII.	The Manners of a Scout .....	173
XIII.	How to Make Fire Without Matches.....	175
XIV.	Merit Badges for Second Class Scouts and Air Scout Candidate .....	180
	<b>PART IV—The Trail to First Class Rank</b>	
XV.	How to Become a First Class Scout.....	186
	Service .....	186
	Swimming .....	187
	Thrift .....	189
	Signaling .....	193
	Round Trip .....	199
	First Aid .....	199
	Cooking .....	229
	Map Making .....	238
	Axemanship .....	251
	Judging .....	254
	Nature Study .....	259
	Service .....	372
	Recruiting and Training .....	373
XVI.	Life Saving .....	374
	<b>PART V—Merit Badge Progress</b>	
XVII.	The Merit Badge Program—an Open Door.....	386
XVIII.	Finding One's Life Work .....	388
XIX.	Star, Life, Eagle Awards .....	391
XX.	Senior Scouting .....	398
XXI.	Once a Scout—Always a Scout .....	400
	<b>PART VI—Additional Scoutcraft</b>	
XXII.	Health Secrets .....	403
XXIII.	Camping .....	423
XXIV.	Citizenship .....	438
XXV.	Handicraft .....	445
XXVI.	Fun From Games and Books .....	456

## APPENDIX

Brief History of Scouting .....	465
Merit Badge Requirements.....	468



**PART  
I**

**WHAT IS  
SCOUTING?**



## CHAPTER I

# WHAT IS A BOY SCOUT?

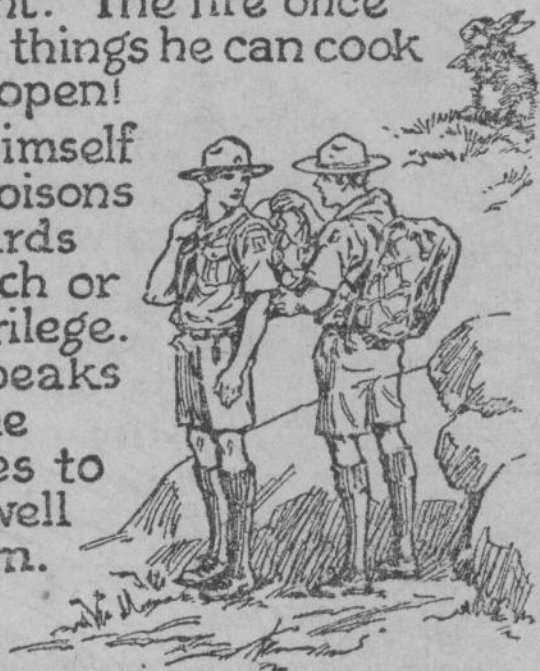
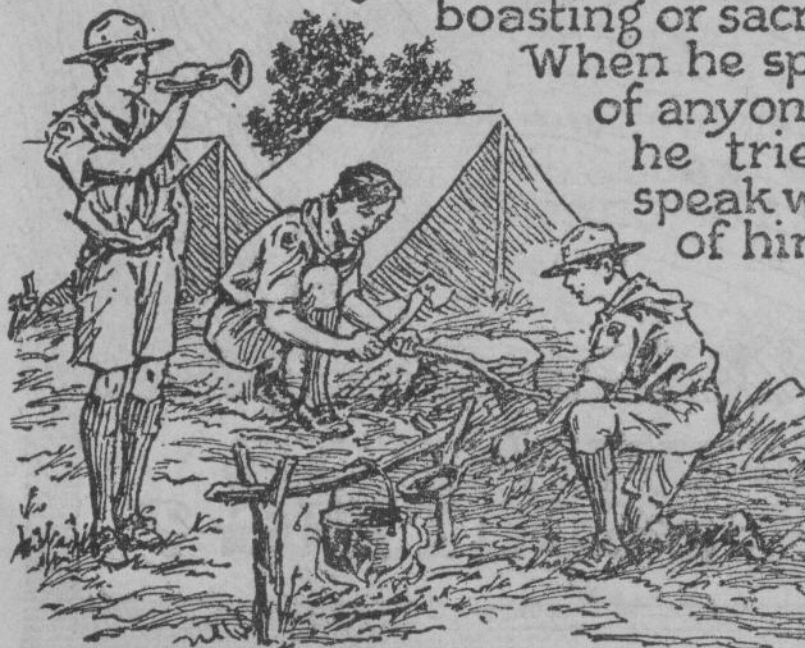
A Scout! what fun he finds in hiking into the woods! He tells North from South by the stars, or East from West by the shadows.

He can talk to a brother Scout across a river by signaling. He knows the principal trees and birds and animals that he meets. He knows which are poisonous weeds or reptiles. He can find his way as did the Indians and pioneers before him.

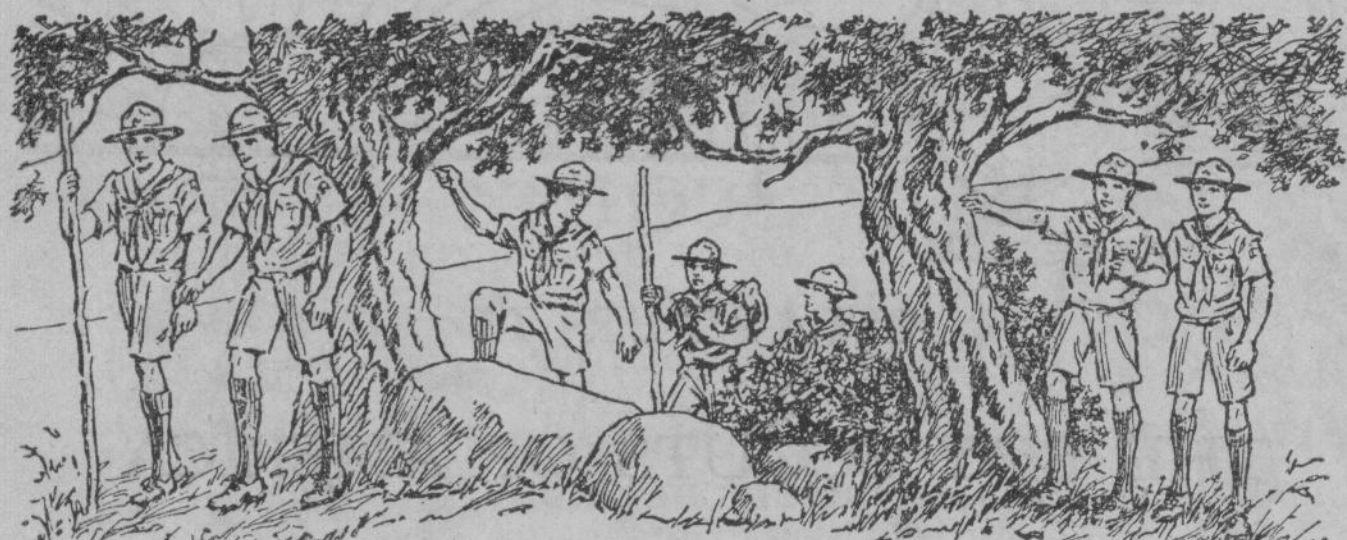
If matches are forgotten, he laughs and proceeds to kindle a fire by rubbing sticks together or by striking steel on flint. The fire once started, what good things he can cook out there in the open!

He keeps himself physically fit. He avoids poisons of alcohol or tobacco. He guards his tongue from loose speech or boasting or sacrilege.

When he speaks of anyone he tries to speak well of him.



ENOS B. COMSTOCK



His Scout "Good Turns" to someone each day make him many friends - for the way to have friends is to first BE one. His motto is "Be Prepared" and he thinks through in advance what he would do in fire or storm.



When someone is injured he is ready to help him with his First Aid knowledge.

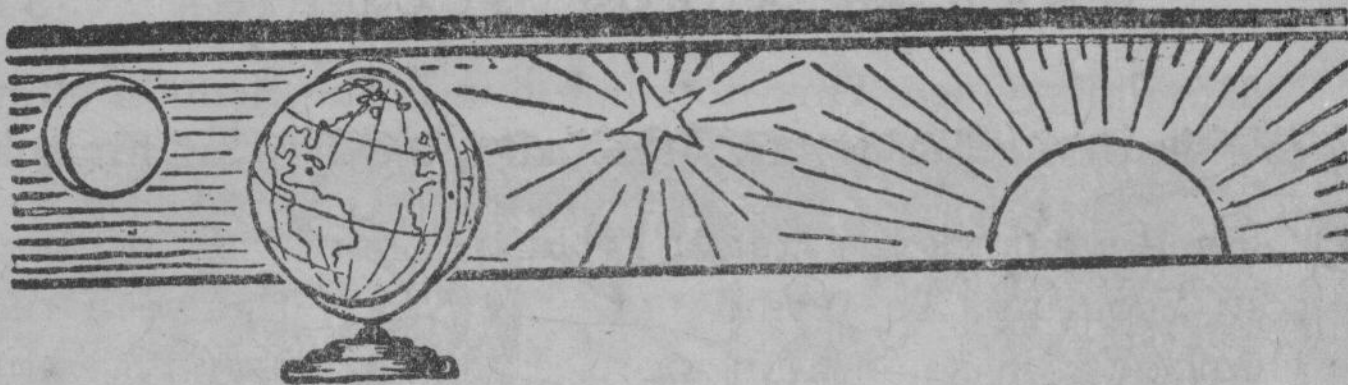
He always tries to be a useful citizen. He helps his community.



Another big thing a Scout enjoys is camping - there he finds fun in game or swim - finds new friends in woods and other fellows -

and there among the trees, or under God's silent stars, or by the camp-fire's ruddy embers, he dreams out his great TOMORROW.





## CHAPTER II

# THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

America knows Scouting as a program of interesting, useful things for boys to do in their leisure time. These boys learn the mysteries of Woodcraft, of First Aid, Swimming and Life Saving, of Outdoor Cooking and Camping, of Signaling, Map Making, Hiking and Citizenship.

Like the Red Cross, The Boy Scouts of America is chartered directly by Congress and the President of the United States is its Honorary President.

The Scoutmasters are picked, trained local men, who give their time without pay because of their interest in boys and in America.

Scouting gives boys a chance to serve their community. Its activities not only give pleasure and knowledge, but they prepare to meet community emergencies. When tornadoes strike—when floods sweep—when earthquakes and fires and disasters come—the Scouts have always proved at once their readiness to serve.

Scouting is neither military nor anti-military. It carefully avoids political or commercial entanglements.

Scouting knows no race or creed or class. Troops are found in Catholic Parish, Jewish Synagogue and Protestant Church. It is available both to farm and city. It is found in schools—it serves the rich and poor alike. Its aim is to help each of these boys to become the best citizen that he can make of himself.

His daily Good Turn to some one is the Scout's effort to help the other fellow also make the best of himself.

Each year new thousands upon thousands of boys join Scouting. They find not only fun, but also a real chance to be something more. Every boy really wants to make good—to amount to something—to be of value in life. The ideals of our great Americans like Washington and Lincoln and Roosevelt and Wilson (and others) stir us all to ambition and the desire to be real men.

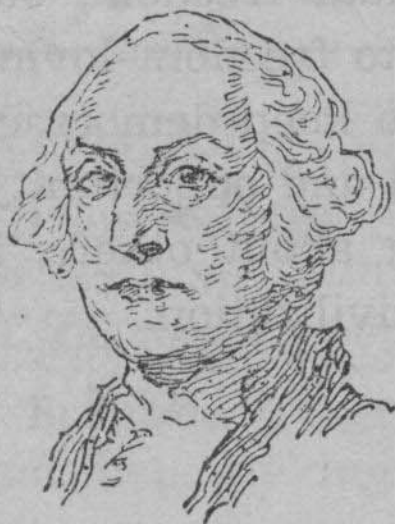
Of course every man of us faces three big problems:

1. Mastery of his own powers, getting them keen and ready for use.
2. Getting along with other people.
3. Finding a worthy use for these powers.

America looks to Scouting because it helps a boy with these problems—helps him find himself and his powers—helps him “Be Prepared.”

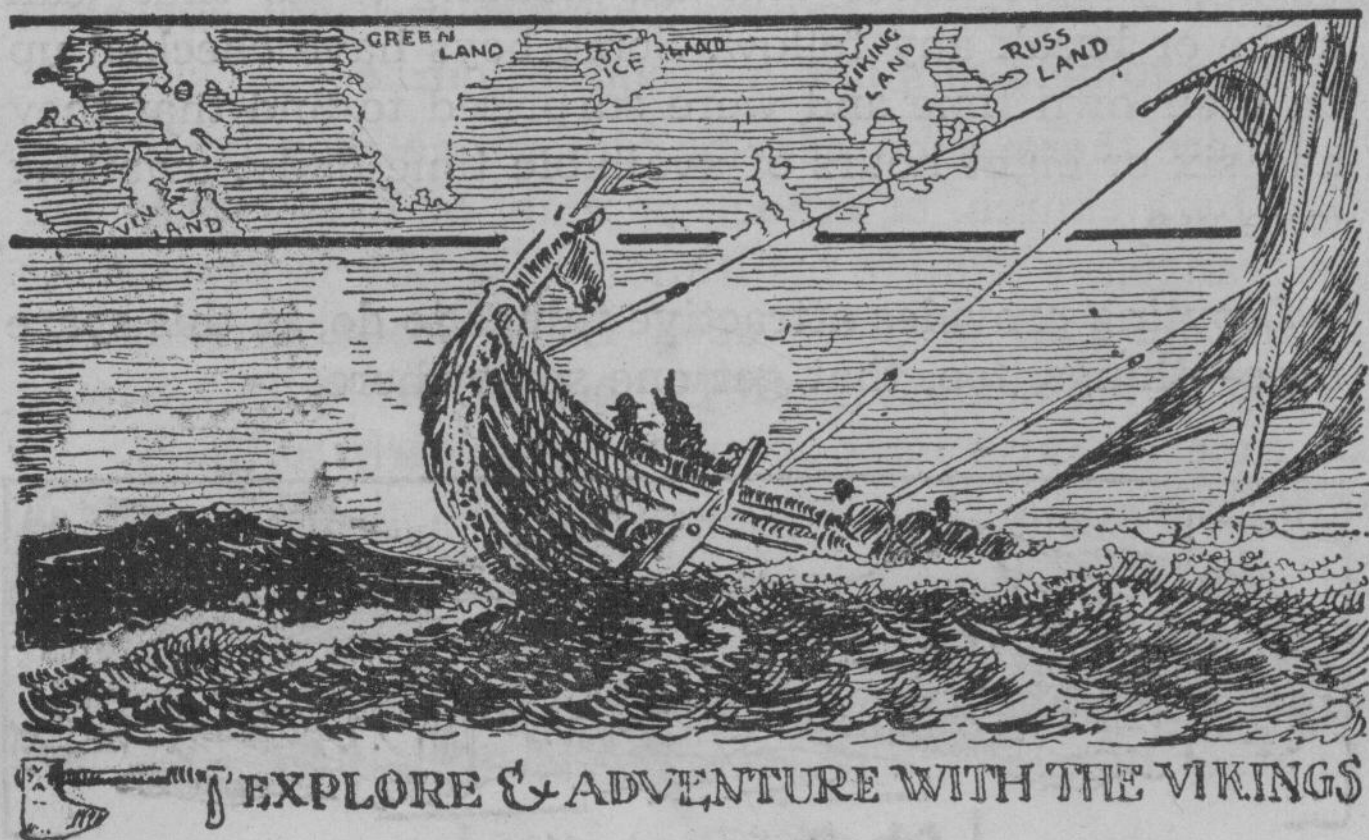
Most people know that the nothing-to-do time, can make or break any fellow. Some boys have checked up on their own time and were surprised to find that they had six or eight hours of available time daily, awaiting wise use.

Scouting provides attractive things to do, in this spare time—things, too, that get one somewhere.

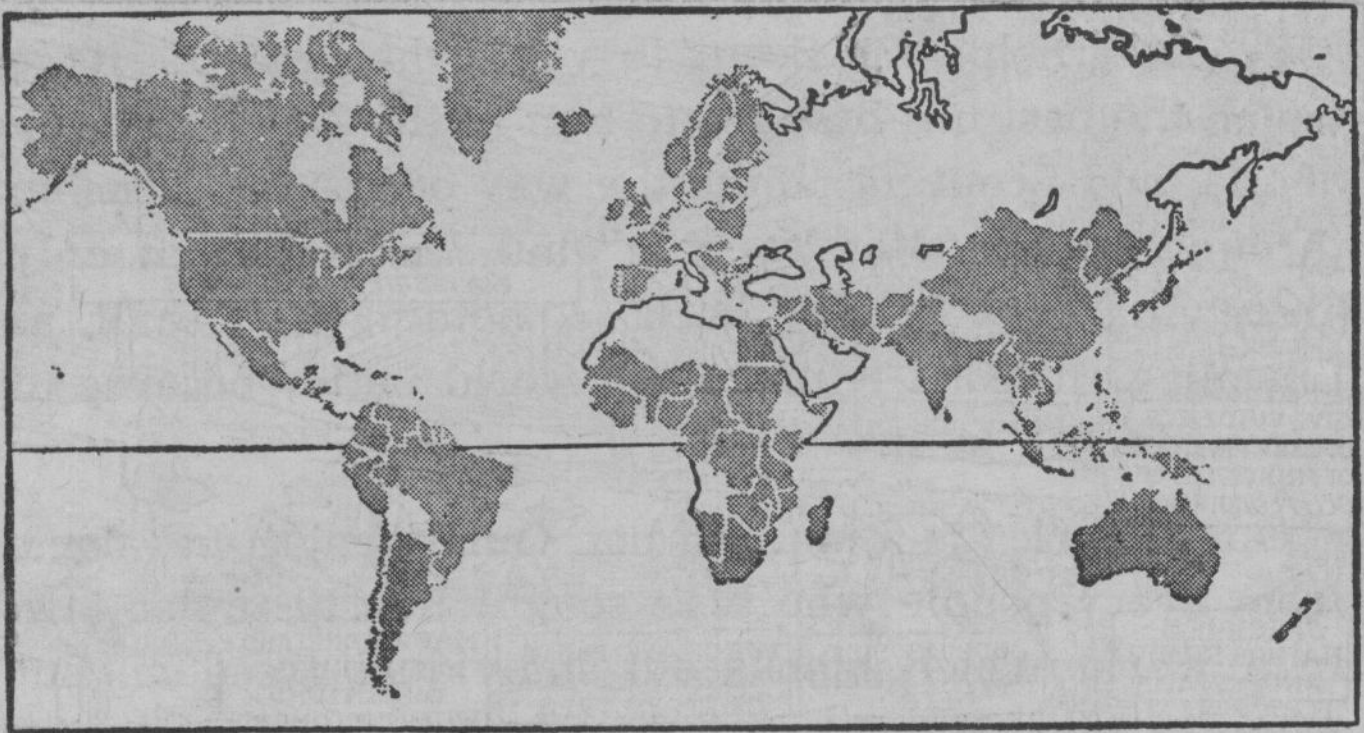


Scouting helps the Scout to value the great heritage which the past has brought to him in the American way of life, and Scouting points the way of good citizenship through service. Not "getting" but "giving"—not only "receiving" but "giving back" something that shall, as Lincoln phrased it—"make the world better because of our little life in it."

Our America is a melting pot. Our strength has come from every people who here sought liberty under law. In a world which blacks out individual freedom, our America must stand as a light house to freedom-loving men everywhere. Ours is a crusade to keep democracy strong, united—a land of Brotherhood and opportunity. The spirit of the Good Turn—caring about others, is the vital spirit of democracy and of civilization.



EXPLORE & ADVENTURE WITH THE VIKINGS



## Scouts All Around The World

Prior to totalitarian invasions, Scouts were active in 73 civilized countries, which countries represent 91% of the world's population.

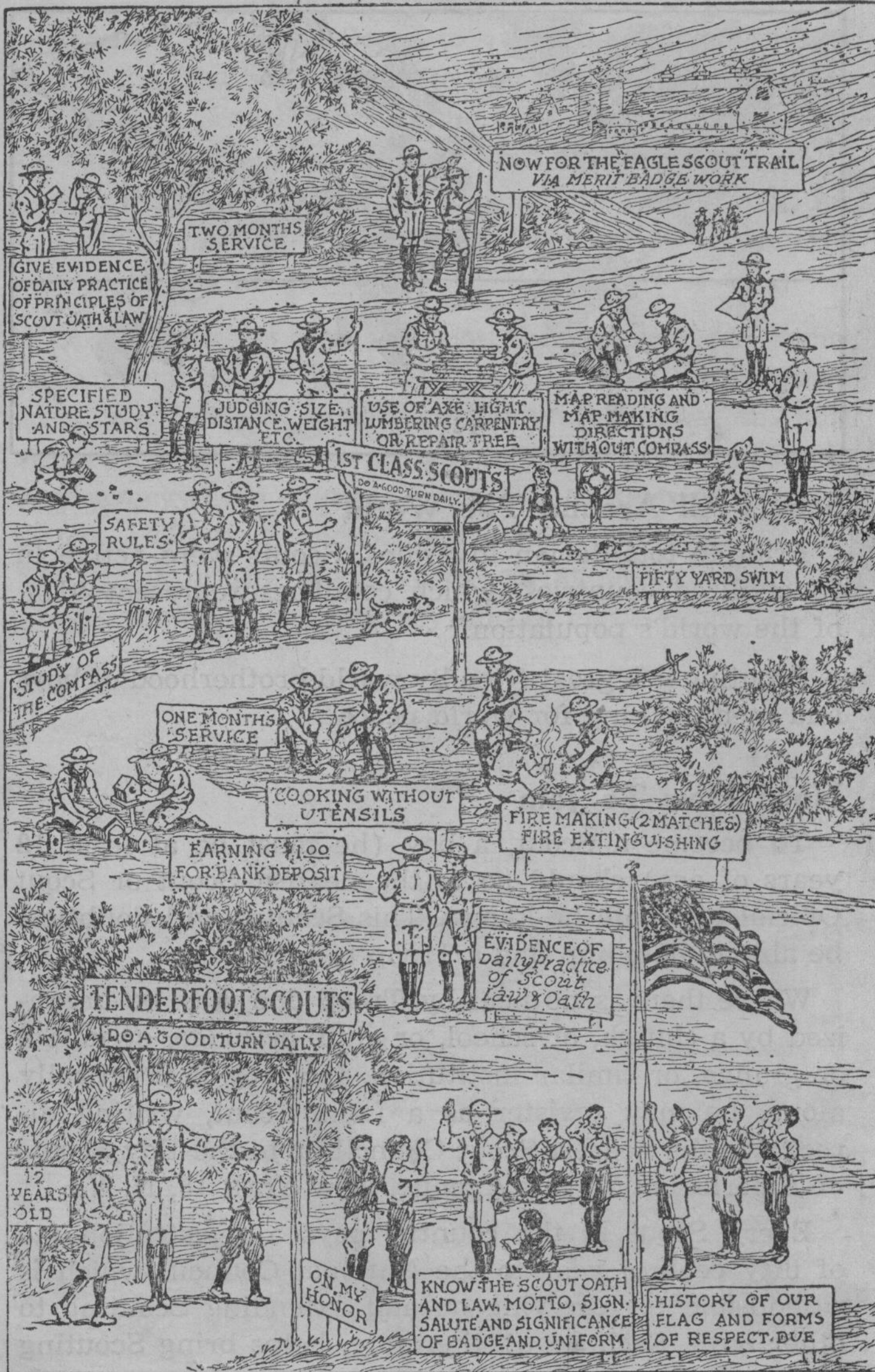
Scouting is a great friendly world brotherhood of boys and men, making for world peace.

## Now! How To Join

To become a Scout, a boy (he must be at least 12 years of age) should go to the nearest Scout or Scout Official of whom he knows. This Scouter will doubtless be able to help him find a Troop to join.

Where there is no near-by Troop one may be organized by a church, or school, or club, or lodge, or union, or grange, or similar institution. If a boy is practically alone, he may register as a Lone Scout, writing directly to the nearest Scout Council or to the Boy Scouts of America, at 2 Park Avenue, New York 16, N. Y.

Every Scout in the country pays a registration fee of fifty cents a year to the National Council, which is responsible for carrying on and extending Scouting to other boys. Each Scout, therefore, helps bring Scouting to other boys.



NOW FOR THE EAGLE SCOUT TRAIL  
VIA MERIT BADGE WORK

TWO MONTHS SERVICE

GIVE EVIDENCE OF DAILY PRACTICE OF PRINCIPLES OF SCOUT OATH & LAW

SPECIFIED NATURE STUDY AND STARS

JUDGING SIZE, DISTANCE, WEIGHT ETC.

USE OF AXE, LIGHT LUMBERING CARPENTRY OR REPAIR TREE

MAP READING AND MAP MAKING DIRECTIONS WITHOUT COMPASS

1st CLASS SCOUTS  
DO A GOOD TURN DAILY

SAFETY RULES

FIFTY YARD SWIM

STUDY OF THE COMPASS

ONE MONTH'S SERVICE

COOKING WITHOUT UTENSILS

FIRE MAKING (2 MATCHES) FIRE EXTINGUISHING

EARNING \$1.00 FOR BANK DEPOSIT

EVIDENCE OF DAILY PRACTICE OF SCOUT LAW & OATH

TENDERFOOT SCOUTS  
DO A GOOD TURN DAILY

12 YEARS OLD

ON MY HONOR

KNOW THE SCOUT OATH AND LAW, MOTTO, SIGN, SALUTE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF BADGE AND UNIFORM

HISTORY OF OUR FLAG AND FORMS OF RESPECT DUE



COOKING WITH UTENSILS

SIGNALING, INDIAN SIGN OR DEAFMUTE LANGUAGE

ADVANCED FIRST AID

NOTICE ALL SEASONS ARE SCOUTING SEASONS

14 MILES OBSERVATION ROUND-TRIP

EARNING \$2.00 FOR BANK DEPOSIT

REMEMBER *daily practice* scout oath & law

USE OF KNIFE AND HATCHET

SCOUTS FACE OR LAY OUT LAND

TRACKING OBSERVATION

ELEMENTARY SIGNALING INDIAN SIGN OR DEAFMUTE LANGUAGE

2ND CLASS SCOUTS DO A GOOD TURN DAILY

KNOT TYING

ELEMENTARY FIRST AID





## CHAPTER III

# THE GOOD TURN AND KNIGHTHOOD

Early in the fifth century, there rode through the forest, in what is now a corner of London, a powerful Knight, clad in full shining armor, with lance and plumes and helmet. Like his master, the great war horse was also protected by armored trappings. At his side rode his Squire, a young knight in training, and behind came his picked patrol of men-at-arms—strong, brave, armed to the teeth. A gallant band, alert and ready.

The shrill scream of a woman in trouble startled the band. Instantly the Knight turned aside and spurring his charger into full gallop, was soon at the woman's side. One stroke of his trusty sword disposed of her captor, while his men quickly overtook and handled the other bandits. Then the frightened woman was restored to her fireside—and the Knight traveled on.

Such was the spirit of these Knights of old. A Good Turn to some one was their daily practice.

