

J. AITKENHEAD

C. CROOKS

PIONEERING

HIKING

WHO?

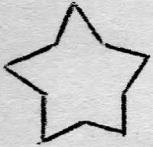
H. MURCHIE

WHAT?  
CAMPING

J. LEES

SWIMMING

ARDROSSAN BOY SCOUTS



1911

1941

BELFAST

KILMUN  
WHERE?

1946

1923

GLEN SANNOX

STOBO

WHEN?

## THE BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION

### Aim and Basis

The aim of the Association is to develop good citizenship among boys by forming their character, training them in habits of observation, obedience and self reliance - inculcating loyalty and thoughtfulness for others - teaching them services useful to the public and handicrafts useful to themselves - promoting their physical, mental and spiritual development.

The principles and practices of the Association are founded on the basis of the Scout Promise and the Scout Law.

### THE SCOUT LAW

The Scout Law is:

1. A Scout's Honour is to be trusted.
2. A Scout is loyal to the King, his Country, his Scouters, 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, no matter to what Country, Class or Creed the other may belong.
5. A Scout is courteous.
6. A Scout is a friend to animals.
7. A Scout obeys orders of his parents, Patrol Leaders 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 SCOUT PROMISE

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

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AN EXPLANATION

The Scoutmasters of the four sections meet once a month, to discuss general business affecting the Troop as a whole in order to try and weld the four Troops or Sections more tightly together into one Troop.

At one of these meetings it was decided to compile a small booklet on the general aims of Scouting and the specific aims of this Troop, with a historical background. The idea was to present each recruit with one, as a guide to themselves and as an explanation to their parents.

This booklet is the result.

A WORD BEFORE JOINING

"Scouting is an education in Citizenship through Woodcraft."

Scouting is often referred to as a game; indeed it is a game - a game demanding teamwork of a high order.

The Scout Law and Promise are the rules of the game and if adhered to should give you a good grounding in self-reliance, self-sacrifice and courage.

These qualities are essential to every member of a healthy democratic society and were the most triumphant weapons of the early pioneers and frontiersmen who extended our civilization.

Scouting attempts to re-create the conditions which moulded these men.

You wish to join this Troop, and until the present, as a youth you have been and are responsible for your conduct, to your parents, your school and your Church. By this is meant that whatever you do is an advertisement - good or bad for your parents, school and Church.

On joining this Troop, you will in addition to the above, be responsible for the good name of a Movement, which reaches the furthestmost corners of our Empire and the World.

The majority of your Leaders and guardians have been adults, now quite a number of them will be youths of your own age. This means a great deal of co-operation and acceptance of responsibility from yourself.



Scouting is a way of life which does not begin and end with each weekly Scout meeting, but should continue right throughout your manhood.

So now if you are prepared to live up to our code and creed, pitch in and play the game.

#### SHORT HISTORY OF THE TROOP

Scouting was started at Brownsea Island in 1908 and since 1910 there has been a Troop in Ardrossan. At times it has been weak numerically but the real spirit has never quenched and we feel sure that Scouting in Ardrossan will always hold its place among the many Movements for youth in the town. In this short record we shall try to give some of the main points and highlights in the Troop's history.

In 1913 the first Chief Scout - Lord Baden Powell visited Ardrossan and inspected the Troop at Eglinton School. In the first World War the Scouts in Ardrossan co-operated with the Admiralty in patrol service along the coast and for a short time thereafter Sea Scouts were run in the town.

Up till 1923, the Troop found great difficulty in getting a place to meet, but thanks to the Scouters during that period, the Troop was held together. In that year we moved to the old Drill Hall and there we stayed until 1934.

In 1924 the County Competition was resumed and Ardrossan had the honour in gaining first place. In the same year, 4 Scouts from the Troop attended the first Jamboree at Wembley. In 1929, 8 Scouts from the Troop attended the next Jamboree in Birkenhead.

We moved to the first home of our own in 1934 - a small hut near Winton Park. The money was raised largely by the Scouts themselves, but great credit must be given to a very energetic Committee of the Scout parents, especially the mothers.

In 1937, 4 Scouts represented the Troop at a Jamboree in Holland.

During the years we have mentioned, we were always placed in District and County Competitions and when the County Competitions were suspended we had won it on 3 occasions, more than any other Troop in the County.

1938 was a big year for us. In 1935 we had run a large fete

and the proceeds together with funds from Annual Gang Shows which are well remembered still, a feature of our winter activities, were sufficient for us to purchase ground from the Bowling Club and erect a very substantial Club Room. This H.Q. was opened by our County Commissioner - Lord Rowallan who is now Chief Scout.

Another war came and contrary to expectations and in spite of the many new Youth Organizations starting in the town Scouting has increased both in numbers and the spirit which means so much to any Movement.

Camping - both week-end and annual have been strong points in the Troop and in our annual camps we have gone to many parts of Scotland and on one occasion to Ireland.

Some old Scouts paid the supreme sacrifice in the conflict which has just finished, others have won decorations, others were taken prisoner but still kept smiling, but all in some measure or other carried out the first part of the Scout Promise to the best of their ability.

It would be invidious to single out any Scouter for services rendered to the 15th Ayrshire - rather would we conclude this very short and somewhat scrappy history by saying, that although it is game for boys it also affords to those who take on the job as Scouters an opportunity for real service to the Community and there can be no greater reward than that.

#### GENERAL ORGANIZATION

Imperial Headquarters. The Boy Scout Association is governed by a Council of 70 members through a Committee consisting of the Chief Scout, the Chief Commissioners and 16 other Senior Scout Officers.

County Organization. The affairs of the county are conducted by the County Scout Council through the County Commissioner and Assistants as executors. Each County is divided into a number of Districts each containing about 12 Groups and under the charge of the District Commissioner. The District business is conducted by the Local Association which meets monthly, and comprises of the Scouters from all the Groups in

the District and representatives of the Parents Committee of each Group and a number of lay members.

Group Committee. It is laid down in the Policy Organization & Rules of the Scout Movement that each Group should have its own Group Committee composed of parents of the Scouts, representatives of Old Scouts or friends interested in the Group, whose duty is to assist the Group Scoutmaster with finance, propaganda, obtaining suitable accommodation, and employment for members of the Group. As can be seen, the main duty of the Committee is to relieve the Scouters in charge of any Secretarial or financial work to get on with the main job of running his section of the Group. In Ardrossan we have a Committee of 12 members who have always rendered yeoman service to the Group, and of this Committee there is a Ladies Section whose energies in raising funds never lag. One of the purposes of the booklet is to encourage parents to take a more personal interest in the Group by becoming Honorary Members, and it is hoped to have an Annual Meeting of all such members of the Group when they will be able to air their views and give constructive suggestions for the promotion of Scouting in Ardrossan and District.

Group Organization. Each Group is divided into three Groups namely Cubs, Scouts and Rovers. The Scout section may be further sub-divided into Land Scouts, Sea Scouts, Air Scouts and Senior Scouts.

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#### A FEW ODD POINTS

Insurance. Each Scout is fully insured against accidents of all kinds while engaged in Scouting activities.

Advice. Scoutmasters will be very glad to offer any advice required as regards a Scout's future education and career.

Church Parades. A combined Church Parade is held every sixth Sunday in the year to the Ardrossan Churches.

Hiking. Combined hikes are included in the joint Saturday afternoon activities. These hikes are properly organized and held under the supervision of a Scouter.



Library. The Troop has a library of over 100 Books on Scouting. Any Scout may borrow books from the library.  
Troop Property. All the property of the Troop was bought and paid for by the efforts of the three sections namely Cubs, Scouts and Rovers helped by a very hard working Parents Committee. This property belongs to the present members of the Group.

So Scouts, respect and take great care of your property.

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### TROOP ORGANIZATION

The Troop is divided into two main sections. There is the Senior Section for Scouts aged 16 and over and the Junior Section for Scouts aged from 11 to 15. Owing to large numbers this latter Section has been divided into 3 Troops. This division is for convenience only; each Troop contains some 36 Scouts and none is anyway superior or inferior to either of the others except in the opinion of members of that Troop. Each of the four Troops meets on a different night of the week.

Every Scout in each of the four Troops is a member of a Patrol. A Patrol is a gang of about 6 Scouts. One member of the Patrol is appointed Patrol Leader and he chooses another member of the Patrol to be his Assistant. Such an Assistant is called a Second. The Patrol Leader is chosen by the Scoutmaster and is the most experienced and competent Scout in the Patrol.

The Patrol Leaders, Seconds and Scoutmasters form a body called the "Court of Honour" this there is a Court of Honour for each of the four Troops. The Court runs and administers the Troop affairs, looks after Troop property, manages Troop finances and attends to internal matters such as discipline. Of course there are certain items such as the provision of Group H.Q., the raising of funds and the payment of electricity bills which we arrange on a Group basis for the benefit of the Group as a whole. Apart from these however the Court of Honour has complete control over the affairs and activities of the Troop. Occasionally the four Courts of Honour meet together to deal with matters affecting the four Troops.

There is another Committee. The Scoutmasters and Assistant Scoutmasters of all the four Troops meet monthly to "co-ordinate" the activities of all four Troops and to bring forward, discuss and act on suggestions from the Courts of Honour of their various Troops. It is also from this body that the Inter-Patrol Shield is awarded monthly.

#### SCOUT UNIFORM AND BADGES

Scout uniform consists of the following:

Scout Hat. Neckerchief which is secured by means of a woggle. Shirt with short sleeves, and 2 pockets one on each breast. Kilt or shorts. Stockings turned down below knee and shoes. It was Baden Powells intentions that every part of the Scout uniform should be useful and not purely decorative.

The Scout hat is the type which he found most useful as a protection against the weather. It can be and often is used for fanning fires and carrying water. The neckerchief is the right size and shape to be used as a triangular bandage in cases of emergency. It could also be used to shield the neck from the sun. Each Scout Group has its own particular pattern of neckerchief and no two Groups in the same District have the same one. Thus the neckerchief is a Group Emblem. The woggle is however almost pure ornament. It was not insisted on by B.P. and many Groups, notably Sea Scouts wear none.

The shirt is worn short sleeved as a symbol that the Scout is always prepared. This is rather more than a symbol since the short sleeved shirt is the usual wear for most jobs requiring more than a minimum of effort. Baden Powell chose, shorts, socks and shoes as essential garments as they were far freer, better ventilated and generally more desirable than any other. These remarks apply of course to the kilt, only more so. Scout garters have green tabs hanging below the turn down tops of the socks. Here B.P. had in mind the frontiersmen who tied their socks up with a skein of wool which they used for mending.

Every Scout also wears the following badges:

A County Emblem, The Ayrshire County Emblem is worn on the right pocket. A tape showing his Group is worn at the top of



the right sleeve. A shoulder knot, pieces of coloured ribbon fastened to the left shoulder indicating his Patrol. An "Arrowhead" badge on the left pocket indicating that he is a Scout. These badges are presented at Investiture.

To indicate rank: A Second wears one vertical white stripe  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x  $\frac{1}{2}$ " on the left pocket. A Patrol Leader wears two similar stripes on his left pocket and also a metal badge on the front of his hat. A Troop Leader wears three white stripes on the left pocket, one goes under the Arrowhead Badge, and also the hat badge.

There are also Badges of achievement. These are now in a state of flux, but are more or less as follows.

The 2nd Class Badge; The 1st Class Badge; The Bushman's Thong and the King's Scout Badge. The standard of the 2nd Class badge is such that an average Scout should gain it in a year and the standard of the 1st Class is such that the average Scout should gain it in about 3 years.

As well, there are Badges for special proficiency in different subjects. These are the small circular things which are worn on the sleeves. The test standards are quite different for Scouts under 15 from those for Scouts over 15 and the Badges are also quite different in design.

#### SUMMER CAMP 1946

On Saturday 13th July, 80 Scouts of the 15th descended on to the rather quiet station of Dumfries. The townspeople didn't get much of a chance to take a look at us as we soon loaded the kit on to the lorry, except one of the Scouter's rucksacks which was left on the station platform, and bundled on to buses for a rather pleasant journey up the Cluden Valley to the camp site at Waterside Farm.

The site was a very large field sloping from a hay-field on the west side of the road up to the farm, gradually and then more steeply to a small mixed wood which afforded protection from the wind, but unfortunately not from the rain. We were fortunate as far as the weather was concerned on the day of our arrival. Patrols were able to erect tents and lay out their sites in perfect summer weather.

The farmer proved to be a great help to us "settling in" in numerous little ways. He ran stores and milk churns of

fresh water up from the farm in his van, right to the door of the store tent.

We wakened early on Sunday morning to a rather dismal, and what was to be quite usual prospect of overcast skies and incessant rain. However, that did not prevent us from holding a Scouts' Own Service during a dry spell, round the flag-pole which had been erected in the middle of the field. Rain held no terrors for the footballers who played on regardless of the weather though the chief occupation of the day apart from cooking and eating appeared to be the completion of each patrol's individual site. The large number of Scouts in Camp and the size of the site was forcibly brought home to the Scouters whenever they paid a visit to each Patrol.

The total distance for the round trip was almost three-quarters of a mile.

Monday and the rain found us building bivouacs in the wood followed in the afternoon by a hike. It also saw the first appearance of what appeared to be a deep sea diver but was in reality a Scouter dressed in a complete suit of anti-gas clothing which proved to be the most suitable dress for this Camp.

Tuesday, our best day as far as the weather was concerned, was spent in the morning by following a trail laid by the Senior Scouts which blended, rather too well for the rest of the Troop, with the natural vegetation. In the afternoon we climbed Skeoch Hill, a large hill behind the Camp site. In spite of the alleged presence of adders we reached the top more or less intact. On our way back to the Camp site we inspected a monument erected to the memory of a Group of Local Covenanters. The G.S.M. was presented, on his return, with a trout for his tea by the Senior Scouts, but declined to accept the roast hedgehog. The day was concluded with a camp-fire to which the farmer and his wife were invited.

On Wednesday a bus arrived from Ardrossan with 36 parents who spent the day with us. Much of the time was spent in inspecting the site and exchanging news, but we managed to fit in, in between showers, a sports meeting. The Inspecting District Commissioner turned up just as the visitors were departing. He thoroughly inspected each site and expressed satisfaction with everything he saw.

Although it was very wet on Thursday, we found plenty to do. In the morning a "twist" baking Competition was held and in the afternoon in a heavy downpour of rain the Troop paraded in bathing costumes. After some P.T., a few games, and a cross country run, we all had a bathe.

The next day was spent in Dumfries accompanied by the usual orgy of present-buying and mass invasion of restaurants and picture houses. Everywhere you went that day in Dumfries you were pretty well sure to meet Scouts with red neckerchiefs. This was brought home to the Scouters, seated in the rather cheaper balcony seats of the pictures, as they watched a line of Tenderfoots proudly trooping into the divans. The Camp was brought to a successful conclusion by a gigantic camp fire held in the woods on our return. The fire itself was about eight feet high and burned all night. The farmer and his family were present and joined in the singing. We sang well into the night and completely exhausted our repertoire of camp fire songs and sketches.

If camp fires be a measure of the spirit of a Camp then this Camp was a success. Most people retain memories of good camp fires long after they have forgotten other incidents at camp. I am quite sure that this particular camp fire will be a landmark in the Scouting memories of those who camped at Dumfries in 1946.

We could not finish this short account without a mention of our indebtedness to Mr. Robson, the farmer, whose assistance was a great encouragement and practical help to the Scouters who ran the Camp.

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