

Back To Gilwell, Happy Land!

In the three weeks between the short span of days that we are privileged to walk on Gilwell Field, the staff and patrols have been preparing for this final weekend and our Wood Badge Outdoor Experience.

While the staff members concentrated on tweaking presentations, setting up Gilwell on the T. Brady Saunders side of the Heart of Virginia Council Scout Reservation, and locating those last few game pieces for the patrol meetings, the participants have been even busier in their preparations.

Patrol flags that meet the criteria for a Perfect Gilwell Square have been fash-

ioned from a wide variety of materials to reflect the spirit and camaraderie of the participants. Totems for the individual patrol members have been designed and created to be displayed with pride for years to come. The patrols have had the chance to meet several times to work on presentations concerning some aspect of scouting and finalize their plans for their camping experience.

Some have formed groups on social networking sites, like Facebook, to stay in touch, provide a fun way to show their progress, and connect with like critters from other Wood Badge courses. Patrol meetings have taken place at offices,

libraries, and even restaurants as the fellowship in the patrols has grown and developed.

And, while the patrol members have been working together on their various group projects, each participant has also been spending time crafting a vision of their legacy in Scouting, developing a Wood Badge Ticket to bring their goals to fruition.

An astounding amount of work has been accomplished in preparation for this weekend and, as we head into the last few days of S7-602-14, each of us is ready in our own way to complete the course.

What's In a Sign?

As you enter Gilwell Field on weekend two you will pass a signpost with a variety of plaques denoting locations and the distance to each from Camp T. Brady Saunders, and each plaque is pointed in the direction of that location. The sign assembly was a gift to the Course Director of Wood Badge course SR-917, Chuck Smith, who was also course Mentor for course S7-602-11-1. It was given to him with the directive that it must stay at the Scout reservation (otherwise it may have ended up in his front yard!) Each plaque bears the name of a location of significance in the Scouting program. Some you may recognize, but there may be a few that you do not.

- Nyeri, Kenya is the location of Lord Robert Baden Powell's burial site, where upon his headstone is the circle with a dot in it, which we learned is the trail sign for "Gone Home."
- Kandersteg is the location of the Kandersteg International Scout Centre in Kandersteg, Switzerland, established in 1923.
- Fort A.P. Hill has been the location of (8) BSA National Jamborees, from 1981 until 2010, and has a 200 acre site on base set aside for Boy Scout camping.
- Philmont, Sea Base, and Northern Tier are the three BSA High Adventure bases.
- Brownsea Island was the location of the first Scouting summer camp in 1907. It is located off the southern coast of England.
- Gilwell Field is the location of the very first Wood Badge training. The property was donated by the MacLaren family to the Scout Association of the United Kingdom in 1919.
- Irving, Texas is the location of the Boy Scouts of America national headquarters.

One more sign was added in 2011 to honor the new National High Adventure Base—Summit Bechtel Reserve.



Warning—Critter Alert!

The Heart of Virginia Council Camp has reported that it has recently become a refuge to exotic "critters". It was reported that last evening Eagles were flying over the Reservation in an "Inverted V" formation, several Owls were spotted nesting on the rafters of the Dining Hall and even Bobwhites were seen flying paper kites at some place called Gilwell field.

Additional reports indicated that several logs had been gnawed upon by large mammals (purported to be beavers). There were also scattered reports of "Grizzled Bears" moving into tents at camp. In a seemingly unrelated report, there were several reports of "Yipping" in the woods; sounds like only foxes make, but the official comment from the National Wildlife Federation is that this is "highly unlikely." A herd of Buffalo was seen stampeding toward the Camp, all with a single purpose. Antelopes were seen leaping the fence at the edge of the property.

Nevertheless, the Humane Society is investigating and is warning residents within a 10 mile radius of the Camp to stay indoors at night, as a precautionary measure.

What is Scouting?

Not one in a hundred people knows this. Scouting is not a thing that can be taught by wording it in public speeches, nor by defining it in print. Its successful application depends entirely on the grasp of the Scout spirit by both trainer and trainee. What this spirit is can only be understood by outsiders when they see it ruling, as it already does to a vast extent, the thoughts and actions of each of our brotherhood.

Thus every Scoutmaster and every Commissioner will be an apostle to them, not merely through what he says but through what he imparts by impression and through what he does himself in his own personality. For this he must, as a first point, be imbued with a real understanding knowledge of Scout ideals, the methods we use to gain them, and the reasons that

underlie them. Among them he realizes, for instance:

- That Scouting can help by attracting the boy or girl, or by helping him or her to acquire these qualities
- This cannot be done by the imposition of artificial instruction from without but by the encouragement of the natural impulses from within; it is brotherhood—a scheme which, in practice, disregards differences in class, creed, country, and color, through the un-definable spirit that pervades it—the spirit of God's people.

Now these, you will say, are things you know already, and don't need to be told. Yes, that is so. But ideally you should pass them on to those who don't know them.

“A week of camp life is worth six months of theoretical teaching in the meeting room.”
Baden-Powell



Scout Camping: One of the Greatest Schools of Democracy

by James E. West (First Professional Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America, 1911–1943)

Boy Scouts all over the world go camping. Over 300,000 boys spent a week or more in camp last summer. Thousands of acres are added annually to camp-site buildings and new camp buildings have been erected. Winter camp is a big feature when the icy winds blow and the mercury starts sliding down, our husky coats bundle into sweaters and mackinaws and hike to camp through the snow. Every Boy Scout — every boy for that matter — should spend at least two weeks in camp as a part of his education. The camp does much more than provide a pleasant recreation. It does more than make a sturdy body. Camping gives direct and positive training of a vital sort. A well-conducted camp develops initiative and resourcefulness; the boy is obliged to find many

make-shifts, invent ingenious contrivances, employ his hands and his head to replace the mechanics of civilization. Life in the woods quickens his senses to a thousand details of foliage, tracks, and birds.

A Boy Scout camp is one of the greatest schools of democracy in the world. Every boy has a job and all boys working together make for the efficiency of the organization. Here no social barriers — only hearty com-radeship, and a healthy rivalry stimulated by contests in strength and skill. It will give the boy the greatest experiences of his life, and training that he can obtain in no other way.

The greatest boys' camp in the world, that one set up in Copenhagen, Denmark, demonstrated this in 1924, when 6,000 Boy Scouts took

part in a World Scout Jamboree. Thirty-three nations were represented, and it is a tribute to America, and due in no small measure to the efficiency of her camping program, that American Scouts won the world championship. The qualities that carried these fifty-six boys over the top are precisely the qualities of skill, resourcefulness, initiative, and good fellowship that a Boy Scout Camp develops. Nor were other nations far behind. To the glory of the youth of the world, be it recorded that this Jamboree was more than a contest. Harmony and friendship governed. Courtesy and respect for others were everywhere evident. American boys had pledged themselves beforehand not to utter a word of dissent, of criticism or displeasure, and the other Scouts

had done the same. Every competition between the different nations ended with a cheer for each other and a friendly handshake — real chivalry and sportsmanship.

It was the One Big Game made up of all the games that boys have ever played since first there was hide-and-peek in the woods and hero worship for those who took the lead, and listening ears for those who told thrilling tales. It was the challenge of Youth to the world, and all those boys from all those nations, with their courage, skill, health, and joyousness proclaimed with shouts across the frontiers of strife that they had the magic password — the promise of the future comradeship.

What the Scout Law Means to Me

by John Wayne

A great American, John Wayne, passed away many years ago. One of his last public appearances was at a dinner. He was riddled with cancer and knew he was close to death. The purpose of the dinner was to benefit a land purchase for a Scout Reservation called John Wayne Outpost Camp. At this dinner, Wayne recited the Scout Law. Then he did something unusual. He said the twelve points of the Scout Law are “nice words.” “Trouble is” he continued, “we learn them so young we sometimes don’t get all the understanding that goes with them. I take care of that in my family. As each boy reaches Scout age, I make sure he learns the Scout Law. Then I break it down for him, with a few things I have picked up in more than half a century since I learned it.” Then Wayne proceeded to explain the importance of the Scout Law, breaking it down for the guests at the dinner, much like he would have for his grandson.

TRUSTWORTHY: The badge of honesty. Having it lets you look at any man in the eye. Lacking it, he won't look back. Keep this one at the top of your list.

LOYAL: The very word is life itself; for

without loyalty we have no love of person or country.

HELPFUL: Part sharing, part caring. By helping each other, we help ourselves; not to mention mankind. Be always full of help—the dying man’s last words.

FRIENDLY: Brotherhood is part of that word. You can take it in a lot of directions—and do—but make sure and start with brotherhood.

COURTEOUS: Allow each person his human dignity; which means a lot more than saying, “Yes, ma’am” and “Thank you, sir.” It reflects an attitude that later in life you wish you had honored more earlier in life. Save yourself that problem. Do it now.

KIND: This one word would stop wars and erase hatreds. But it's like your bicycle, it's just no good unless you get out and use it.

OBEDIENT: Starts at home. Practice it in your family. Enlarge it in your friends. Share it with humanity.

CHEERFUL: Anyone can put on a happy face when the going is good. The secret is to wear it as a mask for your problems. It might surprise you how many others do the same thing.

THRIFTY: Means a lot more than putting pennies away; and it is the opposite of cheap. Common sense covers it just about as well as anything.

BRAVE: You don't have to fight to be brave. Millions of good, fine, decent folks show more bravery than heavyweight champs just by getting out of bed every morning, going out to do a good day's work, and living the best life they know how against the law of odds. Keep the word handy every day of your life.

CLEAN: Soap and water helps a lot on the outside. But it is the inside that counts, and don't ever forget it.

REVERENT: Believe in anything that you want to believe in, but keep God at the top of it. With Him, life can be a beautiful experience. Without Him, you are just biding time.

John Wayne then thanked those at the dinner for putting his name on the outpost camp and said, “I would rather see it here than on all the theater marquees the world over.”

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Course Colors and Patch



It is traditional that the course director chooses the colors. Here are Rick Bragga’s thoughts on choosing the course colors for S7-602-14: “Some of you may wonder about the significance of the course colors contained in the course patch: Red, White, Blue and Gold. Blue and gold because I, like most youth, started as a Cub Scout. It is where Scouting begins! In addition, my most active council experience here and at the national level began with Cub Scouting. As a Distinguished Eagle Scout, my highest accomplishment in Scouting and my career achievement are represented by the red, white and blue of the ribbon and the gold Eagle pendant. Of course, they are also our countries colors and national emblem. These colors also represent the Scouting Alumni program (through the Alumni Award knot) which I was active in creating at the national level. Then, there’s St. Louis Cardinal baseball red. While the course colors are chosen by the course director, the patches are created by the staff with only the Director’s course vision. The patches themselves are not revealed to him/her until they are completed.” Here are some of Rick's thoughts about our course patch and other course images: “When I Visualize Scout-

ing, I think of several places and people but most of all two iconic images: First, Rockwell’s The Scoutmaster (at the night campfire) – aren’t we all, in our own areas and ways, watching over and stewarding the future (it also reminds me of chairing the National Scouting Museum committee). Second, the Tooth of Time at Philmont -- reaching out for Scouting’s pinnacle experience whether that be Eagle Scout, a mountain peak, watching a youth struggle then excel or even just a quiet moment at the fire after a day well done (for me, I’ve been there often starting as a Philmont staff member in college). As you look at the patch you immediately recognize the course colors and three images. While the images like the tooth of time and the golden eagle are explained in Rick’s words, what you don’t see is the subtle change from the traditional patches of the past. This change represents the changes that we all must go through to improve - not only the changes in ourselves but the changes we bring back to our units. We must not remain where we are... we must go “Above and Beyond.”

CRITTER-SCOPES

Beaver: Step proudly with heads held high as you carry out your public responsibilities in front of all who participate in this great event. Gnawing the flagpoles would not be appropriate.

Bobwhite: Take care of pressing matters quickly. Take any opportunity that comes along to have fun. The break will do you good and give you a chance to consider the goals you want to pursue.

Fox: Jump at the chance to show off your abilities. A competitive event will add to a fun-filled day. A change in location or a mini-trip will spark your imagination.

Eagle: Let your intuition guide you in the right direction regarding relationships. Taking part in a group activity will give you a better idea of what options are available to you in making those relationships stronger and happier.

Owl: Patrol matters must be handled quickly and directly before they have a chance to spin out of control. Your leadership skills will foster your flock's team development progress.

Bear: Tapping into your creative side while working in unison with your den will bring out the best in you. Articulate your vision to others and you will gain momentum towards your goals.

Antelope: Give whatever challenges you pursue your best shot. Staying on course will not be difficult once you determine your best opportunities. Stick to the route that offers less uncertainty regarding the results you are trying to achieve.

Buffalo: Today let the chips fall where they may! Wield the mighty tool of service with the confidence of those born to thunder as you move through field and forest.



FAMOUS EVENTS ON OCTOBER 4:

1537 - The first complete English-language Bible (the Matthew Bible) is printed

1669 - Rembrandt van Rijn, Dutch painter, dies at 63

1854 - Abraham Lincoln made his 1st political speech at Illinois State Fair

1904 - 1st day of NYC subway, 350,000 people ride 9.1 mile tracks

1911 - 1st public elevator (London's Earl's Court Metro Station)

1931 - Dick Tracy, comic strip crimestopper, debuts

1953 - Mickey Mantle hits a grand slam in World Series

1974 - John Lennon releases "Walls & Bridges" album

2014 - Fourth day of Wood Badge S7-602-14

Jam Roll & Eccles

In 1929 The Scout Movement celebrated its 21st birthday by holding a World Jamboree at Arrowe Park, England.

To commemorate the occasion, Scouts from all over the World were invited to contribute one penny towards a gift to the Founder and Chief Scout, soon to be created First Baron Baden-Powell of Gilwell.

At the Jamboree, the President of the Boy Scouts of Denmark presented the Chief Scout with a Rolls-Royce Motor car, which B-P nicknamed "Jam Roll" (from Jamboree and Rolls-Royce), a caravan, which B-P named "Eccles" (after the caravan manufacturer) and a portrait of B-P in oils by David Jagger.

B-P used Jam Roll and Eccles on Scouting journeys until his retirement to Kenya in 1938.

