



Robert Baden-Powell
Chief Scout of the World
1857 - 1941

History Of Scouting

Scouting was founded in 1907 by **Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell**, affectionately known as **BP**. As an army General, he fought in many wars with the most famous being the Boer war especially the siege of Mafeking. It was here that BP organized his Messenger Cadets and gave them jobs to do. Trained in efficiency, obedience and smartness, they performed many tasks.

While still in the army, BP wrote a book called '**Aids to Scouting**'. It was designed to assist in the training of soldiers as army scouts. On his return to England he found that many youth leaders were using ideas from this manual for adventures for their boys.

In 1907, BP took a group of 21 boys from various backgrounds on an experimental camping trip to **Brownsea Island** in England. He trained them with special skills. The camp was a great success.

Although not planned as such, this marked the beginning of the Scout Movement.

In the following year BP book "**Scouting for Boys**" was published, a best seller to this day. By the end of 1908 it had already been translated into 5 languages.

King Edward VII of England took great interest in the fast growing world wide movement and made BP a knight. Lord Baden-Powell resigned from the army at the King's request and took up scouting full time.

In 1920 the International Conference of scouting was formed and BP was made Chief Scout of the World, the only person to hold that title.

At the 3rd world Jamboree in 1929, it was announced that BP had become Lord. He took the honor of **Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell**, Gilwell Park being the International Training Centre.

Very soon after the start of scouting, the younger brothers of the scouts wanted to join and so Cub Scouts were born. Later BP's sister started the Girl Guide movement.

On January 08, 1941, BP died. His tomb stone in Kenya, Africa, bears the simple description "Robert Baden-Powell, Chief Scout of the World, born February 22nd 1857, died January 8th 1941". Carved in the stone is the Scout and Guide Emblems and a circle with a dot inside, the tracking sign for "Gone Home"

In the founder's last will and testimony, he wrote these words to all who would volunteer for scouting "The real way to get happiness is to give it to other people. Try to leave the World a little better than you found it, when your turn comes to die, you can die happy in feeling that you have not wasted your time but have done your best." These words embody the principles of scouting.

Mission Of Scouting:

Scouting is contributing to the physical, intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual development of the young people.

The Scout Motto: Be Prepared

A scout prepared for whatever comes his way by learning all he can. He keeps himself strong, healthy, and ready to meet the challenges of life.

The Scout Slogan: Do A Good Turn Each Day

Good turns are helpful acts of kindness done quietly, without boasting, and without expecting reward or pay. Doing at least one GOOD TURN every day is a normal part of a Scout's life.

The Scout Promise:

On my honor, I promise to do my best to do my duty to God and the Queen, to help other people at all times, and to obey the Scout Law.

The Scout Law:

A Scout is helpful, trustworthy, kind, cheerful, considerate, clean and is wise in the use of resources.

Helpful: A Scout cares about other people. He willingly volunteers to help others without expecting payment or reward.

Trustworthy: A Scout tells the truth. He is honest and keeps his promises. People can depend on him.

Kind: A Scout knows there is strength in being gentle. He treats others as he wants to be treated. Without good reason, he does not harm or kill living thing.

Cheerful: A Scout looks for the bright side of life. He cheerfully does tasks that come his way. He tries to make others happy.

Considerate: Being friendly and considerate makes many friends. In Scouts you can meet many new faces and being friendly and considerate toward them, especially new members, helps to build good team spirit and a very happy Troop. Having your own way all the time often leads to resentment, and can lead to one being left out of the fun. Always try to find middle ground and always respect other people's feelings.

Clean: A Scout keeps his body and mind fit and clean. He chooses the company of those who live by high standards. He helps keep his home and community clean.

Wise in the use of all resources: A Scout uses the world's renewable and non-renewable resources wisely. Resources are anything we use to help us get something done. Examples of resources are: money, people's talent, water, tools, etc.

The Scout Handshake:

When Scouts meet, they greet each other in a special way. They shake with the **left hand** as a sign of brotherhood and trust. The left handshake comes to us from the Ashanti warriors whom Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting, knew almost 100 years ago in West Africa. He saluted them with his right hand, but the Ashanti chiefs offered their left hands and said, "In our land only the bravest of the brave shake hands with the left hand, because to do so we must drop our shields and our protection". The Ashantis knew of Baden-Powell's bravery because they fought against him, and they were proud to offer the left hand of bravery. Thus Scouts shake

hands with the left hand as proof of their good faith and true friendliness.

The World Scout Emblem



The three tips of the emblem represent the three parts of the Scout Promise:

- Duty to God and the Queen
- Help others
- Obey the Scout Law

The basic motif is encircled by a rope tied with a reef or square knot symbolizing the unity and brotherhood of the Movement throughout the world.

The Scout Sign



The Scout sign shows that you are a Scout. To give the Scout sign, raise the right arm bent in a 90 degree angle, and hold the middle three fingers upright and the others curled in (thumb over little finger). Those fingers stand for the three parts of the **Scout**

Promise. Your thumb and little finger touch to represent the bond that unites Scouts throughout the world.

The Scout Sign is used:

- When you are making or renewing the Scout Promise and Law
- When you are not wearing full uniform and you want to greet other Scout or leader
- During activities, a leader gives the Scout Sign as a request for silence and attention. All present must cease their conversations and give the Scout Sign to indicate their readiness to listen

The Scout Salute



The Scout salute shows respect. Use it when you are in full uniform to salute the flag, to a Scout leader or another Scout.

Give the Scout salute by forming the Scout sign with your right hand and then bringing that hand upward until your forefinger touches the brim of your hat. The palm of your hand should not show.