

# Scouts Observe Week In Diamond Jubilee Year

Its purpose: to make a young man out of a boy.

Its method: to require self-discipline, dedication and team work; to expect each boy to do his best.

During its 75th year, Boy Scouting continues to attract boys through a combination of traditional values and outdoor adventures.

After a drop in membership during the late '60s and early '70s Scouting membership is up all across the country, including Brunswick County.

Chris Ingrams, county coordinator for the Cape Fear Council, Boy Scouts of America, estimates that more than 400 boys and 50 adults actively participate in Scouting in Brunswick County.

Of the 17 county units, seven Cub Scout packs are located in Leland, Southport, Bolivia, Supply, Shallotte and Ash, while 10 Boy Scout troops are located in Leland, Southport, Bolivia and Shallotte.

Cub Scouts are boys seven through nine, Webelos are 10-year-olds making the transition into Boy Scouts, who are ages 10½ up. Explorer Posts include both senior high boys and girls.

Ingrams said Cape Fear Council is discussing the possibility of beginning the county's first Explorer Post at the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department.

The largest Scout unit in southeastern Brunswick County is Troop 287, sponsored by the Shallotte American Legion Post. Cecil Logan serves as Scoutmaster and Bill Sledge as Assistant Scoutmaster to 31 boys.

Like other troops it has reorganized, growing from eight members two years ago to its current strength of 31. That number includes three boys approaching Eagle rank and six Scouts voted into Order of the Arrow membership by their peers.

"We're going back to Boy Scouting basics—pioneering skills such as map and compass and where a boy learns to cook over an open fire and to pitch a tent," Logan said recently.

For Scouting this is a special week in a special year. Scout Week began with Scout Sunday, Feb. 3. Troop 287 members began their observance by conducting an opening ceremony at the morning worship service at Shallotte Presbyterian Church.

Weather permitting, the Wolf, Viking and Cobra patrols plan to end the

week with an overnight campout at the Legion Hut.

The campout will give them an op-

portunity to start earning some of the 17 special Diamond Jubilee patches issued in observance of Scouting's

75th anniversary.

Their parents won't be forgotten, said, Logan. "I believe in full parent

participation."

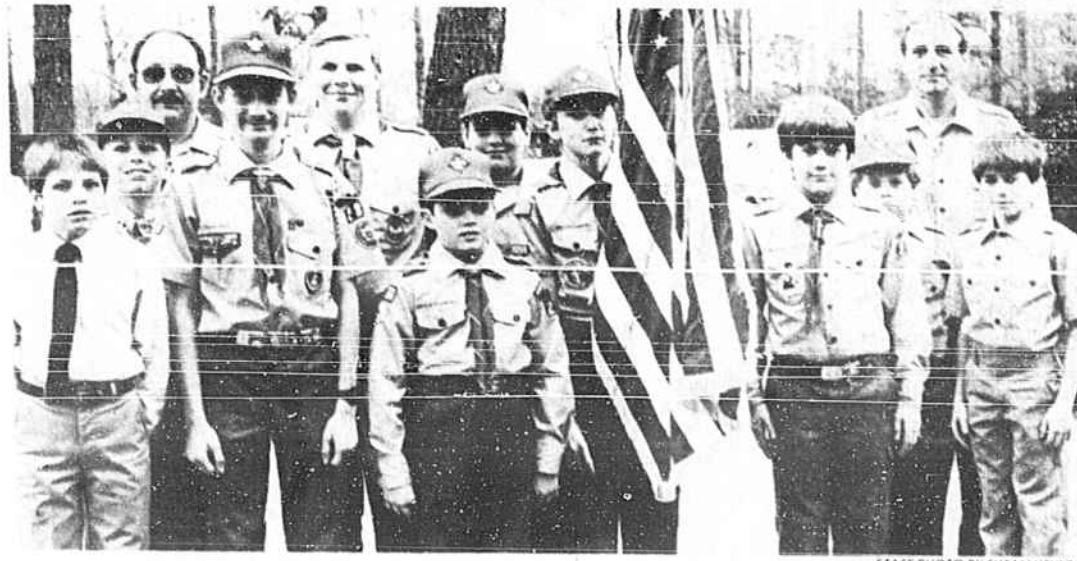
Some of his Scouts' parents stay throughout troop meetings. They'll all be invited to a campfire supper Saturday night prepared and served by their sons.

Both district and council campfires will be held in Brunswick County this year. Other activities include day camp, a golf tournament, a council raft race at Holly Shelter and single parent weekend, family day and Scout camp at Camp Bowers.

All these activities contribute to a central purpose.

"The intent of Scouting is to make a young man out of a boy," said Logan. It does so by instilling in the youth self-discipline, control of emotions, a sense of security and self-worth, respect for elders and patriotism. Plus, he said, unlike during the Vietnam era, their uniform gives them a sense of pride.

"They learn things in Scouting they don't learn anywhere else," he added. The more tangible skills range from building table and chairs from the trees around them to how to care for equipment. The intrinsic benefits are harder to pinpoint, but stay with a Scout throughout his life.



BOY SCOUTS of Troop 287 conducted opening ceremonies at Shallotte Presbyterian Church Sunday in recognition of Scout Sunday, which marks the start of Scout Week, Jan 3-10. Pictured at the front from left are Ryan Cooper, Keith Logan, Roy Allen Kirby, Pat

Long (bearing flag), Kyle Young and Bryan Snow. On the second row, from left, are Jeff Williams, Scoutmaster Cecil Logan, Charles Williams, Sonny Leggett, Toby Russ and administrative Scout volunteer Bill Leggett.

STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

STILL TRUSTWORTHY, LOYAL, AND HELPFUL

## Scouts To Mark 75 Years Of Good Deeds

BY BORIS WEINTRAUB

National Geographic News Service

Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell, Ernest Thompson Seton, and Daniel "Uncle Dan" Beard never heard of Tiger Cubs or Varsity Scouts. They probably would have disapproved of female Explorers. And who knows what they would have said about merit badges in atomic energy, space exploration, or golf?

On the other hand, those three pioneers of Scouting would have thoroughly understood the mission the Boy Scouts of America adopted in 1983: "To serve others by helping to instill values in young people and, in other ways, prepare them to make ethical choices over their lifetime in achieving their full potential."

They would have been pleased to know that those values are based on those found in the 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."

70 Million Took Oath

On Feb. 8, the Boy Scouts of America will mark its 75th anniversary, three quarters of a century in which more than 70 million Americans have vowed to be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent—the 12 tenets of the Scout Law.

The culmination of the celebration will come in July with the National Scout Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill, Va., with the end of the Heritage Campfire Caravan.

Beginning in May, a Heritage Campfire will be lighted outside every state capitol. Ashes will be put into a wooden box the shape of each state and added to a caravan that will zigzag, capital-to-capital, 7,600 miles across the country in 55 days to the Jamboree.

There, the boxes will be assembled into a map of the United States and ceremonially burned, "uniting the councils of the Boy Scouts of America in a pledge to continue providing a meaningful program for America's youth."

If that all sound a little grandiose and abstruse, well, that's the way it's been since the earliest days of



ARTIST NORMAN ROCKWELL did a painting for the Boy Scout calendar almost every year from 1925 through 1976. Through his portrayal of Scout activities, uniforms, and gear, he became closely identified with the ideal image of the Boy Scouts of America. This 1946 work was titled "A Guiding Hand."

Scouting, and it's worked pretty well.

There have been numerous changes in American society in the Boy Scouts' 75 years, and they have had to adapt. They now seek out black, Hispanic, and handicapped youngsters. They welcome 7-year-olds into the Tiger Cub program and young women into the co-educational, career-oriented Explorer posts. The "Official Boy Scout Handbook" now warns of drug abuse and teaches first aid for rattlesnakes as well as for snakebites. Merit badge lists have been updated to incorporate new fields of interest.

Campfires And Knots

But the handbook still shows how to build a campfire and tie the knots, a return to traditional Scout concerns after a flirtation with "relevance" in a previous edition. And membership rolls, after a precipitous decline from a "baby boom" peak of 6.5 million in 1972, have begun to edge upward once more after dropping to 4.3 million by the end of 1979.

Now, says a spokesman at Scout headquarters in Irving, Texas, membership is over 4.7 million, having risen about 40,000 in 1984. Of that number, 1.1 million are adult Scout leaders; the rest are Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Explorers.

The father of Scouting was Baden-Powell, who had written a book for soldiers on how to function in the field while serving the British Empire.

When Baden-Powell returned to England a hero after holding off a siege in Mafeking, South Africa, during the Boer War, he discovered that his book was being used by British

boys as a guide to life in the outdoors.

Baden-Powell decided to rewrite the book especially for boys, and took 20 of them camping for two weeks on an island, where he trained them in tracking, first aid, woodcraft, and other outdoor skills.

The result was "Scouting for

### Journalist To Keynote Boy Scout Banquet

Former "Today Show" host Frank Blair will be the keynote speaker at the Cape Fear Council's annual Eagle Scout recognition banquet March 1, at the Wilmington Hilton.

Blair is himself an Eagle Scout and has been awarded the Distinguished Eagle Scout award. He distinguished himself nationally as a news commentator and journalist as well as being active in many civic and community endeavors.

Tickets to the banquet may be purchased by mailing \$14.75 per ticket to the Boy Scouts of America, P.O. Box 1626, Wilmington, NC 28402.

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Boys," a combination of post-Victorian moral urgings and practical advice. It became the basic text of the British Boy Scouts when they were founded in 1908.

The following year, a Chicago newspaper publisher, William D. Boyce, got lost in a thick London fog. A young boy appeared and helped Boyce find his way. When the publisher proffered a one-shilling tip, the boy—soon to become legend as the "Unknown Scout"—replied, "No, sir, I am a Scout. Scouts do not accept tips for courtesies or good turns." Intrigued, Boyce visited Scout headquarters to learn more. In 1910, he organized the Boy Scouts of America.

Touches Special Chord

Other groups dedicated to helping young boys learned self-reliance already existed, including the Woodcraft Indians, organized by Seton, a painter and naturalist, and the Sons of Daniel Boone, formed by Beard, an illustrator and outdoorsman. But most were soon folded into the Boy Scouts. The organization succeeded for 75 years in touching a special chord in millions of American boys.

Perhaps the best explanation for this comes from William Hillcourt, retired national director of Scoutcraft and author of the most recent, back-to-basics, Scout Handbook. Hillcourt scorns the idea that

Scouting has to be "in tune with the times." Even in 1908, he told Robert W. Peterson, author of a new history of the Boy Scouts, Scouting was out of tune with the times:

"The idea of cooking your meal over an open fire when your mother at home was perfectly willing to cook your meal over a coal fire, and this idea of sitting around a campfire when you had a perfectly good kerosene lamp burning in your living room at home—it was exactly because it was idiotic and out of tune with the times that made Scouting appealing. It goes back to the atavistic thing that is supposed to be in every human being to play Tarzan and Robinson Crusoe and so on."

**Scouting's 75th Anniversary**  
FEBRUARY 3 to 9

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