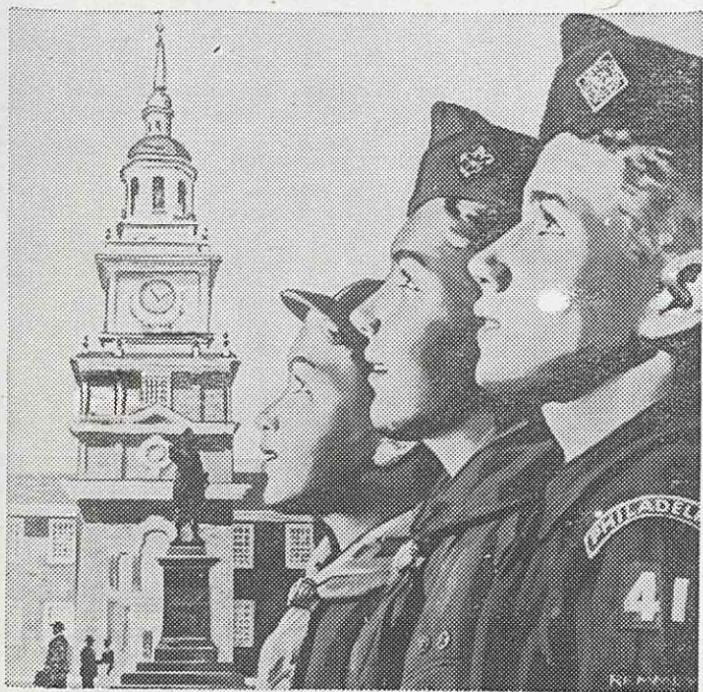


ONWARD ★ ★ ★ For God and My Country



47th ANNIVERSARY
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
1957

Boy Scout Movement To Note Anniversary Of Founding

The nation's 4,500,000 Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Explorers, and adult leaders will mark the 47th anniversary of their organization during Boy Scout Week, February 6-12.

The observance has as its theme, "Onward for God and My Country" with a special emphasis on "Duty to Country."

Sunday, February 10 is Boy Scout Sunday. Scouts and leaders will attend religious services in uniform in countless churches of all denominations. Those of Jewish faith will hold their observance in synagogues and temples on Friday evening, February 8 and Saturday, February 9. Many sermons, addressed to Scouts, will touch on some aspect of the Boy Scout Week theme.

IN HUNDREDS of communities, Scouts, their parents, and institutions sponsoring Scout work units, will unite in paying their respects to the volunteer adult leaders whose contributions of time and effort in behalf of youth makes these units possible.

National Scout officials say that 48.7 per cent of all Scout units—and there are 111,000 of them—are made possible by the sponsorship of churches and synagogues of all faiths. Civic groups make possible 30.8 per cent, while schools sponsor 19.9 per cent of Scout units in all three age levels.

Many store windows will be given over to Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Explorers for displays of their handicraft and to demonstrate some of the useful skills they acquire through their programs.

In countless elementary, junior high, and high schools, Boy Scout Week will be recognized in school assemblies through flag ceremonies, acts, and stunts by Cub Scouts, exhibits of handicrafts by Scouts, motion pictures of Scouting activities, demon-

stration of Scouting skills and talks by boys of some of their adventuresome activities.

TRADITIONALLY on February 8, the actual birthday date of the organization, Scouts and leaders recommit themselves to the Scout Oath or Promise at 8:15 P.M., in each of the four time zones. These ceremonies will take place, in some instances, at Scout family birthday dinners, while some Cub Scout dens, Boy Scout patrols and Explorer crews will meet in homes of members. Others will meet with their parents in churches and synagogues.

At these Boy Scout Week celebrations many units will review program highlights and the success of the first year in the Four Year Program, "Onward for God and My Country," camping and other outdoor activities, and planning for participation in the Fourth National Jamboree which is expected to attract more than 50,000 Scouts, Explorers, and leaders for a week of camping together at historic Valley Forge, Pa., next July 12-18.

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During Boy Scout Week in February, 12 outstanding explorers—older boy members of the organization—will be chosen to go to Washington, D. C., to make the annual "Report to the Nation." They will call at the White House.

Federal officials, including leaders from the House and Senate, will join with representatives of national organizations at a breakfast in Washington, D. C., at which the twelve Explorers will report on Scouting's accomplishments for 1956 and tell of the activities planned for this year, including the Fourth National Jamboree to be held next July 12 to 18, at Valley Forge, Pa.

OTHER outstanding Explor-

IN FIRESTONE COMMUNITY

Scouting History Recalled

When the Firestone Company came to Gastonia in April of 1935, the Boy Scout program in the community was encouraged. And in the ensuing 21 years, Scouting has held a place of high rank on the calendar of interests at the plant.

Across the years many men here have given of their time and efforts toward advancing the Scouting work. A number of Firestone employees have served—and are serving—as scoutmasters, committeemen, neighborhood commissioners and in other capacities. Hundreds of sons of employees have been enrolled in the Scouting program during this time.

Boy Scouts as an organization has existed in what is now the Firestone community of Gastonia since around 1922. In what used to be the Loray community, Scout Troop 20 was organized in late 1922 by West Avenue Presbyterian Church. This troop, which has had almost continuous existence, was activated by Dr. Russell C. Long, then the pastor of West Avenue church.

IN 1923 Troop 10 was organized at West End Methodist Church, now Covenant Methodist Church. First under the leadership of the church's minister at that time, the troop has had continuous existence.

Troop 9 was activated at Loray Baptist Church in January, 1928, with Grady A. Vickers as first scoutmaster.

Highlights of Troop 9 history include the construction of a cabin in 1940 and the winning of the Firestone Scout Jamboree in 1938. Three Scouts, who at one time or another were members of Troop 9, have attained Eagle rank. They are Brooks Sossomon, Hugh Stroupe and John McCoig.

Troop 28, first known as Troop 29, newest of the four Firestone community Scout organizations, dates back to March, 1949. It was launched at Firestone Wesleyan Methodist Church. Outstanding in the history of Troop 28 has been the construction of a troop building and recreation center on South Ransom street. The building, constructed at a cost of approximately \$6,000 in late 1954, contains a scout room, recreation area, kitchen consisting of gas stove, hot water heater, cabinets, and a food bar. This structure is available to members of Troop 28 and other young people of Firestone Wesleyan Methodist Church. It is also available to other young people of the Firestone community.

PRECEDING Firestone's history in Gastonia, Loray Mill Manager McKelvie contributed much to the Scouting interests here. With the coming of Firestone and Comptroller Harold Mercer—now General Manager—a new chapter was begun in the history for the Piedmont Council.

At present, Mr. Mercer is serving on the Executive Board of the Piedmont Council. In years past he has served as chairman of the Gastonia District, and in 1943 was chairman of the annual finance campaign. He holds the Silver Beaver Award, highest honor for a Boy Scout volunteer leader.

Francis B. Galligan, Superintendent of the Cotton Division, is now commissioner of the Gastonia District of the Piedmont Council. Before his appointment to this responsibility, Mr. Galligan served five years as assistant commissioner. He has been active in scouting promotion both at the Bennettsville, S. C., plant of Firestone and at the plant here.

AMONG THE many others at Firestone who have contributed much to the Scout movement in the Firestone community is T. B. Ipock, Jr., Director of Industrial Relations, having been of service in various capacities in Cub Scout work. Safety Director Alvin Riley has also contributed

to the Scouting program. For a number of years he has served in various leadership capacities, including work as a committeeman and neighborhood commissioner.

One of the most outstanding phases of the Firestone interest in Scouting here is the sponsorship of the annual Scout Merit Award program. This is the 12th year the Company has sponsored the John W. Thomas and the Harvey S. Firestone, Jr., Scout Merit Awards Program for the Gastonia area. The program seeks to honor scouts for significant achievement in scoutcraft, scholarship, character building, and attendance and participation in church activities.

Each year, Boy Scouts of the Gastonia area may enroll for the Awards Program. Fifty Scouts are selected each year from among those who enter the competition. Each Scout who is honored is given the Firestone Certificate of Merit, together with a cash award to be used toward expenses at summer camp, or for buying Scouting equipment, as he chooses.

FROM AMONG winners of the Certificate of Merit, one Scout is chosen on the basis of superlative merit and receives the Harvey S. Firestone, Jr., Award which consists of a silver medallion appropriately inscribed, and a special prize of a savings bond. The presentation is made at an annual banquet at Firestone, at which time all 49 other Scouts selected are guests of the Company.

From the first award in 1946 to that of 1953, the citation was called the John W. Thomas Award, named in honor of the late Company Chairman. Upon Mr. Thomas' death in 1951, Harvey S. Firestone, Jr., assumed leadership of the Company Scouting interests on a national scale. The Award, named now for him, is given in all cities of the United States where the Company operates major plants.

A list of Award winners in Gastonia throughout the years: James McKensie, Ben Atkins, Jr., Davis Lewis, Herman Ratchford, Eugene Moore, Eddie Ramsey, Jr., Bobby Stapleton, Jr., William L. Craig, William Sayers, Carroll C. Hudson, Jr., and John Law Knox.

The awards are made each spring at the Scout Banquet, usually scheduled for mid-May.

As a continuing interest in Scouting, employees of Firestone Textiles contribute to the Boy Scouts each year through the Employees United Fund.

FOR SOME YEARS the plant has sponsored and executed a Field Day in which members of all four troops in the Firestone community participate. Members of troops compete in such activities as inspection, knot tying, signaling, rope throwing, fire-by-friction, relay, water boiling, first aid, flint-and-steel, tent-pitching, flapjack-making and dressing race.

The winning troop receives the R. L. Sanborn Trophy, which commemorates the late R. L. Sanborn, for many years an outstanding leader in Boy Scout activities in Gastonia. Mr. Sanborn, one of the original group of employees here when Firestone purchased the plant, was for a number of years purchasing agent for the mill.

The Field Day is held in June each year. Troop 20 has won the Sanborn Trophy for three consecutive years.

The four Scout troops in the Firestone community belong to the Gastonia District of the Piedmont Council of the Boy Scouts of America. R. M. Schiele is Scouting Executive for the Piedmont Council which is composed of 11 counties in Piedmont and Western North Carolina. The Council operates a summer training camp at Lake Lanier, near Tryon, N. C. Scouts who qualify for the Harvey S. Firestone, Jr., Merit Awards attend this camp.

ers, together with Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and adult leaders, will participate in ceremonies at state capitals and at city hall and town observances.

Boy Scout Week this year sees the production of the fifteen millionth copy of the "Handbook for Boys". Especially bound, it will be presented to President Eisenhower who is Honorary President of the Boy Scouts of America.

A limited number of handbooks in this printing will have a distinctive and decorative four-page inset commemorating this landmark in the publishing of a book which has enjoyed sales second only to the Holy Bible in the years since 1910 when it was first published. It is this volume that introduced millions of boys to their first knowledge of nature lore, first aid, proper honors for the United States Flag, and

a wide range of "know how" supplementing school courses.

Every governor is to be presented a copy of the limited edition, and in some communities it is planned to present copies in recognition of unselfish and dedicated service to the boys of America. Among them will be leaders in government, education, the clergy, sciences, business, industry, civic, and other community organizations.