

**Robert Baden-Powell**

# **SCOUTING FOR BOYS**

The Original  
1908 Edition



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# **SCOUTING FOR BOYS.**



**The Boy Scout in Action.**

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**Robert Baden-Powell**

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# SCOUTING FOR BOYS.



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### PART II.

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WOODCRAFT AND KNOWLEDGE OF ANIMALS.

### PART III.

CAMPAIGNING AND CAMP LIFE.

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### PART IV.

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# SCOUTING FOR BOYS.



## FOREWORD FOR INSTRUCTOR.

[*N.B.—Remarks printed in italics are, throughout the book, addressed to the Instructor.*]

*By the term "Instructor" I mean any man or lad who takes up the training of either a Patrol (i.e., six to eight boys), or a Troop i.e., (several Patrols joined together).*

*By means of this book I hope that anyone, even without previous knowledge of scouting, may be able to teach it to boys—in town just as well as in the country.*

*The system is applicable to existing organisations such as schools, boys' brigades, cadet corps, etc., or can supply a simple organisation of its own where these do not exist. But in all cases I would strongly commend the "Patrol" system : that is, small permanent groups, each under responsible charge of a leading boy, as the great step to success.*

*The reasons for this, the objects of the training and full hints to Instructors I have already published in a pamphlet called "The Boy Scouts Scheme." Price Twopence. Published by Bradbury, Agnew, Bouverie Street, London, E. C. They will be further set forth in Part VI, of the present book.*

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*I recommend the Instructor to begin with a Patrol of eight boys if possible, and when these have qualified as "First-class Scouts" to select the best five or six to raise each a patrol of his own and instruct it under his (the Instructor's) supervision.*

*A great step is to obtain, if possible, a room, barn, or school to serve as a Club, especially for work on long winter evenings. It must be well-lit and warmed. And to have a camp-out in the summer.*

*There need be no great expense in working a troop of Boy Scouts.*

*Finance must largely depend on the efforts of the Scouts themselves. Methods for making money will be indicated in Part IV. I do not hold with begging for funds if it can possibly be avoided.*

*Any further information or advice will readily be given on application, and I shall be glad to have any-suggestions or informal reports of progress and numbers trained. But I have no desire to trouble Instructors with red-tape returns, and so on.*

*Scouts' Badges, Medals, Patrol Flags, and Crests, Tracking Irons, and such articles of scouts' equipment, can be obtained at low rates on application here.*

*All communications should be addressed, not to me by name, but to :*

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*THE MANAGER,*

*Boy Scouts,  
Goschen Buildings,*

*Henrietta Street,*

*London, E.C.*

*R. S. B.-P.*

*January, 1908.*

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## PART I.—CONTENTS.



### SCOUTCRAFT.

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## CHAPTER I.

### SCOUTCRAFT.



#### NOTE FOR INSTRUCTOR.

*The following is a suggestion for the distribution of the work for the first week. It is merely a suggestion and in no sense binding.*

#### *FIRST EVENING:*

##### *INDOORS.*

*Address the boys on "Scoutcraft" giving a summary of the whole scheme, as in this chapter, with demonstrations or lantern slides, etc.*

*Swear in the Scouts, form Patrols, and give shoulder knots.*

#### *FOLLOWING DAY;*

##### *MORNING AND AFTERNOON.*

*Practical work, outdoors if possible, as follows:—*

*Alternatives according to whether in town or country, indoors or out.*

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MORNING.

*Parade, hoist Union Fack and salute it.*

*Scouting game : e.g., “Scout Meets Scout” (See [page 53](#)).*

*Practise salutes, secret signs, patrol calls, scouts’ chorus, etc.*

*Practise drawing scout-signs on ground or walls with stick or chalk.*

*Tie knots.*

*Make ration bags, leather buttons, etc.*

MORNING.

*Parade. Prayers or Church Parade (if Sunday).*

*Physical Exercises.*

*Drill.*

*Self measurement by each scout of span, cubit, finger joint, stride, etc.*

*Send out scouts independently or in pairs to do a “good turn” to return and report how they have done it.*

*March out the Patrol to see the neighbourhood.*

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*Make them note direction of starting by compass, wind, and sun.*

*Notice and question them on details seen, explain "land marks" etc.*

*Make Scout's Marks on ground or chalk them on pavement or walls.*

*Practise Scout's pace.*

*Judge distances.*

*AFTERNOON.*

*Play an extended Scouting Game. (See "Games," p. 51).*

*Or indoors if wet—"Ju-Jitsu" "Scouts' War Dance" Boxing, Scouts' Chorus and Rally, etc.*

*EVENING.*

*Camp Fire Yarns from this book or from books recommended (see p. 19).*

*Or rehearse a Scout play, or hold Debate, Kim's Game, etc.*

*Patrols to continue practice in these throughout the week in their own time or under the scout master, with final games or exercise on the following Saturday afternoon.*

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*If more evenings than one are available in the week one of the subjects might be taken in turn more fully each evening, and rehearsals carried out of a display such as "Pocahontas."*



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## CAMP FIRE YARN.—No. 1.



### MAFEKING BOY SCOUTS.

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WE had an example of how useful Boy Scouts can be on active service, when a corps of boys was formed in the defence of Mafeking, 1899-1900.

Mafeking, you may remember, was quite a small ordinary country town out on the open plains of South Africa.

Nobody ever thought of its being attacked by an enemy any more than you would expect this town (or village) to be attacked—the thing was so improbable.

But it just shows you how you must be prepared for what is *possible*, not only what is *probable* in war; and so, too, we ought to be prepared in Britain against being attacked by enemies; for though it may not be probable, it is quite as possible as it was at Mafeking; and every boy in Britain should be just as ready as those boys were in Mafeking to take their share in its defence.

Well, when we found we were to be attacked at Mafeking, we told off our garrison to the points that they were to protect—some 700 trained men, police, and volunteers. And then we armed the townsmen, of whom there were some 300.

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Some of them were old frontiersmen, and quite equal to the occasion; but many of them, young shopmen, clerks, and others, had never seen a rifle before, and had never tried to learn to drill or to shoot, and so they were hopelessly at sea at first. It is not much fun to have to face an enemy who means to kill you, when you have never learned to shoot.

Every boy ought to learn how to shoot and to obey orders, else he is no more good when war breaks out than an old woman, and merely gets killed like a squealing rabbit, being unable to defend himself.

Altogether, then, we only had about a thousand men all told to defend the place which contained 600 white women and children, and about 7,000 natives, and was about five miles round.

Every man was of value, and as their numbers gradually got less, owing to men getting killed and wounded, the duties of fighting and keeping watch at night got harder for the rest. It was then that Lord Edward Cecil, the chief staff officer, got together the boys in the place and made them into a cadet corps, put them in uniform and drilled them; and a jolly smart and useful lot they were. We had till then used a large number of men for carrying orders and messages and keeping lookout, and acting as orderlies and so on. These duties were now handed over to the boy cadets, and the men were released to go and strengthen the firing line.



Lord Edward Cecil and Boy Scouts in Mafeking.

And the cadets, under their serjeant-major, a boy named Goodyear, did right good work, and well deserved the medals which they got at the end of the war. Many of them rode bicycles, and we were thus able to establish a post by which people could send letters to their friends in the different forts, or about the town, without going out under fire themselves; and we made postage stamps for these letters which had on them a picture of a cadet bicycle orderly.



I said to one of these boys on one occasion, when he came in through rather a heavy fire: "You will get hit one of these days riding about like that when shells are flying." And he replied: "I pedal so quick, sir, they'd never catch me." These boys didn't seem to mind the bullets one bit; they were always ready to carry out orders, though it meant risk to their life every time.

Would any of you do that? If an enemy were firing down this street, and I were to tell one of you to take a message across to a house on the other side, would you do it? I am sure you would. But probably you wouldn't much like doing it.

But you want to prepare yourself for it beforehand. It's just like taking a header into cold water; a fellow who is accustomed to bathing thinks nothing of it; he has practised it over and over again, but ask a fellow to do it who has never practised it and he will funk it.

So, too, with a boy who has been accustomed to obey orders at once, whether there is risk about it or not; the moment you order him to do a thing on active service, no matter how great the danger is to him he does it, while another chap who has

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never cared to obey would object, and would then be despised as a coward even by his former friends.

But you need not wait for war in order to be useful as a scout. As a peace scout there is lots for you to do any day, wherever you may be.



## SCOUTS' WORK.

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I SUPPOSE every British boy wants to help his country in some way or other.

There is a way, by which he can do so easily, and that is by becoming a scout.

A scout, as you know, is generally a soldier who is chosen for his cleverness and pluck to go out in front of an army in war to find out where the enemy are, and report to the commander all about them.

But, besides war scouts, there are also peace scouts, *i.e.*, men who in peace time carry out work which requires the same kind of abilities. These are the frontiersmen of all parts of our Empire. The “trappers” of North America, hunters of Central Africa, the British pioneers, explorers, and missionaries over Asia and all the wild parts of the world, the bushmen and drovers of Australia, the constabulary of North-West Canada and of South Africa—all are peace scouts, real *men* in every sense of the word, and thoroughly

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up in scout craft, *i.e.*, they understand living out in the jungles, and they can find their way anywhere, are able to read meaning from the smallest signs and foot-tracks; they know how to look after their health when far away from any doctors, are strong and plucky, and ready to face any danger, and always keen to help each other. They are accustomed to take their lives in their hands, and to fling them down without hesitation if they can help their country by doing so.

They give up everything, their personal comforts and desires, in order to get their work done. They do not do all this for their own amusement, but because it is their duty to their King, fellow-countrymen, or employers.

The History of the Empire has been made by British adventurers and explorers, the scouts of the nation, for hundreds of years past up to the present time.

The Knights of King Arthur, Richard Cœur de Lion, and the Crusaders, carried British chivalry into distant parts of the earth.

Raleigh, Drake, and Capt. John Smith, soldiers and sailors of Queen Elizabeth's time, faced unknown dangers of strange seas, as well as the known dangers of powerful enemies, to take and hold new lands for the expansion of our small kingdom.

Capt. Cook in Australia, Lord Clive in India, opened up new countries. Speke, Baker, and Livingstone pushed their way through the savage deserts and forests of Africa;

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Franklin and Ross braved the ice and snows of the Arctic regions.

In the present time Selous, the great hunter, and Lieut. Boyd Alexander, who last year crossed Africa, are peace scouts.

These are just a few names out of many hundreds of the scouts of the nation who have from all times down to the present spread the good name and power of our country in all parts of the world.

And there have been women scouts of the nation, too: such as Grace Darling, who risked her life to save a shipwrecked crew; Florence Nightingale, who nursed sick soldiers in the Crimean War; Miss Kingsley, the African explorer; Lady Lugard, in Africa and Alaska; and many devoted lady missionaries and nurses in all parts of our Empire. These have shown that girls as well as boys may well learn scouting while they are young, and so be able to do useful work in the world as they grow older.

It is a grand life, but it cannot suddenly be taken up by any man who thinks he would like it, unless he has prepared himself for it beforehand.

Those who succeed best are those who learnt scouting while they were still boys.

Scouting also comes in very useful in any kind of life you like to take up, whether it is soldiering or even business life in a city. Sir William Crookes says it is even valuable for a man

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who goes in for science, and finding out little things about air, and light, and so on.

So I am going to show you how you can learn scout- craft for yourself and can put it into practice at home.

It is very easy to learn and very interesting when you get into it. You can best learn by joining the “Boy Scouts.”



**“KIM.”**

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A GOOD example of what a Boy Scout can do is to be found in Rudyard Kipling’s story of “Kim.”

“Kim,” or, to give him his full name, Kimball O’Hara, was the son of a sergeant of an Irish regiment in India. His father and mother died while he was a child, and he had been left to the care of an aunt who lived in an humble way in India.

His playmates were all natives, so he got to talk their language and to know their ways better than any European. He became great friends with an old wandering priest who was tramping about India, and with whom he travelled all over the north part of that country. At last, one day he chanced to meet his father’s old regiment on the line of march, and in visiting the camp he was arrested on suspicion of being a thief. His birth certificate and other papers were found on him, and the regiment, seeing that he had belonged to them, took charge of him, and started to educate him. But



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