

Come Celebrate Scout-Guide Week: February 16-23

by Susan Muehlherr

What do a parade, a joint birthday, and being proud to be in Scouting have in common? They represent an opportunity to celebrate Lord and Lady Baden-Powell's birthdays during Scout-Guide Week (February 16-23 2003).

Every year Scouting groups make an effort to promote the Movement in their communities. Since many are sponsored by churches, it makes sense to take your celebration into the church. These events are called Church Parades. But how can you do it? Are there any guidelines? After speaking to a few Scouting groups, they agreed to share their successes.

Scouting and Guiding groups sponsored by a church need to start their planning early. Contact church officials and indicate your willingness to participate during Scout-Guide week. Working closely with them, develop a program that will suit everyone's needs. Involve youth members as much as possible.

Perhaps the youth can enter the church as a group, carrying their section flags. They'll be proud to:

- N Stand or sit at the front
- N Hand out church bulletins
- N Pass collection plates
- N Read parts of the service.

Invite each section to state their Promise; non-Scouting members will be interested to learn how religion plays a part. Try to select hymns that appeal to youth. Suggest some that your group already knows. Don't forget to tell the congregation the date of B.-P.'s birthday (February 22), and why he is important to Scouting.

At St. Aidan's Anglican Church (Ottawa, ON) last year, Donna Bradbury (advisor to the 101st Ottawa Venturer Company) talked about the company and how its members help their community. Then she read aloud an article written by a former Venturer (Corey Beaton) for his high school newspaper. What great public relations for Scouting! (For more guidance on Church Parades, consult the *Cub* or *Scout Leader's Handbook*.)

Below you'll find a collection of songs, games and activities that all sections will enjoy during Scout-Guide week. Have fun celebrating Scouting.

Action Packed Baden-Powell Story

This action story (specifically geared for a combined Scouts-Guides meeting) will tell members about B.-P. Identify five groups and their actions. After reviewing the actions with each group, read the story.

- N England: Drink a cup of tea
- N Africa: Beat on a drum
- N Canada: Yell out, "Oh Canada"
- N Army: Stand up and march
- N India: Snake charmers

Choose two individuals to do these actions:

N Lady B.-P.: Stand up and say, “Girl Guides”

N Lord B.-P.: Stand up and say, “Let’s Go!”

Everyone needs to listen for these words:

N Scouts: Throw imaginary hats in the air and yell, “Hurrray!”

N World: Say “Big Round World” and make a circle with your arms

N Guides: Stand up and say, “Be prepared.”

The Story

On February 22, 1857, Robert Baden-Powell was born in England. This man would later become famous as the person who founded Scouts, and helped found Guides. Around the world, people simply called him B.-P.

After spending a number of years in boarding school, he joined the army at 18. As a soldier, B.-P. traveled to many countries including Africa and India. He became famous during the Boer War as a colonel in the army. After the war, B.-P. returned to England where he found that many books he had written for the army were being used by teachers and other leaders to help them in their work with youth.

He decided to try out his own ideas, and held a camp at Brownsea Island with a group of children from London. These kids later became the first Scouts. Seeing what fun their brothers were having, the girls of that day decided they would become Scouts too. Soon patrols of girls, calling themselves such things as lions, tigers and vultures, sprang up all over England.

In 1909 B.-P. invited all the Scouts of England to a parade at the Crystal Palace in London. This huge building was actually made of glass. B.-P. stood at the front of the building and saluted the youths. Later he inspected the Scouts. Astonished at the number of girls, and their enthusiasm, he asked them what they wanted. They answered that they too would like to join his organization. Back home, B.-P. thought about the girls and talked about them with his sister, Agnes Baden-Powell. The result was not girl Scouts but Girl Guides.

Guiding and Scouting quickly spread throughout the world; soon there were Guides and Scouts not only in England and Canada, but also in Africa, India and many more countries.

B.-P. left the army and devoted all his time to Scouting and Guiding. He traveled constantly. On one voyage, he met Olave St. Clair Soames. He fell in love with her and they got married. Olave Baden-Powell later became the World Chief Guide. She is known to Guides all over the world as Lady B.-P.

Lord and Lady B.-P. were both born on February 22. Someone suggested making this a special day. Scout-Guide week is when we remember youth members all over the world.

B.-P. and his wife, Lady B.-P., are no longer alive, but their ideas will live forever through Scouts and Guides. Aren’t we lucky to be part of such a great organization?

Scout/Guide Week Trivia

Use this questionnaire with Cubs, Scouts and Venturers. Perhaps they could make it into a six or patrol competition.

Q: Whose birthday is on February 22nd?

A: Lord Robert Baden-Powell and Lady Olave Baden-Powell. B.-P. were the founders of Scouting. Lady B.-P. was known as the Chief Guide.

Q: Who is the Chief Scout of Canada?

A: The Governor General of Canada.

Q: What is the highest award presented to Scout members, and to Venturer members?

A: The Chief Scout Award is earned by Scouts, while the Queen's Venturer Award is earned by Venturers.

Q: What is the Scout/Guide handshake?

A: The left handed handshake; it is a symbol of openness and trust observed by Lord B.-P. during the Boer War. When meeting in peace, African tribesmen used to put down their shields (commonly held in their left hand), and shake with that hand.

Q: What name is given to the youngest members in Scouting?

A: Beavers, for boys and girls aged five to six.

Q: What name is given to the youngest members in Guiding?

A: Sparks, for girls aged five to seven.

Q: What is the Guide Motto?

A: Be prepared.

Q: What is the Beaver Motto?

A: Sharing, sharing, sharing.

Friendship Beads

When B.-P. was in Africa, he met a tribal chieftain. As a sign of friendship he gave B.-P. a long necklace made of carved wooden beads and a leather thong. Make your own friendship beads to exchange with other members in your section. Here's how.

You'll need a length of leather lace (try bootlaces) or string for each person; samples of wallpaper or coloured construction paper; glue or wallpaper paste; scissors; and pencils or sticks.

Cut the wallpaper into narrow strips approximately 30 cm long by 6 mm wide. Taper the strips to a narrow point at each end. (See diagram) Rub glue or paste on the back of each strip, then carefully roll the paper around the pencil to make a bead. Slide the pencil out, and let the bead dry. Make several beads, then exchange them with each other.

Walk Like a Ghost Game

As a youth, B.-P liked to play a lot in the forest, and taught himself how to track animals. This game teaches stealth and silent walking. It's adaptable for all age groups.

Set up an age-appropriate obstacle course. Cut out pieces forming a jigsaw puzzle picture of B.-P., one piece per youth. Hide these pieces around the obstacle course. Position several blindfolded "sentries" at various locations around the course. (They represent the hidden enemy.)

Players must complete the obstacle course and find one piece of the puzzle each, while trying not to be heard by the enemy. If the enemy hears someone, and can point to the person's exact location, the youth must start over. At the end of the game, let the players assemble the jigsaw picture.

Track and Sketch Animals

B.-P. loved sketching scenes of animals. Go for a hike in small groups, looking for animal tracks in the snow. Bring along a book that will help you identify some of the prints. Can you find rabbit tracks? What about bird prints? If you are around an open stream or pond, are there any ducks living nearby that make tracks? Look at the details of their webbed feet.

Make a list of all the animal tracks you identify, and return to your meeting hall. With markers, construction paper, scissors and glue, make a poster showing the various footprints and a sketch of the animal beside the print. Use this poster in the weeks ahead to become better trackers.

Hello Friend

Scouting members have friends all over the world.

Line youth members up in two teams about one metre apart, facing out. On a signal, the youths spin around and start to praise their opposite number as loudly as they can. No laughing is allowed. Members may use gestures, but not touch the other person.

Continue for 30 seconds, or as long as you can stand it. On another signal, everyone stops talking and spin around facing out again. The line that praises the most without bursting into uproarious laughter, wins.

Songs

Singing Scouting campfire songs is a traditional activity of Scout-Guide banquets. Try the following.

I've Got That Scouting Spirit

This song comes from the *Scouts Canada Song Book*. If your Beavers or Cubs want to add some action (always popular) they can point to each part of their body as they sing the words.

I've got that Scouting spirit up in my head,
Up in my head,
Up in my head.
I've got that Scouting spirit up in my head,
Up in my head to stay.

Replace the words “up in my head” with the words below.

2nd verse: Deep in my heart

3rd verse: Down in my feet

4th verse: All over me.

5th verse:

I’ve got that Scouting spirit,

Up in my head,

Deep in my heart,

Down in my feet.

I’ve got the Scouting spirit,

All over me,

All over me, to stay.

Brotherhood of Scouting

Sing this song to the tune of “When You’re Smiling.”

When you’re Cubbing, when you’re Scouting

You’re in a worldwide brotherhood.

When you’re Cubbing, when you’re Scouting

The aim is all for good.

For when you see youths with purpose in life

They will help you in stress and in strife,

So keep on Cubbing, and keep on Scouting

For a worldwide Brotherhood.

Creative Prayers

Use these prayers at a B.-P. banquet or during your Scout-Guide Week meeting.

Challenge Me

Challenge me, and I’ll achieve great heights.

Develop me socially, and I’ll serve the community.

Help me to grow, and I’ll be healthy and strong.

Encourage me spiritually to strengthen my soul,

And then I’ll know that I can make a difference through You.

Help Us Remember

Help us remember, God,

That we are members of a worldwide organization.

That every Beaver, Cub, Scout, Venturer, Rover and leader

Has promised to love and serve You.

Great Teacher, teach us to be worthy of Your love,

To be strong for what is right.
Help us to do our best in Your service,
And to be true to our Scouting Promise.

After saying this prayer, ask section members to say their Promise out loud.

B.-P. Brainstorming

Let youth members design their own B.-P. theme night. Ask them how they can tie the following events into the program.

- N First aid
- N Tobogganing
- N Stretcher relay
- N Fire-lighting race
- N Cross-country skiing
- N Quinzhee building

The “Out” in Scouting

B.-P. was a most interesting person who wanted children to learn about, and experience, outdoor adventure. Get your members outside to feast on the wonders of God’s nature this winter.

-- *Susan Muehlherr works at the National Office.*

SIDEBAR

A Toast to B.-P.

Use this poem either during your regular meeting during Scout-Guide Week, or at a banquet celebrating B.-P.’s birthday.

Our founder’s name is pledged tonight
By every loyal Scout
Around the world a loving chain
Encircles him about.
The Chief, the Chief, beloved Chief
A toast to him we raise
May happiness and health be his,
For many sunny days.

The worth of his far-reaching scheme
The world is finding out.
As every Scouting youth grows up
And builds this awesome land.
The Chief, the Chief, beloved Chief
A toast to him we raise

May happiness and health be his,
For many sunny days.

Much time has passed, the Chief's gone home
But remains still in our hearts
We boys and girls and leaders too
Carry on his Scouting start.
The Chief, the Chief, beloved Chief
A toast to him we raise
May his strong spirit ever rest
In honour and in praise.

He taught us all to be prepared
For anything at all.
And pass his ideals on to those
Who heed the Scouting call.
The Chief, the Chief, beloved Chief
A toast to him we raise
May his strong spirit ever rest
In honour and in praise.

-- This poem (slightly adapted) was written by Mr. Sara and Scouts of the 38th Settlers Troop, Winnipeg, MB.

CALLOUT

Scouting: The widest game in the world!

CUTLINE

“B.-P. taught us how to live and survive in the forest. All it takes is knowledge and a bit of preparation.”

Photo: Rick Daisley

Scouting activities help youths to become self-reliant and confident.

Photo: Tom Booth

“B.-P. said that all the world is our neighbourhood. We are to share with everyone.”

Photo: Cynthia Francis