



AMONG THE BOY SCOUTS—

By RICARDO R. DE LA CRUZ *

"Be Prepared"



Two words comprise the Boy Scout motto—
"Be Prepared."

As to what this means, *watch* any real Boy Scout and you will learn.

Preparedness in the life of the Boy Scout is something indispensable and characteristic. A boy cannot be called a true Scout if he proves himself unprepared to meet certain occasions or emergencies.

Preparedness implies a multitude of things. It goes further than mere material preparation. But before we go to that phase of the Scout motto, let us first discuss the more simple one,—material preparation.

A student who never goes to school without a pencil, a pen, an eraser, a pen-knife, and a small notebook, is the typical Boy Scout. Come what may in the classroom, he is prepared to work. He has the necessary "tools" with which he can accomplish things. And of course, it goes without saying that he always carries his books to school. Preparedness is one form of industriousness. A lazy boy is never prepared.

Again, the camper who goes into the forest with all the necessary equipment,—tent, axe, knife, rope, First Aid Kit. and provisions,—can

be called the ideal camper. He is one who depends on his own self and requires no help in his outdoor experience.

But preparedness should go beyond all these. The boy who earnestly desires to be ready at all times and in all places should strive to learn and remember all that is necessary for effectiveness in his service.

The study of First Aid requires constant review and practice. A boy cannot administer emergency treatment after a first perusal of a First Aid handbook. He may have an excellent First Aid kit with him but he may not succeed in stopping the victim's hemorrhage because of lack of knowledge. He is prepared materially but unprepared to act.

Similarly, a student may enter a classroom with all his texts and a dozen pencils and notebooks but he may be called upon to recite and receive a zero for ignorance of the lesson. That student did not study his assignment and thus, was unprepared for recitation.

Preparedness is an excellent virtue to acquire and cultivate. To be able to meet all emergencies effectively is an achievement rare in this world.

And that is one reason why the Boy Scout is more worthy than the ordinary boy.

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