



WHAT IS A BOY SCOUT?

by Fernando Pimentel



YOU have probably heard many persons talk about the valuable service rendered by Boy Scouts on various occasions, such as in public gatherings, processions, carnival and charity fair grounds, in fact, in every place where many people are congregated.

Scouting is not only a truly Filipino organization but is also a world-wide brotherhood and in every part of the world you will see Boy Scouts. There are over two and one half million Boy Scouts in the 73 countries of the world that have Boy Scouts.

Here in the Philippines there are more than ten thousand Filipino Boy Scouts. Although the Philippine Council is considered the second largest Council under the American Flag, the number of Filipino Boy Scouts is nothing compared to the number of Filipino boys of Scout age who are not Boy Scouts, and should be members of this great patriotic "junior republic" for boys.

A Boy Scout trains himself to develop his character and citizenship so that when he becomes a man he will be of service to his country. Before a boy joins the Boy Scout Organization, he pledges on his honor to do his duties to God and his Country, to help other people at all times; to keep himself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight. He also recognizes the Scout Law which is the

following: A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, and Reverent. A Boy Scout always uses these Laws and sees to it that every action he does conforms to these rules.

There are many other things that a Boy Scout can do, that other boys cannot. He is trained to tie different kinds of knots that will hold tightly. He is trained to always "Be Prepared." He knows swimming, woodcraft, handicraft, signalling, cooking, and many other subjects of importance and value to life.

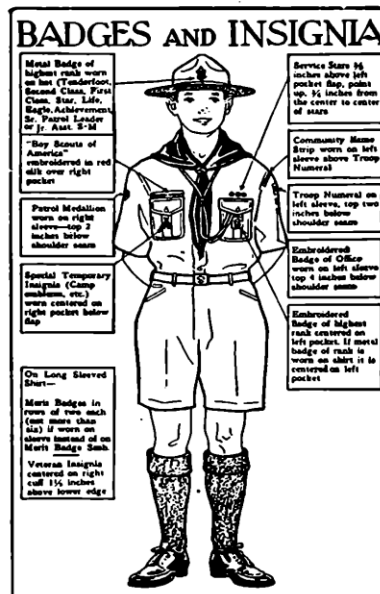
A Boy Scout is trained also not to have a cross face. He is trained to smile always. He is very keen in observation and can tell you the kind of flowers, fruits and animals at a glance.

He can tell you the places where these may be found.

A Boy Scout cannot finish his task of the day unless he has done at least a "Good Turn" to other people, such as helping his Mother to clean the house, helping an old lady cross the streets, etc.

He is a friend to all and a brother to every other Scout. He is courteous to everyone, even if he knows that that

boy is his enemy. He is a hero at heart, and is always prepared to sacrifice his own life to save
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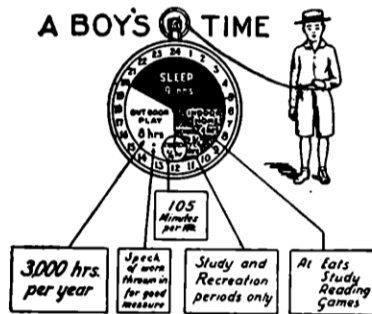


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that of another who is in grave danger.

In the Philippines we have many Boy Scout Heroes, who have saved many lives from drowning, fire or electrical shock. Each time a Boy Scout saves a life of a human being, a medal for heroism is awarded in token of his good act and noble deed.



Not only do Boy Scouts save the lives of human beings who are in distress or in grave dangers, but also recognizes the right of an animal to happiness. He is kind to animals and does not harm them but always tries to help them whenever they are in trouble.

A Boy Scout has no time for idleness. He is always doing something, either playing a very interesting game, working at a hobby, reading an interesting book, studying his lessons or doing his home work. He is trained not to idle, because idleness wrecks the individual's usefulness to his Country.

He is also trained to be clean and neat in every respect.



The life of a Boy Scout reminds us of the life of Dr. Jose Rizal when he was a boy. Dr. Rizal, during his boyhood, his

only ambition was to develop his own character and citizenship so that when he became a man he could be of much service to his country. He also liked to plan when he had time to do so and knew many kinds of games. He was very industrious. Rizal loved his country dearly and died for her. He is a hero and every boy should do his best to follow his example of industry and patriotism.

President Manuel L. Quezon, Speaker Paredes, Senator Osmeña and Representative Roxas (and many others), have given their support to the Boy Scout Movement because according to them it has the ideals of the Filipino Patriots and Heroes, and its aims and ideals should be given to our Filipino Youth.

In the Boy Scouts Organization we have several type of Boy Scouts. We have Cub Scouts, boys from 9 to 11 years of age; Boy Scouts, boys from 12 to 15 years of age; Sea Scouts, boys who have reached their fifteenth birthday and who are First Class Scouts; and Rover



Scouts, young men over 18 years of age. All of these types have practically the same ideals and principles, that is to develop their character and to train themselves for future citizenship. Their activities are different however, because older boys require a more strenuous out-of-door program.

There are also Lone Cubs and Lone Scouts, who live in isolated places where no Cub Pack or Boy Scout Troop may be found. These Lone Scouts have the same aims and activities as Boy Scouts, but the only difference

lies in the fact that they are alone, instead of in a troop.

If you wish to be a member of the Boy Scout Organization and learn how to develop a good strong character as well as citizenship, by means of its aims and ideals and out-of-door life, you may write to Insular Headquarters, P. O. Box 878, Manila, P. I., and the Scout officials will be very glad to send you any information or particulars which you may wish.