



THE NEXT 21

Things you need to know in the Scouting movement

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Unique to Scouts Canada	2
Who was Baden Powell?.....	2
So girls are allowed in Scouts Canada?	2
Why do the Cub and Beaver leaders have funny names?	2
What are the collective nouns used for the Sections?	3
Scouts Canada says leaders need to take Woodbadge training. What is that?	3
Why do we shake hands with the left hand?	4
When leaders hold up a salute and kids quiet down – what’s that about?	4
Skits, Cheers and Songs unique to Scouting – how do I learn them?	5
So we don’t use clapping to approve – we cheer?	5
What is an investiture?	6
What is a swim-up?.....	6
What the heck is gimp, or boondoggle?.....	6
Unique at Scouts Camps	6
What exactly is a Scouts Own?	6
What is a campfire blanket and how do I get all those neat crests?	7
We have Formal and Informal campfires. They are similar, but different.	7
What is a Mug up?	8
Skills.....	8
I don’t know how to use a compass... and am shy to ask.	8
Knots can be confusing – I don’t know many, or when to use which knot. Where can I learn more?	8
Groundsheets under a tent are new to me.....	8
Starting fires with flint and steel – people still do that? How, exactly?	8
What’s the difference between a First Aid Kit, and a Survival Kit?	9
Appendix A – Cub Leader Names	10
Appendix B – Beaver Leader Names.....	11



Unique to Scouts Canada

Who was Baden Powell?

Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell (1857-1941) was a Lieutenant General in the British Army who fought in the Second Boer War in South Africa in 1899, and successfully defended the town in the Siege of Mafeking. He wrote several books on the topic of military reconnaissance and scout training at this time, which were read by boys. Based on these early books, he wrote *Scouting for Boys*, published in 1908. During the writing of the book, he held a camping trip on Brownsea Island to test some of his ideas; this trip, which began on Aug.1, 1907, is generally accepted as the beginning of the Scouting movement.

Some excellent detail on the story of his life can be read on the Wikipedia page devoted to him, located here:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Baden-Powell,_1st_Baron_Baden-Powell

So girls are allowed in Scouts Canada?

Until 1971, no Scouts Canada programs were officially co-ed. In 1971, Scouts Canada officially allowed Rover Scout Crews (ages 18-26) to become co-ed, at a Crew's option. In 1984, this local option was extended to Venturer Scout Companies (ages 14-17). In 1992, local option was opened to the rest of Scouts Canada's sections; Beavers (5-7), Wolf Cubs (8-10), and Scouts (11-14). This change was intended to be an evolutionary step towards a fully co-ed Scouts Canada. Surveys within Scouting in the late 1980s showed strong interest in such a future.

On November 21, 1998 Scouts Canada's National Council passed a resolution which removed the local option and requires all Scouts Canada sections to be co-ed, unless they are partnered with a religious denomination which prohibits a co-ed youth program on religious grounds.

Why do the Cub and Beaver leaders have funny names?

In 1914, Baden Powell announced a Junior Section to his Scouting program. He had asked his friend Rudyard Kipling to use his book, *The Jungle Book*, along with its history and universe, as a motivational frame in cub scouting. To this end Baden-Powell wrote a new book, *The Wolf Cub's Handbook*, and in 1917 junior members became known as Wolf Cubs.



The Next 21 – by 3rd Ottawa

In order to help pattern the leadership to the theme, Wolf Cub adult leaders took on the names of characters from The Jungle Book. These characters could only be the positive influences on Mowgli, the central character in the story, a human boy living in the jungle and raised by wolves. Thus Akela (Old Wolf) became the traditional name of the head wolf in the pack, and all of the other influencers on Mowgli (Baloo, Bagheera, Raksha, Kaa, Chil, Hathi, and many more) became the names of leaders in the movement.

In keeping with this tradition, when Beavers were introduced to Scouts Canada in November of 1974, instead of the Cub circle, the Beavers met at the “riverbank”. As such leader names of animals and things in nature that would co-exist with the Beaver became leader names – hence Turtle, Sunshine, Bubbles, Hawkeye, Ringtail, Rusty, Rainbow and others are used as leader names. The names are based on a booklet entitled “Friends of the forest” (see Appendix B)

For Scouts, Venturers and Rovers, it is more common to simply refer to leaders as “Scouter” and their first name, hence “Scouter John”.

What are the collective nouns used for the Sections?

Beaver Colony	(a colony of Beavers)
Cub Pack	(a wolf pack)
Scout Troop	(a troop of scouts)
Venturer Company	(a company of venturers)
Rover Crew	(a rover crew)

A troop was originally a military unit, originally a small cavalry force, subordinate to a squadron and headed by a troop leader. In some armies a troop is equivalent to an infantry section or platoon. Similarly the term ‘company’ referring to venturers was originally military in nature. The use of the term Pack with Cubs is consistent with the Jungle Book theme of Cub Scouts.

Scouts Canada says leaders need to take Woodbadge training. What is that?

Woodbadge is a Scouting leadership program and the related awards for adult leaders of Scout associations around the world. Courses typically are a combination of classroom and outdoor practical skill applications. The first Woodbadge course was organized by Francis “Skipper” Gidney, at which Robert Baden-Powell gave some of the lectures, in September of 1919 at Gilwell Park in England. The braided leather woggle



The Next 21 – by 3rd Ottawa

(neckerchief slide) denotes membership in the 1st Gilwell Scout Group as a result.

The training helps integrate adult leaders into the program and educate them on how to most effectively deliver the Scouting programs to youth. After your Woodbadge II training, you should be able to write your own version of this document 😊

Why do we shake hands with the left hand?

As we know Scouts across the world all greet each other with a left-handed handshake and that it is a sign of trust and friendship but why did and how did Baden Powell come to decide to use it when he formed the Scout Movement

There is a story that when Baden Powell entered Kumasi, the capital city of the Ashanti he was met by one of the Great Chiefs of the Ashanti, he saluted them and then offered his right hand out as a sign of friendship, but the Chief transferred his shield which he held in his left hand to his right which contained his spear and offered his left hand as a sign of friendship. When asked why Baden Powell was told that by offering his left hand which traditionally was used to hold a shield for protection he was showing his trust to his enemy or friend for without the shield for protection he was open to attack.

When leaders hold up a salute and kids quiet down – what's that about?

In the scouting movement, when any leader holds up their arm with one of the salutes, any member of the scouting movement – leaders too – are supposed to stop where they are, be quiet, raise their own arm in salute, and listen. This quickly brings activities to a halt and leaders need to yell less to get the attention of the youth and other leaders. It is highly effective. Some business leaders have been known to do this at conferences and, thanks to the long history of the Scouting movement, it has worked as expected – lots of raised Scout salutes and quiet!



The three salutes in order: The Beaver salute (left) is the index and middle fingers up, bent down to look like beaver teeth. The Cub salute (middle) with index and middle fingers spread apart, like the ears of a wolf. Finally the Scout salute with the index, middle and ring fingers up, and pinky held down by the thumb – the sign of three indicating the law, motto, and promise of the Scouting movement (used by Scouts, Venturers, Rovers, leaders). When asking for silence in any section, the salute is not held at shoulder height, but high overhead, soundlessly, so that others seeing it catch on, replicate the behaviour, and soon the room is silent.

Skits, Cheers and Songs unique to Scouting – how do I learn them?

There are likely thousands of traditional Scout songs, some of which are not specific to the Scouting movement. The very best way to learn these songs is to attend group camps with other leaders and groups and “learn by doing”. However in this era of the internet, a search for “Scout Songs” will yield many high-quality pages with lyrics and tunes to the various scouting songs. In addition, if you want to find the tune, searching for the name of the song on YouTube usually yields great results.

So we don't use clapping to approve – we cheer?

Scouting is all about involving the youth, having fun and having an adventure. Clapping is not an adventure, it's what everyone does. So instead of clapping, and to get the youth involved, we do cheers – either positive or critical – for the skits, songs, and jokes that we hear around a campfire. A search for “Scout Cheers” in Google yields several pages with hundreds of cheers on them.



What is an investiture?

The investiture ceremony is a time when a youth member of the Scouting program (Beaver, Cub, Scout, Venturer or Rover) publicly announces their commitment to the Law, Motto and Promise related to their section. This investiture should be solemn and the youth member should be reminded they are expected to keep their promise made; normally their necker and slide is awarded at this time. The leader handbook for your section has the ceremony outlined in detail.

What is a swim-up?

The Swim Up is the time when a young Beaver White Tail (senior Beaver) “swims up” to Cubs. Often the “Swim up” is used to refer to any youth moving up from one section to the next, which can also be referred to as a “Move up”. The ceremony surrounding a “swim up” is also documented in the leader handbooks published by Scouts Canada, and available online.

What the heck is gimp, or boondoggle?

Gimp or boondoggle is plastic or nylon lacing that is plaited or knotted into a variety of items. It is also called (in various areas of the world) Scoubidou, Scoubi, Scoobie, Boondoggle, or Lanyard. Here is an example:



In our opinion one of the best resources on Gimp is “Boondoggle Man” whose website you can see here:

<http://boondoggleman.com>

Unique at Scouts Camps

What exactly is a Scouts Own?

A Scout’s Own (or Cub’s Own, Beavers Own, etc.) is a brief (often no more than 15-20 minutes) inspirational, informal ceremony held as part of our Scouting activities, often on a Sunday at camp. They are a mixture of readings, prayers, reflections and music, and are ecumenical in nature and do not need to be necessarily “religious” but rather reflective of the world around us and our place in it.



The Next 21 – by 3rd Ottawa

A Scout's Own should involve the youth as much as possible, and get them talking – what are they thankful for, why are they in Scouting, what does Scouting mean to them – all are good themes to explore within the Scouts own.

Many examples and components of Scouts Owns are easily discovered by searching Google for the term.

What is a campfire blanket and how do I get all those neat crests?

A campfire blanket is used the world over in the Scouting movement, whereby Scouts (and Cubs, Beavers, etc) sew badges from events that they attend (in Scouting and out) onto the blanket, and over time it becomes a piece of memorabilia and a story of the camps, events and times they have had in the Scouting movement. Most Area and Council wide events, and all Jamborees whether Provincial, National, or International, have crests/badges that are made for the event and handed out to the participants. These badges (distinct from achievement badges earned in the program) are then sewn on the campfire blanket, which is worn around the campfire.

We have Formal and Informal campfires. They are similar, but different.

Campfires are arguably one of the most memorable events in the Scouting experience, and there are two distinct types. The Informal campfire, as the name suggests, is put together without much ceremony and generally involves the youth and leaders gathering around a campfire and beginning to sing songs, show skits, and yell out cheers. The informal campfire is simply a campfire with no formal schedule to it.

A formal campfire has a formal schedule with three distinct parts; an Active, Transition, and Reflective (in that order) moving from higher energy to quieter at the end. The formal campfire is run by a campfire chief and involves the participants coming into a circle quietly around an unlit fire, an opening, and then a ceremonial or magical lighting of the fire. The ScoutsCan page has an excellent and comprehensive overview of campfires and all of the associated components and formats:

<http://www.scoutscan.com/campfire.html>



What is a Mug up?

Mug Up is very simply a snack and a break taken away from a meal time, often in the evening after a campfire or in the early evening, where a light snack and drink are served.

Skills

I don't know how to use a compass... and am shy to ask.

There are many websites that can show you how to use a compass effectively. This site has nice, simple instructions that are accurate along with diagrams and images:

<http://www.wilderness-backpacking.com/how-to-read-a-compass.html>

If you want more detailed instructions, including instructions on reading more complex compasses with mirrors and sighting lines, you might want to go through the Compass Dude site:

<http://www.compassdude.com/>

You should not be shy to ask for additional assistance from those in your group who know how to use a compass.

Knots can be confusing – I don't know many, or when to use which knot. Where can I learn more?

One of the best sites for learning knots that has step-by-step pictures of each knot, as well as common mistakes and some alternatives, is <http://www.animatedknots.com/>. The site has a Scouting section and goes through simple knots as well as lashing, and is quite comprehensive. You can also purchase several books on knot tying at the Scout Shop.

Groundsheets under a tent are new to me.

A groundsheet protects the bottom of your tent not only from water but from sharp sticks, pine needles and other items poking holes in your tent. A good description of ground sheets and their proper use can be seen on the website by Mara Factor, who hiked the Appalachians as well as mountain ranges on six continents:

http://friends.backcountry.net/m_factor/groundsheet.html

Starting fires with flint and steel – people still do that? How, exactly?

Flint is a form of mineral quartz, categorized as a variety of chert, a fine microcrystalline substance rich in silica. When steel is struck against flint, the hard flint shaves off a particle of steel that, heated by the friction, reacts with oxygen and causes a very hot spark. This spark will ignite tinder such as wool, a



The Next 21 – by 3rd Ottawa

cotton ball, dry moss, very fine twigs or bark, or anything else that is fine and will burn. Many Scouts know that dryer lint makes effective tinder, and will keep a supply in a ziplock bag with their flint in a survival kit.

Here is a video of Bear Grylls, of “Man vs Wild” fame, who is also the Chief Scout of the World (the position first held by Sir Baden Powell), showing you how to use flint and steel properly.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZftcN8GiTY>

What’s the difference between a First Aid Kit, and a Survival Kit?

A survival kit is a package of basic tools and supplies prepared in advance as an aid to survival in an emergency. Typical survival kit contents would include a mirror (for signaling), a knife, matches, tinder, fish hooks, a sewing kit, a flashlight, and other survival gear. A first aid kit is a collection of equipment and supplies for use in giving first aid to someone who is injured or ill. First aid kits contain band-aids, gauze, antibacterial, slings, scissors, and other items to tend to injuries. A survival kit should also contain some basic first aid supplies.



Appendix A – Cub Leader Names

Common Pack Leader Names	
Akela	Old wolf or father wolf, leader of the pack.
Baloo	The bear – teacher of jungle law
Bagheera	The panther – teacher of hunting
Raksha	Mother wolf – intensely loyal
Chil	The Kite – observer, observation
Kaa	The python (tree climbing)
Rikki	Rikki Tikki Tavi, the mongoose – protector and cheeriness
Mang	The bat
Hathi	The elephant
Kim	Little friend – helpfulness – usually a junior leader or Scout
Rama	The herd bull
Less Common Pack Leader Names	
Ahdeek	The Reindeer (team games)
Rann	The Eagle (good eyesight)
Dahinda	The Bull Frog (leaping, cartwheels)
Hiawatha	Athletics
Jacala	The crocodile – acting
Keego	The fish
Keneu	The great war eagle
Limmerskin	The Wren
Mysa	Wild buffalo
Oonai	Wolf – the reciter
Singum	The lion
Tilji-Pho	The Lark
Names never used by Leaders (negative towards Mowgli)	
Shere Khan	The tiger – bullying and killer
Lungri	Shere Khan's man name – the lame one
Nag	Big black cobra – kills for pleasure
Nagaina	Nag's wicked wife
Tabaqui	Jackal; sneak
Bander Log	Monkey people, people without a law
Dewanee	Water madness
Gidur-log	Jackal people
Grampus	Killer whale
Ko	Crow
Gonds	Black hunters



Appendix B – Beaver Leader Names

Common Beaver Leader Names	
Hawkeye	Father Jones
Rainbow	Mother Jones
Ringtail	Child in wheelchair
Sunshine	Little girl
Bubbles	Little girl
Rusty	Ginger haired boy
Keeo	The Beaver who could talk to humans
Malak	The great owl
Tictac	The squirrel

The Beaver Leader names come from a book entitled “Friends of the forest” published by Scouts. You can read it here:

<http://www.thedump.scoutscan.com/friends.pdf>