

Highlights

The First Scoutmasters' Course

Day 6

Making a Difference

Today's Schedule

Critter Tales

A Cub Scout Picture

The Bridge Builder



THE GILWELL GAZETTE

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The First Scoutmasters' Course



September, 1919- Baden-Powell is seated center in the front row at green arrow

On the morning of September 8, 1919, nineteen men dressed in short pants and knee socks, their shirt sleeves rolled up, assembled by patrols for the first Scoutmasters' training camp held at Gilwell Park in Epping Forest, outside London, England. The camp was designed and guided by Sir Robert Baden-Powell, a 61 year-old retired general of the British Army and the founder of the World Scouting Movement.

When they had finished their training, Baden-Powell gave each man a simple wooden bead from a necklace he had found in a Zulu chieftain's deserted hut in South Africa in 1888. The Scoutmasters' training course was a great success and continued to be held year-after-year.

When the original beads ran out, new ones were whittled to maintain the tradition established by Baden-Powell. Because of these beads, the course came to be known as the Wood Badge Course. It continues to this day in England and around the world as the advanced training course for leaders in Scouting.

At the time of the first course, Baden-Powell presented to Gilwell Park a Kudu horn he had captured during the Matabele War of 1896. Its deep booming sound (when played with skill and no small amount of courage) would summon course members to assemblies and activities and was used in courses at Gilwell Park for many years. Baden-Powell would use this same horn to open the Third World Jamboree held at Arrow Park, Birkenhead, England in 1929. The jamboree was known as the "Coming of Age" Jamboree as it celebrated 21 years since the foundation of the Scouting Movement. A Kudu horn is still used today by many advanced leadership courses in Scouting.



Today's Schedule

MORNING	
7:00	Breakfast and Assessments
8:00	Begin Camp Breakdown Ticket Review / Clean-up / Load Vehicles
9:30	
10:30	Gilwell Field Assembly Patrol Leaders' Council Meeting
11:00	
11:30	Interfaith Worship Service
Noon	Closing Luncheon (Troop Activity)
AFTERNOON	
1:30	Leaving a Legacy (Troop Presentation)
2:45	Break
2:55	Summary Session (Troop Presentation)
3:25	Course Assessment
3:45	Closing Gilwell Assembly
4:15	Adjourn



Making a Difference—How Do You Know?

How do you know you've made a difference with your Scouts? Sometimes you get lucky and sometimes you may never know. Sometimes it takes years to know. Let me relate how we realized that we had made a difference.

Our calendar is always filled—weeks and sometimes months in advance. Two summers ago my husband, Roy, and his family, a large and close-knit group, had plans to visit a brother, who lives in Missouri. We were excited and were planning to travel with some of his brothers and sisters.

A couple of weeks before the trip the mail brought an invitation that changed our plans. Lori, a young woman who had been in our Explorer Post back in the late 1980s, was getting married the same day we were leaving on our trip.

We always try to attend special events in the lives of our Scouts. So we decided to change our plans—good relatives always understand—ours said "Go to the wedding; we'll leave later." And we went to the wedding with our van stuffed for the trip because we were leaving for Missouri immediately after the ceremony.

After arriving in Austin, we had trouble finding the church and were late to the wedding. Feeling guilty, we crept into the back pew, while the pastor was finishing his message, just in time to see the vows exchanged.

Next came the reception line, and we couldn't wait to get through it and be on our way. But when it was our turn to congratulate Lori—our plans changed, again. When she saw us, Lori began to cry and through her tears told her new husband, "These people are so important in my life. They mean so much to me." And to us, "I'm so happy you came!"

We hadn't seen Lori in years and were surprised that our presence meant so much. And guess what, we stayed for the meal, the cutting of the cake and for photos with the bride and groom. Later as we talked, Lori admitted she was so worried we wouldn't come that she had almost called us the day before.

We're thankful we decided to change our plans. Otherwise, we would have disappointed her, and we wouldn't have known that she appreciated our efforts.

Sometimes Scouters don't get to see that they've made a difference—even though they do make a difference every time they attend a Troop meeting, go on an outing or just listen. We feel blessed to know that we were important in Lori's life, although we don't think that we did anything special. Our wish is that you and all Scout leaders can have the same pleasure of knowing that you've made a difference in the life of a Scout.

~by Glenda Griffin



Glenda, Lori and Roy

The Bridge Builder

An old man traveling a long highway

Came at the evening cold and gray

To a chasm, vast and deep and wide.

The old man crossed in the twilight dim,

The sullen stream held no fears for him,

But he turned when safe on the other side,

And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old Man," cried a fellow pilgrim near,

"You're wasting you time building here,"

"Your journey will end with the closing day,

You never again will pass this way."

"You have crossed the chasm deep and wide,

Why build you this bridge at evenings tide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head,

"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,

"There followeth after me today,

A Youth whose feet must pass this way"

"This stream which has been naught to me,

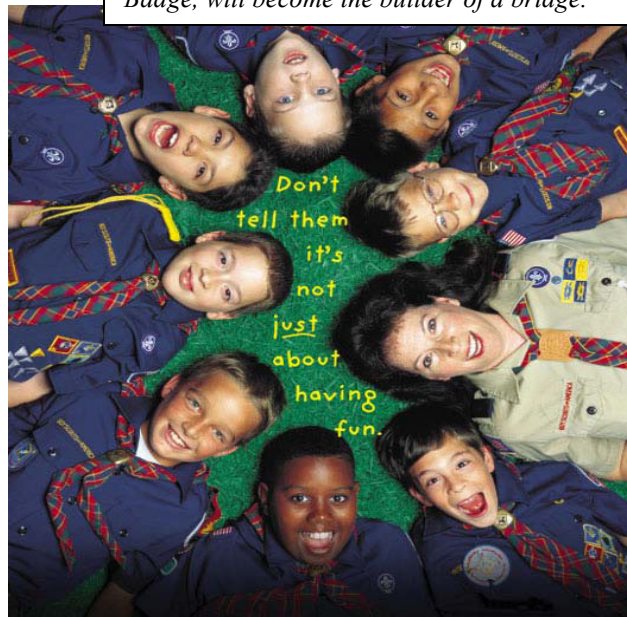
To that youth may a pitfall be."

"He too, must cross in the twilight dim."

"Good friend, I am building this bridge for him."

~ ~ ~

We hope that you too, in the Spirit of Wood Badge, will become the builder of a bridge.



WOOD BADGE REUNION

(Saturday, March 7, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.)

All SR-1004 participants are encouraged to attend the Wood Badge Reunion! The reunion will be held at Camp Karankawa Training Center. The meal will be prepared by a committee of Wood Badgers. Reservations deadline is Wednesday, March 4; the cost is \$15 per person and \$25 per couple. Look for the reservation form in the mail at home.

CRITTER TALES



Bionic Beavers

The beavers' teeth hurt today due to all the gnawing of the brush around Gilwell Field. We were glad to offer the Patrols our knowledge in tree tearing down. The results, with all our

combined hard work, are amazing. What a beautiful view!

Congratulations to all Patrols on the successful completion of your course projects and presentations. We enjoyed working on our project and enjoyed seeing you present yours.



High Flying Eagle News

The Eagle Patrol is enjoying their campsite. We have a great view of the lake, through a wind tunnel. We were pleasantly surprised to see the foundation of Camp Karankawa's original dining hall. We are pleased to have made great friendships with all our fellow Wood Badgers and staff. Good luck to every one— let's complete our tickets!



Fire Fox News

sssssssst!

We are excited about the accomplishments made today and are proud to be Wood Badge participants. With only one day to go, it's both a happy and sad time.

We have definitely formed a patrol bond during our time together. Each member has contributed their "gift," which has helped the patrol shine.

Always remember: There's NO Crying in Wood Badge!



Big Eyed Hoot Owl News



Wow! What a day! This morning's project was incredible. Such a transformation in a short period of time. All the Patrols gave amazing presentations this afternoon. You could tell how much effort and teamwork each group put forth to complete them. Great job Scouters!



Big Eyed Hoot Owl



Big Eyed Hoot Owl News continued

The Big Eyed Hoot Owl Patrol is looking forward to taking all the Wood Badge tools we've received and putting them to use in our units as we work on our tickets.

Nothing but good will come from this experience. Not only for us but for our Scouts as well.



Thundering Buffalo News—Sunday Edition/Troop 1- Buffalo Patrol

Epilogue

The herd (now comfortably situated in Yellowstone Park) expressed its gratitude to the five leaders by cashing in their "chips" and sending them to a retirement village in Palm Springs. Their annual molting, however, evoked the disdain of the locals, (rich tanned hard bodies and wrinkled retirees from the upper East Coast).



Frustrated, the five leaders dropped their last few "chips" on the floor of the retirement village casino and made their way west. The five are now permanent fixtures in the Quadrangle at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas, once home to the famed Buffalo Soldiers.

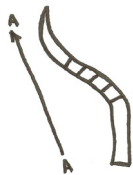
Our Wood Badge experience may be summed up best with a quotation from Rudyard Kipling's, *The Law of the Jungle* ("How fear Came"-The Second Jungle Book), **For the strength of the Pack is the Wolf, and the strength of the Wolf is the Pack.**



Ascending Antelopes

It's hard to put into words how blessed we feel to have met so many great people. We would like to thank the Leadership and Staff of SR-1004 for this great training experience. We

would like to thank our fellow patrols for the fun time...the laughs, the jokes and for your prayers. Most importantly, we would like to thank Lloyd Towers (aka John Thurston) for guiding us and preparing us for this great training session. Also, Lloyd, we forgive you for "tattle tailing" on us and not letting use the shower water heater.



The Antelopes will continue to ascend...God speed to all...we will see you at the top!



Bellowing Bovine- Staff News

The Staff was asked to use adjectives to describe the Patrol Projects. The

following results came forth: useful, proudly presented, fantabulous, astonishing, unparalleled, eye-opening, prodigious, informative, creative, inspiring, wonderful, thoughtful, insightful, awesome, supercalifragilisticexpialidocious, educational, motivating, moving, and well done.

Note from the Scoutmaster...

Welcome to Day Six, and the end of our Wood Badge SR-1004 course. Looking back, we can see what a huge amount of material, growth, leadership development and fellowship we have experienced together. We are all in this together, and your staff sincerely wishes that our course legacy will be one of service and joy. As we depart Gilwell Field for the last time, we are not "Bellowing Bovines" or "Bears," but fellow Scouters— dedicated to providing the best growth opportunities for the youth that are entrusted to our care in this challenging world. What will your legacy be as you touch the lives of these precious possibilities?

Thanks for all the work that the Patrols put in to make their projects a success!



The Gilwell Gazette is published by your staff.