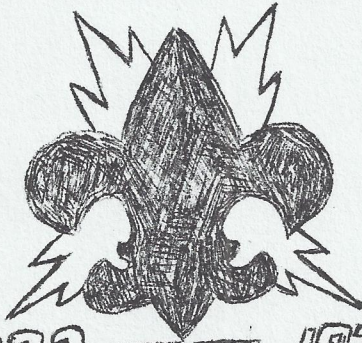


SCOUTING

TROOP 609



1922

50

1972

YEARS

OF SCOUTING

THROUGH THE YEARS

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SCOUTING IN MORGAN PARK *

(The Origin of Troop 609)

Scouting in Morgan Park began in the late spring of 1911. Recruiting took place on the tennis courts that used to be at 111th and Irving (Bell) Avenue (S.E. corner). The community interest in scouting resulted in a scout house being built from materials donated by merchants in the community on land owned and loaned by Mr. Tourellet at 2301 W. 111th Place.

The scout house was completed in about 1912 and was the meeting place for at least two troops. During the cold weather the scout house was heated by a pot-bellied stove. The scouts took turns starting the fire early in the evening of the meeting nights.

The highlight of the scouting activities was summer camp. These troops attended camp at Crystal Lake near Whitehall, Michigan, which today is a part of the great Owasippe Scout Reservation. The automobile of those days was not as reliable or popular as today, so trips were taken by Lake steamer, probably on the old Goodrich Lines.

The scout house era lasted about 8 to 10 years during which time many fine and dedicated men provided leadership to these troops. The scout house was then moved one block south and became the book store of the M.P. Military Academy.

About 1920 the scouting movement had expanded greatly and necessitated more sponsoring organizations, and so the churches of the community took on this responsibility. In January of 1922 Morgan Park Baptist Church applied for a troop charter and was given #609. The first scoutmaster was W.H. Franklin. Not long afterward the troop went downhill until in 1924 there were only a handful of scouts.

At this time Mr. Fred Frizell took over the troop and initiated an all-out recruiting campaign. He enlisted the help of Art Colley as assistant scoutmaster and formed an active troop committee. Trips were taken to the Dunes and various other places, often with the help of outside groups such as the Kiwanis. With an active program the troop built up, in two years, to about 60 boys.

Since that time the troop has progressed, though with some leadership problems, especially during the World War II period and with an occasional slump which was soon solved by concerned leaders.

OUR SCOUTMASTERS

1922.....W. H. Franklin
Tom Peterson
1923.....Roy Gilbert
1924.....Fred B. Frizell
1925....."
1926....."
1927.....Arthur L. Colley
1928....."
1929.....Lester Senechalle
1930....."
1931....."
1932....."
1933....."
1934....."
1935.....William J. Gunkel
1936....."
1937....."
1938.....Chester P. Wadley
1939.....Urban J. Mullen
1940.....Harry Thayer
1941....."
1942.....Robert Tharp
1943.....John Mann
1944.....Frank Benjamin
1945.....Robert A. Williams
1946....."
1947....."
1948....."
1949....."
1950....."
1951....."
1952.....Bill Pagels
1953.....Dave Boies
1954.....Charles Stevens
1955....."
1956.....Dick Pagels
1957....."
1958....."
1959....."
1960....."
1961....."
1962....."
1963....."
1964....."
1965....."
1966....."
1967....."
1968....."
1969.....Daniel Bailey
1970....."
1971....."
1972....."

These are as registered by the Chicago Area Council, though some may have started or ended mid-year.

OUR EAGLES

Barringer (Bang) Baker.....1927	Robert Channel.....1952
Austin (Pete) Howard.....1927	William Channel.....1952
George Pagels, Jr.....1928	James Eklund.....1952
Donald Black.....1930	David Laakso.....1952
Harmon Fortner.....1930	Dick Pagels.....1953
Robert Roesch.....1932	Glenn Heelan.....1959
Byron Crossman.....1933	George Pagels III.....1960
William Nelson.....1936	Don Eppley.....1964
James Delmar.....1937	Charles Meyer.....1966
George Meunch.....1937	Don Peterson.....1967
William Pagels.....1941	Ray Bevans.....1969
Paul Harris, Jr.....1943	Rodger Eppley.....1971
Ralph Beavan.....1952	Connor Leahy.....1971

The above list represents those boys who were awarded the rank of Eagle while in Troop 609.

Frank Benjamin...former Scoutmaster	Walter McCoy...former Committee Chairman
Chuck Bevans...Scout Committee	Robert Tharp...former Scoutmaster

The above mentioned are former Troop 609 leaders who received the rank of Eagle while in other troops.

MESSAGES AND MEMOIRS FROM OUR SCOUTS

Dear Friends of 609—If 2000 miles of winter weather did not separate me from you I would certainly be present for the gala celebration. My father, brother Frank, and I spent many enjoyable and profitable years with 609 and I remember especially the great leadership of the late Art Colley and Lester Seneschalle, who were my beloved scoutmasters. Men like Art and Les have contributed significantly to my life and character, and shall always be remembered with love and appreciation.

To all the rest, I send my good wishes that you have a wonderful program and a great celebration.

George Muench (1931-1936)
Eagle Scout
Los Gatos, California

My memories of my days as a member of Boy Scouts of America Troop 609 are warm and wonderful—Troop and patrol meetings; District and City competition in signaling (with Bob Thayer) both Morse and Semaphore and First Aid and Fire-by-Friction.

Don't get me started. I could be on all day—Camping out at the Dunes, etc.

Particularly strong are remembrances of Art Colley and Lester Seneschalle as outstanding, dedicated Scoutmasters!

May the 50th Anniversary celebration be just everything it should be. I deeply regret that I will be unable to join in it.

Warm wishes to all,
Walter (Gog) Clissold
(1926-1931)
Evanston, Illinois

One scout's response to, "Something you would like to see included at the reunion," listed on the questionnaire— "Memorialize the troop committee: Fred Frizell, Art Colley, Harry Thayer, Les Seneschalle, Raymond Smith," as requested by:

Dave Fornell (1925-1927)
Berwyn, Illinois
(Ed.—We have tried to, Dave.)

Memories from Boy Scouts 609
The Eagle Scout Ceremony and my lovely Eagle ring from the troop.

Dick Pagels calm and unexcitable handling of the boys and the hours and hours he gave. He was always there.

The day at a boy scout camp out that Mrs. Heelan picked up the hard hiking scouts way out in the "sticks"; one of the boys had a snake in his cooking gear and it dropped out in the car. Mrs. Heelan yelled, "Good grief, it's a rattler!" You never saw a car empty out so fast in all your life.

Collecting wood and making the canoe. Understand it is still in working order. (Ed.—It is to be, in fact, on display in the gym, Glen.)

Wonder if the 13 boys who were jammed into one station wagon for the long trip to the Indiana Tulip Tree hike will ever forget it—also the wonderful lunch room manager who let us use all their tables and all we bought was a bottle of milk each as we had brought our lunches. That same trip the boys had a female Scoutmaster until 3 A.M. as our men were lost. They arrived to a well organized camp and tents up in good shape—all worrying where our men were.

The camp out at Turkey Run where it was so crowded we could hardly turn around and one of the scouts wanted to know where he could hang his "wash cloth" to dry.

Glen Heelan (1952-1960)
Eagle Scout
Denver, Colorado

The years I spent in scouts (609) between '65 and '70 were great. Scouts helped teach me appreciation for the outdoors, and this now figures in with my Natural Resources major.

Scouts also helped teach me self reliance, and introduced me to many new and exciting things in life. It also helped me learn to get along with different types of people and to make them my friends.

I am sorry I will not be able to make the reunion and I hope it turns out great. Say "hi" for me to all the old friends there. Rich Barnes (1965-1970)
Freshman, Wisconsin State University

MESSAGES AND MEMOIRES (Continued)

One vivid thing I remember that I am sure many of the scouts of that era will remember is riding as many as 10 of us in Assistant Scoutmaster Joe Cobb's Model "A" Ford near the Y.M.C.A. cottage near the Dunes in Baileytown, Indiana. At one time he bought some special metal extensions to make "dual" wheels which was supposed to improve the traction of the back wheels, and they lasted just about two revolutions before breaking off.

Vernon Sabel (1933-1937)
Grovertown, Indiana

World Jamboree

Last summer I had a very exciting experience---one I will never forget. I went to Japan to attend the 13th World Jamboree in Nippon, whose theme was, "For Understanding". When we got there our plane was greeted by several warm, hospitable Japanese Boy Scouts. We were always treated very nicely and welcomed everywhere we went.

Except for a typhoon that hit the Jamboree and forced us to be evacuated for a day, the weather was fine. I went on tour of two major cities of Japan, Tokyo and Kyoto. I really enjoyed meeting people from other countries.

I would like to thank everyone who made it possible for me to go, and I hope to attend another World Jamboree in the future.

Connor Leahy (1967-19?)
Eagle Scout
Chicago, Illinois

National Jamboree

The 7th National Jamboree, July 16-22, 1969---Idaho---The theme of this jamboree was, "Building to Serve".

At the jamboree I met many friends of different races, colors, from different parts of the United States, and different parts of the world.

The jamboree teaches you how to live in an outdoor community with many basics instead of luxuries. Also you see how good planning and organization can bring over 35000 scouts and leaders into a close-knit small city.

The jamboree opened with an arena show, and then many activities throughout the jamboree followed, such as: fishing, skiing, boating, hunting, swimming, hiking, and many, many more. The jamboree had a Ham radio station, KF7BSA. Activities concluded with the closing arena show on July 22nd.

Don Peterson (1965-1969)
Eagle Scout
Chicago, Illinois

I have served as a Scoutmaster, Cubmaster, or Explorer Advisor for the last 30 years in Oklahoma. For the past 15 years I have been an Explorer Advisor. Our post's specialty is White-water Canoeing, and we do lots of that in the Ozarks! We have had 6 two-week expeditions into the Canadian wilderness canoe country.

Best wishes to 609 on this their 50th birthday.

Bill Nelson (1932-1941)
Eagle Scout
Bartlesville, Oklahoma

MESSAGES AND MEMOIRES (Continued)

A telephone call from one of our first two Eagles, "Pete" Howard, reminisced of happy, active, and competitive times in ye-ole-troop:

"The big deal as far as I'm concerned was --well, "Bang" Baker and I--we each had our own patrols--we competed a lot--we made Eagle together at the same Court of Honor at Englewood High School-- there was a lot of competition between us in our patrols as to points and boy scout contests.

I remember we won a cheer leading thing down there (Englewood High School)--it was about 1926. I forget how the cheer went--it was something Fred Frizell wrote."

But "Pete" will be on safari in East Africa at anniversary time shooting animals with a camera only, and he says: "I know you've taken on a heck of a job and I know a lot of people appreciate and will enjoy what you've done."

Webb Austin "Pete" Howard (1925-1928)
Eagle Scout
Chicago, Illinois

P.S. A last minute note from "Pete"--

I am sorry I cannot attend. I know I would enjoy it. Scouting and Troop 609 played an important part of my early life. I cannot attend because I am leaving on safari to East Africa on Feb. 2, and I look forward to this trip as I did my first trip to Camp MacDonald in 1925. (Ed.--Camp MacDonald was the former name of todays Camp Stuart.)

Response to: "How scouting may have helped you after your scouting days."-----

Scouting is very useful. You learn how to take care of yourself in the outdoors--what to do if you're lost or have no food, or just how to camp and hike properly.

I also learned some pointers about wood working and how to use tools. It can help. I have built almost all of the furniture for our apartment.

Every boy should be a scout. There are so many things you learn that you would never hear about unless you were.

Ron McComb (1960-1964)
Phoenix, Arizona

Afterthoughts on an enjoyable time spent in Troop 609:

"I remember the week-end camping trips to Palos Park, and summer camp at Camp Owasippe. The first aid training we received as scouts. Also, the many scout meetings spent in marching and drill training. A great help in my military life with the U.S. Air Force.

In fact I have put to use just about everything a scout learns sometime in my life. When going through the Air Force Survival Training it was my scout knowledge which helped my and my other crew members."

Paul E. Pfrommer (1941-1944)
Dallas, Texas

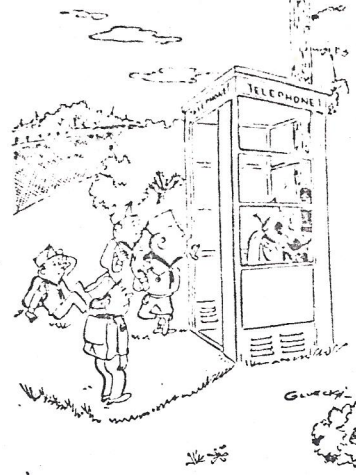
Words from a former scout from another scout troop-----

"I think that Scouting teaches us to be independent, to rely on ourselves, and to solve our problems in the best way as they come up. The things these boys are learning will equip them to be good citizens, and that is really the big value in Scouting."

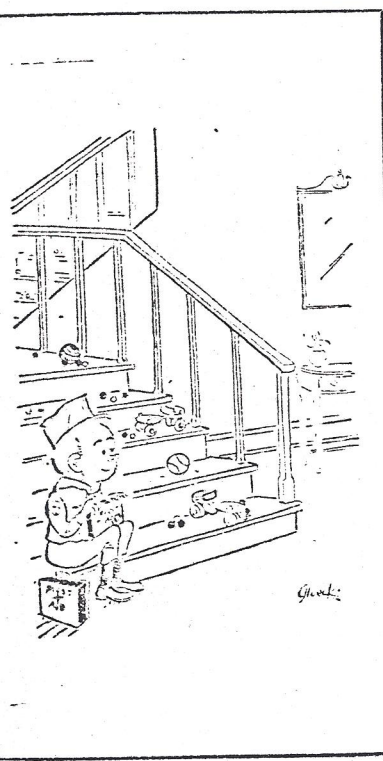
Edward H. White II
Astronaut on Gemini 4
(White carried the new Space Exploration Boy Scout Merit Badge on his moon walk.)



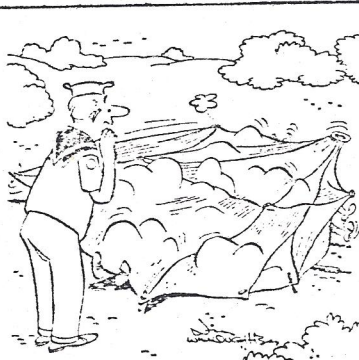
"I've an idea, fellows! How would you like to practice carrying a wounded companion?"



"Could you trace this call, please? I'm afraid we're lost."



"Is this the same gay, mad, carefree group who wouldn't get to sleep last night?"

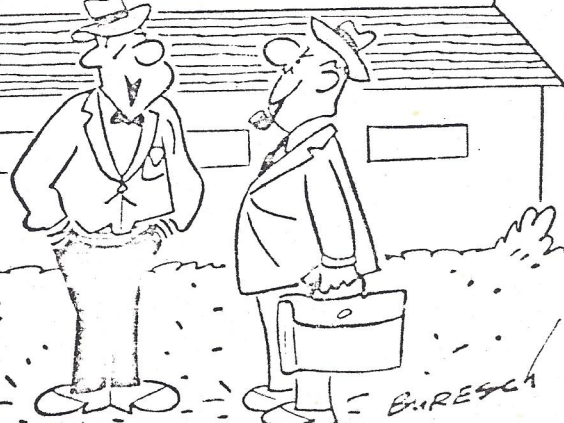


"All right, fellas, one more try, now!"

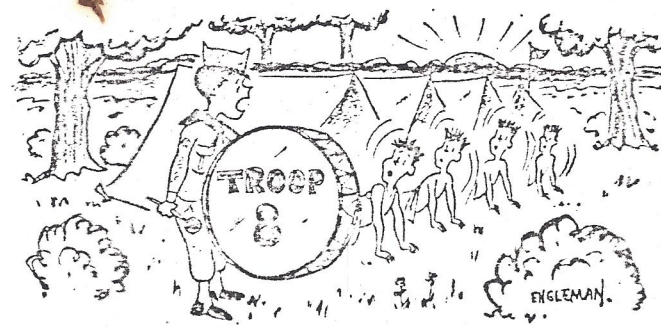


"The poisonous variety can easily be recognized by its three shiny leaves."

RABBIT FARM - WORLD'S LARGEST



"It started out as a merit badge project when I was a Boy Scout!"



"Sorry, fellows, I misplaced the bugle."

FACTS WORTH MENTIONING-----Strictly 609

Here are some facts about our troop and its scouts which are true to the best of our knowledge. We know that there are many other interesting and important facts of which we are unaware because our research is incomplete. Some statements may be based partly on surmise and we are sorry if we have spoken in error.

There are 2500 boy scout units (troops) in the Chicago Area Council among which Troop 609 is the 29th 50 year troop. The oldest is Troop 309 of the Fort Dearborn District which is 61 years old.

Mr. Fred Frizell is probably the oldest living scoutmaster of 609. His efforts probably saved the troop in 1924 (see Troop History). He is still living in the Chicago area and would be here tonight except that he is vacationing in Florida, and writes wishing the troop success.

Ozzie Foster was a member of the troop in its very first year---1922---and is here tonight with his wife, Kathryn who is the efficient Morgan Park Baptist Church secretary. Ozzie also served on the troop committee when their sons were scouts in 609.

Barringer (Bang) Baker and Austin (Pete) Howard became Eagle scouts on the same date, Dec. 20, 1927, and were the first Eagles in 609.

Troop 609 has been attending summer camp at Owasippe Scout Reservation for 44 consecutive years---since 1927---at Camp Stuart, previously called Camp MacDonald before the depression when Mr. Stuart's generous gift supported the whole Chicago Area Council during very difficult times. Our troop was represented at Camp Mac even before that.

Harry Thayer and Frank Muench, Sr. have served on the troop committee for the longest periods of time---at least 25 years each, much of the time concurrently. Mr. Thayer was committee chairman the major part of the time and even served as the Scoutmaster. Mr. Muench was the first Cubmaster of our Cub Troop 3609 in 1935. Mr. Muench is here with us tonight.

Bob White and Bob Thayer, scouts together in the 20s, were instrumental in organizing our Cub Pack 3609 into the unique and effective structure it is. Bob Thayer and helpers built the popular workshop and began the workshop and gym program with men leaders. Bob White after taking over as Cubmaster structured it with the utilization of fathers and outlined it on paper in manual form for future reference. (Bob White is here tonight as is Bob Thayer's family.)

The Pagels family can boast 4 Eagle scouts in 609---brothers George, Bill, and Dick, and George's son, George. All are here tonight. (See Eagle list for dates.)

Dick Pagels was Scoutmaster for the longest period of time---13 years---in addition to several years as assistant scoutmaster; and including his days as a Cub in 3609 and a Boy Scout in 609 was with the troop for over 25 consecutive years.

FACTS WORTH MENTIONING.....(Continued)

Troop honors our 609 scouts are most proud of through the years include The Hoover Award for scout progress from about '35 fo'45 when 609 was one of two troops to receive it; the Eisenhower award for service during World War II; 1st place award for their entry in the 1966 Fun Fair show (Tri-Ridge District) at the International Amphitheater; honors in Scoutcraft meets and winners at the annual Klondike Derby 2 years ago.

In 1935 there were over 70 boys registered in Troop 609.

Don and Rodger Eppley are brothers and are the only Eagle Scouts in 609 to earn both the highest rank of Eagle and the esteemed religious award of "God and Country". Their grandfather, Art Colley, was scoutmaster in the 20's when 609 produced its first two Eagles.

1952 was a top year for Eagles. Five scouts were awarded the rank of Eagle in 1952.

Inter-troop patrol competition and competition with other troops was common and popular in the early days, and questionnaire responses indicate that camping, especially at Owasippe, is the #1 favorite of most scouts of all eras.

Don Peterson was the youngest scout (before his 13th birthday) to earn the rank of Eagle.

The three former scoutmasters that are with us this evening , Dr. Robert Tharp, Frank Benjamin, and Dick Pagel are all Eagles.

In the Tri-Ridge District of Boy Scouts of America of which 609 is a unit, only about 20% of the area boys are scouts, and of the scouts less than 2% meet the requirements for Eagle.

Fred
Frigell

Art
Colley

REDEDICATION

1972

Here's to SCOUT TROOP 609
On its Fiftieth Anniversary ...
And here's to each one who made it
A tradition of M. P. B. C.!!
Camping ... Hunting ... Fishing ...
And the physical development
of a boy
All are prime facets of Scouting
And they bring a rich
physical joy
But the training in Character
And Development of the Soul ...
Reverence ... Faith ... and Respect --
THESE make a boy strong and whole!
Some who faithfully served 609
In its very early days
Are no longer here to celebrate
But they've earned our
Permanent Praise ...
Maybe 609 will meet
50 years from now ...
... And they 'll be reminiscing, too
About this Golden "REDEDICATION"
Of Nineteen Seventy-Two!!

Frank
Muench

Harry
Thayer

Lester
enechalle

Raymond
Smith
Webb
Howard

Margaret S. Paxson
Morgan Park Baptist Church

Dick
Pagles

BOY SCOUT TROOP 609 ROSTER
1972

TENDERFOOT

Ray Bailey
Eric Keating
Bruce Kober
Mark Kopmann
Ed Mitchell
William Nagelvoort
Randal Richardson
John Saenz
Dick Sandberg
Bruce Thorne
Robert Walper

SECOND CLASS

Hugh Ahern
Todd Bendkowski
Ronald Clarke
Don DeSlover
Paul Honey
Ralph Kober
Matthew Meyer
John O'Donnell
John Potter
Craig Smith

FIRST CLASS

David Bachler
Brian Leahy

STAR

Dan Bailey
Scott Bendkowski
Robert Eppley
Bob Faison
Jay Keating
Kevin Keating
James Mammias
Larry Peterson

LIFE

Carl Bachler
Ed Bachler
John McCormick

EAGLE

Rodger Eppley
Connor Leahy

EXPLORER SCOUTS POST 2609

Wally Smith, Post Advisor
Dan Bailey
Rodger Eppley

Connor Leahy
Jim Nothnagel
Rich Winship

TROOP COMMITTEE

Dan Bailey, Scoutmaster
Steve Mammias, Ass't. Scoutmaster
Don Eppley, Ass't. Scoutmaster
Howard Peterson, Committee Chairman
Carl Bachler, Transportation Chairman
James Barth, Record Custodian
Al Bendkowski
Chuck Bevans

Rev. Ian Chapman
Morrie Eppley, Institutional Rep.
Bill Faison, Advancement Chairman
Steve Lewellyn, Publicity Chairman
Dick Pagels, Camping Chairman
Robert Palmer
Wally Smith, Quartermaster
Joan Nagelvoort, Corresponding Secy.

LET'S SING !

1. Hello!
Hello!
Hello!
Hello!
2. WE'RE HERE FOR FUN
(tune-Auld Lang Syne)
We're here for fun :
right from the start
So drop your dignity---
Just laugh and sing
with all your heart
And show your loyalty.
May all your troubles be forgot
Let this night be the best.
Join in the songs we sing tonight,
Be happy with the rest.
3. WE'RE ALL TOGETHER AGAIN
We're all together again,
we're here, we're here.
We're all together again
we're here, we're here.
Who knows when we'll be
all together again
Singing all together again,
we're here, we're here.
4. IF YOU'RE HAPPY
If you're happy and you know it
Clap your hands!
If you're happy and you know it
Clap your hands!
If you're happy and you know it
And you really want to show it,
If you're happy and you know it
Clap your hands!

Repeat Verse: Stamp your feet!
" " : Shout Amen!
" " : Do all three
(clap, stamp, Amen)
5. HAIL STUART!
Hail Stuart, campers gay and free---
Loyal sons of Chief Owasippe...
We work and play and sing the
whole day thru
And build a friendship thru and thru
HAIL, STUART!
No matter how far we may roam,
Stuart will always be our home.
And when our camping days have
ceased to be,
We'll Hail, Owasippe!
6. AMERICA
(tr round)
America, America,
How can I tell you how I feel?
You have given me many treasures,
I love you so. I love you so.
7. OWASIPPE HYMN.
(tune-Alma Mater)
All the wealth of earth and heaven,
Bless the woods and dales.
Over all the lakes and forest
Happy youth prevails.
So may scouting bonds of friendship
Seal our loyalty.
To the Camp so dear to memory----
Hail, Owasippe!
8. CAMP MAC---(old Camp MacDonald song)
(tune-Caison song)
Over hill, over dale,
'Til we meet the camping trail
And our buddies go marching along.
In and out, hear them shout
Gee, I'm glad that I'm a scout
And our buddies go marching along.
Then it's Hi, Hi, He, old Camp Mac
for me.
Shout out your number loud and strong,
CAMP MAC!
Where'ere you go, you will always know
That a true scout will always
come back
To MacDonald!
And a true scout will always
come back
To MacDonald!
And a true scout will always
come back.
9. SCOUT VESPER---Softly Fall the Light
(tune-Pannenbaum)
Softly falls the light of day,
While our campfire fades away.
Silently each scout should ask,
Have I done my daily task?
Have I kept my honor bright?
Can I guiltless sleep tonight?
Have I done and have I dared
Everything to be prepared?