

Changes in Scouting - Video Script



Item Code FS 500012 Apr/04 Edition no 1

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1. It's hard to imagine that a modern youth movement that today spans the world and has millions of members has its origins in a bygone era of empire and far flung outposts of Southern Africa.
2. During the siege of Mafeking in 1899, Robert Baden Powell, the founder of Scouting, saw young boys run errands and messages to help successfully defend the town. This was to be the catalyst for a movement that few could have predicted would be the phenomenon it is today.
3. Despite this bygone heritage, Scouting today still remains relevant to young people. Why? because what Baden Powell once called 'the game', is about what young people enjoy – getting out and having fun. Since then the Movement has constantly changed and grown to meet the needs of young people, but still sticks to the principles that has made it universally popular.
4. These principles of empowering all young people, regardless of their religion, culture, status or ability, to think and act for themselves, to help others and to 'do their best', were in evidence when Baden Powell brought together 10 boys from Eton and Harrow public schools, with 10 boys from poor backgrounds, for an experimental camp at Brownsea Island in 1907.
5. With the publication of Scouting for Boys in six weekly parts, the idea of Scouting captured the imagination of young boys, and soon adults were being dragooned into helping them form Troops.
6. Within 10 years Scouting had become a phenomenon. Just 2 years after the Brownsea Island camp, over 11,000 Scouts turned up for the first rally held at Crystal Palace, London in 1909.
7. By 1910 a census revealed that there were over 100,000 Scouts in the UK. Scouting's universal appeal had also led it to grow far beyond the confines of Britain and its empire. All over the world wherever children were able to meet freely, Scouting seemed to become the natural pastime for young people. Scouting was changing into a mass movement.
8. As early as 1916 the Association saw that change was part and parcel of being of dynamic youth Movement. The age range of joining was lowered to 8 to meet the demand of younger brothers and Cub Scouting was born. By 1919 the Association saw that older Scouts needed somewhere to go, and so Rover Scouting, the forerunner of Venture Scouts and the Scout Network was introduced. Today, with Beaver Scouts enjoying Scouting from as young as six, it really has become a total youth movement.
9. Right from the start girls also wanted to enjoy Scouting, as Baden Powell was pointedly reminded when young girls attended the first large Scout Rally at Crystal Palace. In the social climate of the time, rather than introduce girls to Scouting he chose instead to start the Guide Movement under his sister's leadership. While adult female leadership has always been part of Scouting it wasn't until recently, in response to greater social integration of boys and girls of all ages throughout society, that Scouting admitted girls to all levels of youth membership.
10. After two world wars, when scouts had played their part, being awarded 41 Victoria crosses for their work, it was recognised that the world had changed dramatically. Mass communications, universal education, the decline in church attendance and the birth of the modern society meant that Scouting had to change too.
11. In 1945 after a period of review, Headquarters published 'The Road Ahead' which set out a new structure with emphasis on meeting the needs of older Scouts.
12. In the mid sixties the association embarked on its most radical change so far. Foreseeing the influence of technological and social changes the association set about modernising – simplifying Baden Powell's promise and the scout law. It also introduced a new programme and a new uniform,

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- established national activity centres, and Venture Scouting for older boys.
13. Over the years the uniform has changed and developed under the influence of the Scouts themselves. Whilst in the early days boys cut the legs of their trouser to complete the 'official look' today the demand is for a more informal, practical uniform replacing the more formal look of the sixties.
 14. Badges and awards have also changed and whilst many still reflect the timeless activities of Scouting, new ones have been added that reflect the new activities that modern Scouting offers.
 15. Scouting has always attempted to be 'open to all' and particularly include those with special needs or circumstances to ensure that everyone can enjoy scouting as long as they are able. The Extoree camp of 1982, a camp for able bodied and Scouts with special needs, marked a significant turning point in integrating Scouts with special needs into mainstream Scouting.
 16. Provision of Scouting for those with acute special needs still takes place today, both in hospitals and specialist groups.
 17. On a global scale, wherever tyranny is overthrown, the establishment of Scouting is often the first sign of hope and freedom. After the collapse of fascist and communist regimes in Europe and around the world Scouting has taken root, and today Scouting is enjoyed by young people of all ages in almost every country in the world.
 18. As Scouting in the UK continued to grow, The Association developed a modern management and support structure that supports local groups. Gilwell Park, which has been the home of Scout camping and training since 1919, now hosts the Association's Headquarters, provides a modern campsite and facilities and an Information Centre which provides direct support to all adults in Scouting. At world level the World Organisation of the Scout Movement, currently based in Geneva, supports the development and growth of Scouting globally for 28 million members.
 19. So in these constantly changing times, how does the Scout Association meet the challenge of staying a modern dynamic Movement whilst remaining true to its original principles?
 20. Throughout its history Scouting has always changed in response to the changing society we live in and the changing needs of young people.
 21. The launch of the new member programme in 2002 and the new adult training scheme in 2004 represents the latest moves to modernise scouting, to keep it up to date, and in tune with today's demands.
 22. Scouting today also acknowledges the ethnic and social diversity of our society and while most members of different races, creeds and colours mix freely in open groups, Scouting also provides for single sex and single faith groups where religious or cultural beliefs require it.
 23. A constant living symbol of this world-wide family of Scouting and its almost exponential growth are World Scout Jamborees. The 2007 jamboree to be held in the United Kingdom marks the return to the birthplace of scouting 100 years after its foundation. With over 28 million members in over 217 countries and territories, it seems that the changes that the Movement has made, have kept Scouting as relevant today as it was for those twenty young boys on Brownsea Island.
 24. Despite one hundred years of history it is refreshing to think that young people are fundamentally the same. They enjoy the same past times and challenges, and that what Baden Powell originally called 'the game of Scouting', is as relevant today as it was then.
- So, since Baden-Powell's first camp at Brownsea Island in 1907, Scouting has adapted to meet the needs of society in many different ways such as:
- The introduction of Cub Scouting for younger boys.
 - The introduction of Senior Scouts and Rover for older boys.
 - The new structure set out in 'The Road Ahead' following the Second World War.
 - The Advanced Party Report looked to the future and saw the introduction of Venture Scouts as well as many other changes.
 - The extension of Scouting to a younger age range with the introduction of Beaver Scouts.
 - The introduction of girls, first to Venture Scouts and then to all Sections of the Movement.
 - The new programme introduced in 2002 and the new adult training scheme in 2004 continues to ensure that Scouting remains up to date for the 21st Century.