ROVER SCOUT ORGANISATION AND TRAINING

1956

This revised Plan of Rover Scout Organisation and Training is issued by order of the Committee of the Council of the Boy Scouts Association. It supersedes any provisions of "Policy, Organisation and Rules" inconsistent with it, and replaces the former "Plan for Rover Scouts".

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DEFINITIONS

The Definitions as stated on Page 2 of " Policy Organisation and Rules " apply.

FOREWORD

THE Rover Section of the Group has always had a stormy career. Of the making of Rover Plans there has been no end; some have been tried and failed; some of them have never really been tried at all. Of course, the trouble is that, at 17 or so, young fellows, who have hitherto worked along the same lines, have begun to take divergent roads according to their national characteristics and their vocations, or should I just say *jobs*?

This new Plan is a sincere attempt to cater for the needs of at least a large proportion of young men. I hope Rovers will give it their loyal support, abide by the Rules and do their level best to make Rovering not only a factory for the production of the Scout Spirit, but a powerhouse from which Scouting in all its branches will draw real strength.

Rowallan.

CHIEF SCOUT.

I. INTRODUCTION

1—With effect from 1st April, 1956 a number of changes in the rules of the Rover Scout Section of the Scout Movement have been authorised by the Committee of the Council. This pamphlet sets out these changes in detail, for the information and action of all concerned. The reasons for these changes are explained in an article in the March, 1956 " Scouter." It is emphasised that the Chief Scout and the Committee of the Council are not asking for comments or suggestions, but hope and expect that the changes will be loyally accepted and carried out.

2.—The situation which has led to these changes had been building up for some years, and it was becoming increasingly apparent that a different approach to Rover Scout Training was needed, if the Section were to be in a position to carry out its avowed purpose. In the latter part of 1954 a " Rover Advisory Panel," composed of experienced Scouters with Rover backgrounds, was set up by I.H.Q. to assist the H.Q. Commissioner for Rover Scouts in tackling the problem. This Panel considered the whole question of Rover training and activities in detail, and in May, 1955 made a series of recommendations, which have been incorporated in the revised system of Crew organisation and Rover training which is explained below.

3.—It should be noted that the changes which have been authorised do not alter or affect the Purpose of Rover Scouting, which remains as stated in P.O.R. 254; nor its Aim, which is still, as it always has been, that of providing the final stage of the family of the Scout Group. In making the changes, care has been taken to ensure that they are in accord with the principles stated by the Founder in " Rovering to Success," and to include the methods of putting his ideals and theories into practice which he himself advocated.

II. THE REVISED ROVER SCOUT ORGANISATION

Rover Age Limits

4.—The Crew will be divided into two stages: the probationary stage (Rover Squires) and the training stage (Rover Scouts). There will be no Service stage. A Rover Squire must be at

least 17 years of age on admission, and must not have attained his 22nd birthday. A Rover Squire becomes a Rover Scout by investiture after a probationary period, and may remain a Rover Scout and a member of the Crew until his 24th birthday. On attaining the age of 24, he will cease to be a Rover and must leave the Crew. Existing Rovers who are of the age of 24 or over on 1st April, 1956 will cease to be Rover Scouts on that date. P.O.R. 257, 258 (2), 264 (3) and (4), 272 and 273 will be amended accordingly.

The " Over 23s " (i.e. those who have reached their 24th Birthday)

5.—On 1st April, 1956 considerable numbers of older men will have to leave the Rover Section, but many of them will desire to continue their membership of the Scout Movement; and the Movement itself would suffer greatly were they to leave it. Provision must also be made for those Rovers who attain the age of 24 subsequent to 1st April, 1956. There are three main categories of " over 23s ":—

(a) Those who already hold warranted or non-executive rank, and who accordingly will still be members of the Movement, with the privilege of wearing Scout uniform and badges.

(b) Those who are already giving Service to the Movement in some capacity which, whilst it carries membership of the Movement, gives no right to wear Scout uniform or badges.

(c) Those who are not serving the Movement in any capacity, other than as Rover Scouts.

6.—It is but fair to give those in categories (b) and (c) the opportunity of serving in some capacity which, while it carries with it the privilege of wearing uniform and badges, is in keeping with their own particular circumstances. Moreover, it is desirable to make provision for the continuation of the social aspect of the former " Service Stage " in Rover Scouting, and of the collective service which was one of its attributes. At the same time, there can be no question of forming a fifth section of the Movement.

7.—It is hoped that some of those who are not already Scouters may consider the possibility of applying for Warrants. In particular, there is a real need for more R.S.Ls. and A.R.S.Ls.,

appointments for which many older men might be well suited. But it is realised that many will have neither the vocation nor the opportunity to seek for Warranted rank. Accordingly it has been decided to increase the number of non-executive appointments authorised by P.O.R. 155 to include:—

(a) Service Auxiliary
(b) Quartermaster

in addition to the existing ones.

8.—The normal rules for appointment to these ranks, laid down in P.O.R. 156 and 157, will apply. The appointments will carry the right to wear Scout uniform and badges, including a distinctive hat badge, and the right to wear a hat badge will be extended to the holders of all non-executive appointments, which will in future be termed "non-warranted ranks."

9.—Whilst all non-warranted ranks are essentially individual appointments, Service Auxiliaries may, where it is appropriate, organise themselves into teams. Thus some will become members of Service Units which have been organised to assist at Camp Sites, Training Grounds and the like, whilst at District and even Group level, other teams will be ready to take over any jobs for which they may volunteer, and which entail more than individual effort; e.g. helping at the District Rally, organising District and Group events and so on. There is no intention to lay down rules for the conduct of the social affairs of Warranted Scouters and those holding non-warranted rank, but it is suggested that Districts may wish to arrange occasional social gatherings for their adult members.

Crew Organisation

10.—*District Crews.* It is desirable that a Crew should consist of not less than eight, nor more than thirty members, but it is realised that were a minimum of eight members laid down, it would be impossible for many smaller Groups even to start a Crew. Accordingly it has been decided to permit the registration of District Crews, with their own warranted Scouters. These Crews will be responsible for the training of Rovers from Groups where no adequate facilities for training are available. A Rover may belong both to his Group Crew and to a District Crew. A Rover will not normally be invested as a member of a District Crew but will join it after investiture

in his own Group. Exceptionally, a District Crew may accept candidates of Rover age who are not members of any Group in the District (P.O.R. 198 and 256 will be amended).

11.—*Group Crews.* It is hoped that wherever possible a Crew will be formed in every Group. The rules for its formation (P.O.R. 255) are unchanged. It is however recognised that in many instances the formation of a Crew is virtually an impossibility. Accordingly it has been decided that if there is no Crew, it is permissible for a Senior Scout or Boy Scout in the Group, who is of Rover Scout age, to be invested as a Rover in the Group, and to carry out his training with the District Crew. If there is no District Crew, he may pursue his training under the supervision of his G.S.M., but in such instances the D.C. must ensure that the training is adequate for its purpose. When a Rover is invested in accordance with these provisions, the ceremony should be performed by the G.S.M.

12.—*Patrols.* Patrols have been re-introduced as a unit for organisation and training, particularly in District Crews, where a Patrol might well consist entirely of the members of one Group Crew. A Patrol should consist of four to six Rover Scouts, led by a Rover Mate, appointed as laid down in P.O.R. 260. Training courses for Rover Mates are contemplated.

III. ROVER TRAINING : GENERAL

The Training Method

13.—It cannot be too strongly emphasised that the primary task of the Rover Section of the Scout Movement is that of Training. The Rover Section has the duty of continuing the progressive training given to Cubs, Scouts, and Senior Scouts in a manner suited to the Rover age-group, and along the lines laid down by B-P., namely development of character, intelligence, health, strength, and skill-of-hand. (See " Explanation of Scouting " in " Scouting for Boys ").

14.—The probationary training of a Rover Squire has been retained to prepare him for his investiture, and to ensure that he has attained certain standards of Scoutcraft (and, in the case of a newcomer to the Movement, as some test of his tenacity of purpose). This probationary period should never

be unduly protracted. For a Squire coming up from the Troop or Senior Troop, with the necessary technical qualifications, it should be as short as possible. Only exceptionally should it ever exceed six months in length. Details of the Training requirements, which have been somewhat stiffened, are set out below.

15.—A Rover's training should not be hurried, it is rather a process of steady and continuous development. Between three to four years should prove adequate in most instances. National Service provides, in many cases, an interruption to this training—though it is normally possible to carry on with a certain amount of training, even in the Forces; and every attempt will be made to extend Rover Scouting in Service Units—but even so, a Rover should aim at completing his training by his 23rd birthday. This will give him a further year in the crew to decide on his future job of Service.

16.—There are three aspects of the training of a Rover, of equal importance in his development, namely, training in the Promise and Law (with particular reference to his Duty to God); practical training; and collective training. Practical training has been divided into four stages which may be tackled in any order, namely: training in Scoutcraft; training by expeditions; the completion of a selected project; and training for service to others. Full details of these training requirements, many of which are new, are set out below.

Badges, Stars and the B.-P. Award

17.—The successful completion of each of the four stages of a Rover's practical training will be marked by a badge or star.

These are as follows:—

Scoutcraft: A Six-pointed star worn on the left epaulette, above the Rambler's Badge, if held.

Expeditions: The Rambler's Badge, worn on the left epaulette.

Project: The Project Badge, worn on the right epaulette (This badge is identical in design to the old "Progress Badge," which it replaces).

Service: A six-pointed star worn on the right epaulette, above the Project Badge, if held.

18.—Rovers who on 1st April, 1956 already hold the Rambler's Badge or the Progress Badge will continue to wear them and will be deemed to have qualified in the respective stages of their practical training.

19.—*The B.-P. Award.* When a Rover Scout has successfully completed all four parts of his practical training, and is, in the opinion of his R.S.L. and Crew, setting a personal example of the Scout way of life and carrying out the Rover motto "Service," he may be recommended to the D.C. and L.A. for "The B.-P. Award." This award, which is to the Rover Section what the Queen's Scout Badge is to the Troop and the Senior Troop, consists of the monogram "B.-P." surmounted by a Baron's coronet. It replaces all badges and stars awarded for a Rover's practical training, and is worn on the left epaulette.

IV. THE TRAINING OF A ROVER SQUIRE

20.—The training of a Rover Squire is the responsibility of the R.S.L., but it should wherever possible be carried out by one or preferably two Sponsors, appointed by the R.S.L. and Crew Council for that purpose. One should be an experienced Rover, preferably one holding the B.-P. Award, the other should, if possible, be a friend of the Squire.

Preparation for Investiture: Spiritual Training

21.—In common with all *Scouts*, a Squire is expected to be a member of some religious denomination and attend its services. It is the duty of his Sponsors to bring this obligation to a Squire's notice, should it be necessary.

22.—It is likewise their duty to assist and advise the Squire in his approach to the Promise and Law from the viewpoint of a man, and to ensure that he appreciates their full implications. The Founder's "Interpretation" should be used as the basis but Sponsors should not hesitate to encourage a Squire to seek assistance from the Group Chaplain or other Minister of Religion wherever this might seem desirable. Before a Squire starts his Vigil the R.S.L. must personally satisfy himself that this spiritual preparation has been adequate and that the Squire is ready for the ceremony.

Practical Training

23.—The amount of practical training required will of course vary according to the Squire's Scouting background. If he has not been a Scout or a Senior Scout before, a Squire must

pass the Tenderfoot test, and may then make the Scout Promise and wear uniform and badges.

24.—Unless he is already a First Class Scout, a Squire must satisfy his Sponsors that he has sufficient Scouting knowledge to train a boy of Scout age in the Second Class tests, and must attain a competent standard in the "Pioneering" and "Exploring" requirements of the First Class tests. He is not expected actually to train a boy in the Second Class tests.

25.—He must also read and study "The Wolf Cub Handbook," "Scouting for Boys," "Look Wide" and "Rovering to Success," and be able to take part intelligently in a discussion on Scouting, bringing in questions of Group, District and County Organisation as well as more domestic topics.

Collective Training

26.—A Squire should be encouraged to take part in the normal Crew programmes during his probationary period to give him insight into the ways of Rover Scouting.

V. THE TRAINING OF A ROVER SCOUT

Promise and Law

27.—A Rover Scout's training in the Promise and Law is particularly aimed at developing the forthright practice of his Duty to God. He is, in common with all *Scouts*, expected to be a member of some religious denomination and to attend its services. His R.S.L. is expected to keep an eye on a Rover's spiritual development and to offer advice if this is clearly indicated. If the Rover himself desires it, the assistance of the Group Chaplain or a Minister of Religion should be sought in any cases of real difficulty.

28.—The life of a Rover Scout is expected to be governed by his Promise of Duty to God, and he is required at all times to set a high personal example to Cubs, Scouts and Senior Scouts, and to do all in his power to make the Scout Law a living force both in his own life and in their's.

29.—During his time as a Rover he should endeavour to understand and follow the beliefs of his religious denomination, and to practise them in his daily life.

30.—In many instances a Rover may find it of real value to attend a "Duty to God" or "Promise and Law" course

during his period of service in the Crew, and R.S.L.'s should, whenever it seems appropriate, suggest this step to their Rovers, and encourage their attendance at such courses.

Practical Training—Scoutcraft

31.—The requirements for the award of the Star for Scoutcraft differ for Rovers who hold Warrants and those who do not.

32.—A Rover who holds a Warrant as a Pack or Troop Scouter must qualify at the appropriate Preliminary Training Course and must give satisfactory service as a Scouter for a period of at least six months, to qualify for the Star.

33.—A Rover who does not hold a Warrant must fulfil the following requirements:—

(a) He must camp on at least ten separate occasions aggregating not less than twenty days on three or more different camp sites, and must comply strictly with "Camping Standards." He must keep a log of these camps and submit it to his R.S.L. and Crew.

(b) He must be competent to instruct and examine a Senior Scout in any two of the undermentioned badges:—
Astronomer, Camp Warden, Forester, Master Cook, Naturalist, Pioneer, Tracker.
(He need not necessarily act as an instructor or examiner in the badges selected).

Practical Training—Expeditions

34.—Expeditions will, if possible, be carried out in teams of 4 to 6 Rovers. In the case of small Crews a minimum team of 2 is required.

35.—Expeditions will vary in length and difficulty in accordance with the experience of the Team. Rovers should take it in turn to plan and organise the details of progressive expeditions, which may range from a species of extended "First Class Journey," through the equivalent of a "Venturer Badge" journey, to long and arduous journeys in wild or mountainous country, or sea or river expeditions of a testing nature.

36.—In this connection it is worth while remembering the words of B.-P. "Since it (Rover Scouting) is a Brotherhood of wanderers, you can, as a member of it, extend your travels to foreign countries and there make your friendships with

Brother Rovers of other nationalities." The possibility of planning expeditions in other countries should always be kept in mind.

37.—The Rambler's Badge will be awarded to a Rover who has fulfilled the undermentioned requirements:—

(a) He must be competent to instruct and to examine a Senior Scout in the requirements of one of the undermentioned Senior Scout badges:—
Climber, Hiker, Map Maker, Pathfinder, Pilot.
(Though he need not necessarily act as an instructor or examiner).
and must be qualified in First Aid to at least the standard of the Ambulance Badge.

(b) He must have completed as a member of a team of Rovers a four day journey organised by himself and approved by his R.S.L. and D.C. as of sufficiently high standard. The journey may be by land or water, at home or abroad, but it must present a definite test of endurance as well as be calculated to bring out the qualities of self-reliance, initiative, determination and leadership. He must submit a log of the expedition to his R.S.L. and Crew at its conclusion.

Practical Training—Projects

38.—A "project" may be defined as a self-imposed task demanding skill, application and care. The Rover picks the subject of his project for himself. There is no restriction on his choice of subjects (within reason), but it should preferably be something which bears no direct relation to his means of livelihood, and with which he has formerly had little to do, or alternatively a subject in which he is already well versed, with the intention of his reaching a considerably higher standard of achievement in it. The subject chosen for a Rover's Project should be formally approved by the R.S.L. and Crew as suitable and worthwhile.

39.—The Rover is expected to plan his own approach to the subject and work out his method of tackling it. He must devote a minimum period of six months to the Project, and must keep a record of his activities. At least three times during the period he must report progress to the R.S.L. and Crew, producing his record, supported by any models, charts,

maps or other exhibits which may be needed to elucidate it. On these occasions he may seek advice or assistance from the Crew if he feels he needs it.

40.—When the Rover is himself satisfied that he has completed his selected project, he must demonstrate the result of his work to the R.S.L. and Crew. The R.S.L. and Crew, after seeking any necessary expert advice, then decide if he has reached a satisfactory standard of attainment.

Practical Training for Service

41.—Training for Service takes for a Rover the form of training for Service in the Movement, and differs in its requirements for those Rovers who also hold Warrants, and those who do not.

42.—A Rover who gives or has given satisfactory warranted service for a period of not less than six months will be exempted from any other training for service, and his Scouter Service will qualify him for the B.-P. Award, so far as this stage of Rover training is concerned, and entitle him to wear the Star.

43.—For other Rovers (except those who on 1st April, 1956 already hold the Rover Instructor Badge) the training consists of an attachment for a period of six months to a Pack or Troop for "on the job" training as a Scouter, under an experienced C.M. or S.M., during which period the G.S.M. will keep an eye on his progress. A Rover should aim at taking the appropriate Preliminary Training Course, preferably before he starts this attachment. When his R.S.L. is satisfied that the Rover is suitable and competent to assist with a Pack or Troop (as the Rover himself chooses) the G.S.M. will make the necessary arrangements for his attachment. During the six months attachment the Rover should consider himself bound by the requirements of P.O.R. 262.

44.—At the completion of a Rover's six months attachment to a Pack or Troop the R.S.L. will call for a report from the C.M. or S.M. concerned. If this report is satisfactory, the Rover will be qualified for the B.-P. Award, so far as this stage of Rover training is concerned, and will be entitled to wear the appropriate star.

45.—The holding of this star will in future be a prerequisite of appointment as a Rover Instructor under P.O.R. 528, and the award of the R.I. Badge.

46.—A Rover who holds the R.I. Badge on 1st April, 1956, awarded in accordance with the rules in force before that date, will be exempt from any further training for Service and the Badge will be considered as a qualification for the B.-P. Award, so far as this stage of Rover training is concerned, and entitle him to wear the star.

Collective Training

47.—Collective Training may be described as a series of Crew " programmes," arranged by the R.S.L. and Crew Council for the benefit of the Crew as a whole, and designed to broaden the Rovers' outlook and to put them in touch with worthwhile and lasting interests. Accordingly it may range over a very wide field indeed, and breadth is what should be aimed at. Over a period, collective training should touch on both World and National affairs, as well as matters nearer home and what may be termed " cultural subjects."

48.—The aim should be wherever possible to bring the out-of-doors into this side of the Crew life, and to avoid too much of the type of programme which can only be carried out in the comfort of the Crew Den, and which it is difficult to correlate with any outside activity. This applies particularly to such subjects as are covered by the title " World Affairs ": studied in a vacuum they frequently are lacking in appeal. The possibilities of linking programmes of this nature with the " Expeditions " stage of Practical Training should not be missed: they give point to Collective Training programmes as well as providing individual Rovers with the opportunity of making progress with their Practical Training.

49.—Another aspect of Collective Training, and a most valuable one, is that of Communal Service: collective good turns and jobs undertaken by the Crew as a whole, and planned and organised by the Crew Council.

50.—The activities given opposite are examples only of subjects suitable for Collective Training. Many of them cover a whole class of related subjects, e.g. Foreign Languages, which includes the general subject of philology as well as learning to speak a particular language. Where subjects are in contrast, such as Nationalisation and Private Enterprise, both should be studied so that a balanced opinion can be formed.

World Affairs

Communications by Sea, Land and Air.
Economic and Political Geography.
International Agreements for Security, Trade and Finance etc.
Foreign Languages, Correspondence and Travel.
World Trade.
Systems of Government.
Dominions and Colonies.

National Affairs

Local and National Government.
Administration of Justice.
Law and Legal Practices.
Politics—the Party System.
Nationalisation, Control, Private Enterprise.
Finance, Banking, Stockbroking.
Social Security, Health Services, Education.
Religious Affairs.
Industrial Organisation.
Methods of Retail Trade.
Advertising.
The Press.
Voluntary Organisations.
The Armed Forces.
Civil Defence.
National Service.
Trades Unions, Employers' Associations, Professional Associations.

Cultural Subjects

Art:—Painting, Drawing, Sculpture, Modelling, Photography, Architecture, Appreciation.
Drama:—(Stage and Screen): Acting, Production, Play Reading and Writing, Appreciation.
Literature:—(Prose and Poetry): Reading, Writing, Appreciation.
Music:—Singing, Playing, Composing, Appreciation.
Comparative Religion:—History, Creeds, Literature, Founders, Prophets, Teachers.
Science:—Power Production, Mechanical, Electrical, New and other branches of Engineering, Building Construction, Sanitation, Transportation.
Public Speaking, Debating, Discussions.