Seniors Train For LIVING IN A

By G. E. Chronic,

RECENT studies indicate that individuals, civic clubs, and educational institutions are looking for practical ways to teach democracy.

Participation in Senior Scouting is preparation for living in a democracy.

The program is so designed that meetings are planned by the members. They consist of the activities the members want and choose. The activities are run by the members of the Unit.

To represent a crew on a Program committee, to make one's contribution felt in the deliberations of that committee, to weigh the resulting action in terms of the desires of those one represents, these are the essence of democratic, representative government. A Senior Scout does not read about it. *He does it. Learning by doing* is the everyday procedure in Senior Units.

Let's see how the plan really works in a Unit. It could be a Sea Scout Ship, an Explorer Scout Post, an Air Scout Squadron or a Senior Scout Outfit. The general idea works exactly the same in all, and is equally effective. Although the Sea Scout literature does not cover this, Skippers have found it is the key to better attendance, greater activity and more interest on the part of the Sea Scouts.

Every member of the Unit is a member of a Crew. The Crew is the working sub-division of the Unit. Its members travel together, cook and eat together, and develop projects of all sorts together. Each man knows all the others well — what they like to do, and what they can do. Any planning must originate with the ideas of the crew members.

Planning Ahead

About once every three months the Senior Unit should hold an election of officers, and plan a series of meeting programs to be carried out during the next quarter year. This allows more men to have the valuable experience of serving as officers, and at the same time allows a Unit to drop poor officers in a routine manner without embarrassment, and before their ineffectiveness causes a breakdown of morale. Good officers can always be reelected if the Unit desires.

Planning for three months ahead gives a definite plan to follow and takes into account seasonal activities. But it does not tie the group down to a long-term plan which for unforeseen reasons has become undesirable. It also allows the inclusion of more of the popular activities while the interest in them is still keen.

There is an advantage of having election of officers and the planning of a new series of meetings coincide. The Committee chairmen and officers who were most active in the planning, will also be the ones to see that the projected activity is carried out. This tends to keep planning on a practical basis and puts those who are most familiar with the plan in charge — avoiding confusion.

How the Plan Is Developed

After each Crew Leader has made sure everyone is a member of a Program committee and that the Crew is represented on every committee, the committees hold meetings.

A regular indoor Unit meeting may be set aside for this purpose, or the committee meetings may be held at some other time during the week. After election of a chairman, the committee proceeds to choose and set up a general plan for five meetings or projects in its particular field. This is where every Crew representative gets consideration of the things he knows his Crew desires.

Selecting Program Events

After all committees have met and drawn up their suggestions, a business meeting of the entire Unit membership is held and all committee reports are made. The Secretary lists the five events suggested by each committee in a column on a blackboard where everyone can see them. Next, Crew meetings are held so that any questions concerning the suggested activities can be answered by the Crew's representatives who served on the various committees. This step eliminates much of the discussion from the floor, and allows those who are informed to give the answers.

The entire membership is again assembled and each man votes on the twelve or thirteen events (one per week) which he prefers for the quarterly schedule.

DEMOCRACY

National Director of Senior Scouting

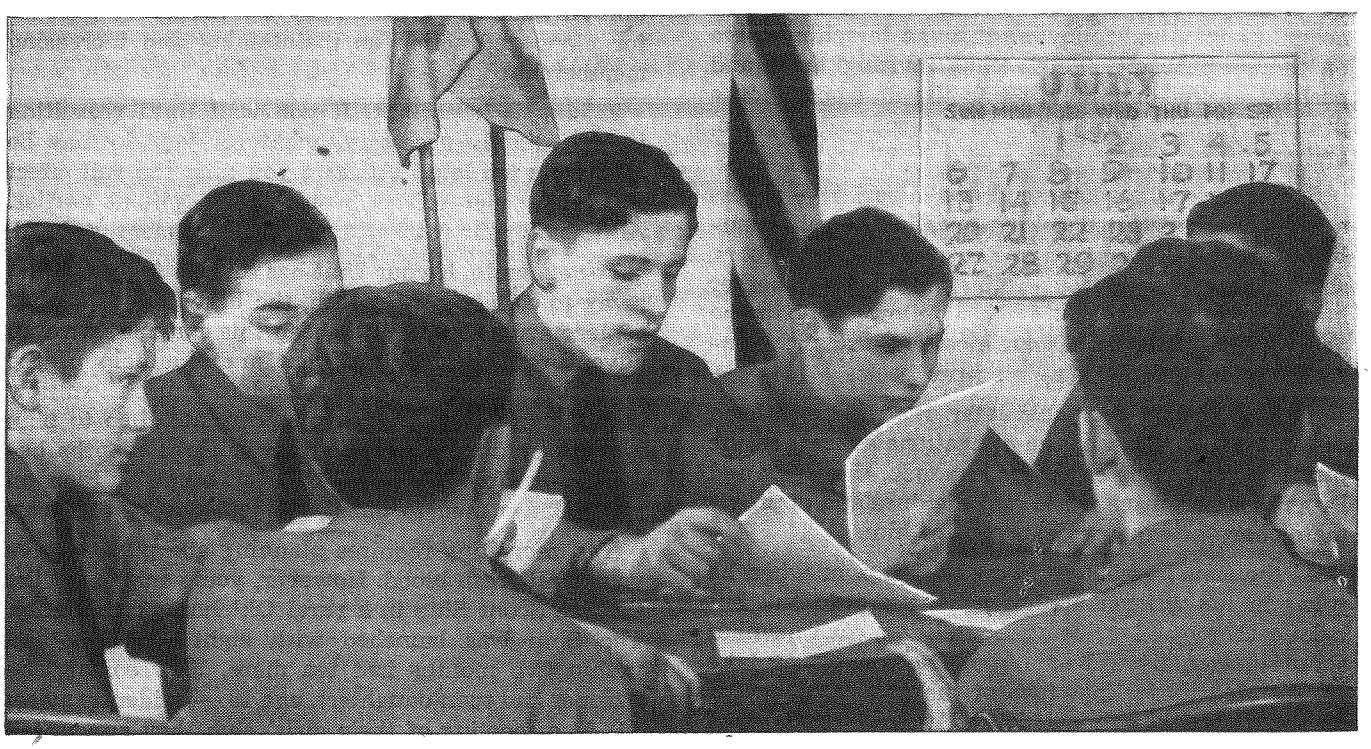
Events are voted on in turn, according to type — an outdoor, an indoor, a social, and a service, then back to the outdoor again. Each man keeps account of his votes and when his twelve or thirteen (whichever was agreed upon) are exhausted, he stops voting. The secretary records the number of votes after each item, and the twelve or thirteen highest are selected for the schedule.

Scheduling Events

The Unit's presiding officer, advisor, secretary and chairmen of the four planning committees form the scheduling committee, which in a few minutes can put the three-months' program together, assigning exact or approximate dates as the case requires.

This schedule then is the group activity for the ensuing months. It should be posted on the bulletin board, in the church programs, the high school paper, and the local newspapers. It is an excellent recruiter of new members, and serves to inform others that the group is alive and doing interesting things.

In general the committee which suggested an event is responsible for it actually happening. That is, the Outdoor Committee for outdoor trips, the Social for parties, etcetera. Each group will need the help of all the officers and often many other members, but basically it is the committees' job to make the arrangements even though, when the time arrives, someone else does much of the work. It can enlist the help of needed experts in the Unit, the Sponsoring Institution and the community, or anywhere they may be found. Thus election of officers, planning programs, and operating the Unit are all on a strictly democratic basis. It is practical training in citizenship and for doing one's share in representative self-government. The Senior Scout learns citizenship by doing.



The Senior Unit Program is planned for young men, *by* young men.

SENIOR PROGRAM

"Send No Money"

You've seen those words in many an advertisement offering to let you try a product before you decide to buy it. You can get results in recruiting Senior Unit members, too, by letting the *product* sell itself.

Put your efforts on inviting prospects to several open-house programs; and then *closing the sale* should be simple. However, if the recruits aren't ready to *buy* then, *no sale* will be of mutual advantage. You part friends, and the Unit does not have the embarrassment of cutting out deadwood later.

Advertisers also present their products attractively, in bright packages. Do the same by presenting Senior Scouting in two or three sparkling meetings and projects. (Old members won't dislike such programs, either!) Choose activities your Unit is most interested in, and chances are those are the ones around which your best programs are built. Arrange them carefully in an open-house series, with variety of location as well as action — say a regular indoor meeting, a social, and an outdoor trip. Show the recruits all features of the *product.*

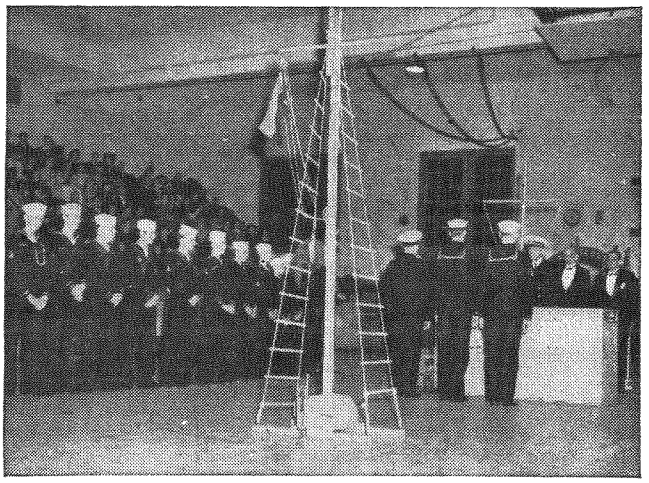
In the planning, don't overlook how the prospects are to be invited. Make sure every member knows he is responsible for bringing in his friends and acquaintances, and following through in *selling* them on Senior Scouting. This means inviting them and perhaps seeing that they get to the first open-house program, asking them back to the second program, and so on.

Somewhere toward the end of the series — unless a prospect has started asking questions about membership — his friend, and one or two other members, should pop the sixty-four-dollar question of whether he wants to join. If you catch a fellow early in the game, he may be one of your most enthusiastic *salesmen* to work on the remaining prospects.

To help keep a man *sold* later, it's wise to inform him before he joins, of the obligations as well as the privileges. Let him know, for example, the Crew and Program Committee work, and the dues and approximate share of expenses expected of him.

At the time he pledges to membership, or when he turns in his written application, have a formal but brief ceremony of welcome. In addition, each member should personally welcome him. The group may take for granted its feelings toward the new man, but he may not. Let him know definitely that you're glad he's one of the gang.

Of course, the whole Unit participates in recruiting; but if leadership of it is everybody's business, it may work out to be nobody's business. Many Senior Units have a Membership Committee to keep everybody on the ball. In an Explorer Post, for instance, the committee may include the Assistant Crew Leaders, the Assistant Guide as chairman, and the Assistant Advisor as advisor. They are the clearing house for plans and action on maintaining and increasing membership.



Formal Senior Scout ceremonies in public are excellent recruiting opportunities. Invite prospective members to such occasions.

Timing is important. If you wait until recruiting is immediately necessary, whatever you do may be "too little too late." At least you miss the full effect that the same efforts would have gained earlier. Anticipate your *market* weeks, or even months ahead.

For example, if your Unit has several fellows going away to college next month, the best time to recruit replacements would have been this summer, with an adventurous outdoor program and the help of the departing members. It's not too late to use them now before they leave. Another appropriate time to plan a membership campaign is two or three months before your Unit charter is due for renewal. Plan on enough new men to offset any lost during the year.

Yes, recruiting requires planning and push to give your Unit fresh blood. However, yours might be like the Sea Scout Ship in a rural Oklahoma community. The Ship was launched with eight members and within two months had ten more. How come? The Skipper had twin daughters, age 16 — evidently *sweet* 16. At a meeting of their girls' club they announced that dad's Ship needed recruits. The whole club voted to date Sea Scouts only!

HELPS

Air Training Aids

By Ralph Johnson, Anniston, Ala.

"UNITED 16, New York, 1530 weather, ceiling 500, overcast, visibility 3 miles, light smoke, temperature 75, dewpoint 68, barometer 2998."

"New York, United 16, roger."

Air Scout Squadron 308, flying in a mainliner with "one foot on the ground," so to speak, was listening to Captain Jim Grant of United Air Lines receive the weather report from the airfield at which this particular flight would soon land.

A few minutes later a steady hum was accompanied by the voice of a feminine broadcaster which reported, "You are now on the beam." As the hum broke into dot-dashes, the voice monotoned, "You are now in the A-zone, I'll switch you to the twilight signal."

In a few seconds the record player had stopped and another disc was substituted. This time a problem in navigation was the subject and a slide projector flashed the problem on a screen step by step as it was explained by the narrator on the recording.

Few Squadrons realize the wealth of interesting training aids available at their fingertips which for the most part are free for the asking.

The larger airlines and manufacturers maintain educational services which supply motion pictures, lectures recordings, slide films and booklets to school classes and interested groups such as Air Scout squadrons.

Thumb through your favorite aviation magazine for the addresses of the companies and airlines, and drop them a card requesting information and film catalogues. Here are a couple of starters: United Air Lines School and College, 80 E. 42nd St., N. Y. 17, N. Y., and Motion Picture and Speakers Bureau, Westinghouse Electric Corporation, P. O. Box 1017, Pittsburgh 30, Pa.

Airplane manufacturers will gladly supply Air Scouts with huge photos of their product, diagrams such as lubrication charts of engines, exploded views of planes and parts, and manuals. A special Air Scout edition of a manual entitled "Enginology" which covers all the fundamentals of engines, has been printed by Wright Aeronautical Corp., Wood-Ridge, N. J.

The Liaison Officers from the Army Air Corps have as one of their duties the obtaining of training material from the military. Many indeed are the aids they can help secure: films, slides, AAF charts and diagrams, manuals, and possibly salvage instruments, parts, engines, mock-ups, exhibits and perhaps Air Force instructors for certain subjects. Your Liaison Officer may be reached at your Regional Office. He is in his position to help you. Use him.

The Navy has authorized release of certain equipment to Scout Units. Ask your Regional Scout office whether or not the material you want is available.

A Squadron library of aviation magazines, CAA bulletins, War Department manuals (see Bibliography on page 404, Air Scout Manual) will be a very valuable asset to any Air Scout hangar.

The nearby airport is the setting for the Unit's direct aviation training. Line inspections, operation of the controls of aircraft on the ground, observing mechanics as they service or repair craft gives the Air Scout a chance to add to the skills he has gained in the Air Scout hangar.

Investigate. You will find much material not mentioned here that will "streamline" the squadron program and accelerate advancement to Air Scout Ace.

Tours of the local airport help Air Scouts become familiar with each type of plane and its peculiarities.