SHORTS

"Yankee Doodle Dandy"

The Tamarack Council of New Jersey, at a recent camporee came up with a Patrol game that is bound to spread around the country. It calls for seven Scouts, one saw, one axe, one log about 12" in diameter and 8' to 10' long, one frying pan, pancake mix, water, and a fire by friction set for each Patrol. (Local adaptations may change the number and equipment.)

Patrols line up with equipment ready and at the signal start.

No. 1 man saws off a 15" length of wood.

No. 2 man splits wood into kindling.

No. 3 man collects tinder and lays fire.

No. 4 man lights fire using fire by friction, while No. 5 man mixes pancake batter.

No. 6 man cooks the pancake, and No. 7 man eats it and then whistles "Yankee Doodle Dandy."

The first acceptable tune indicates the winning Patrol, but properly prepared fire site and well-cooked pancakes are "musts."

Swap Your Slides

Mr. F. A. Anderson of New Castle, Indiana, has suggested an idea which this column is going to try. There are undoubtedly many Scouters who would like to swap neckerchief slides — perhaps on an individual basis and perhaps on a Troop basis. But how can they get in touch with each other? That's where this page comes in.

Anyone wishing to swap should send his name, address, and Scout affiliation to: Editor, "Scouting Shorts," SCOUTING Magazine, 2 Park Avenue, New York 16, N. Y., together with a *stamped, self-addressed envelope.* List the type of slide you want to swap and whether you want to swap one or two or a dozen. On November 1, the deadline, these names will be compiled into one list, and the list will be mailed to those swappers on the list. Read the list and select the type of slide you want. Then bargain directly by mail with the fellow who has what you want.

SCOUTING magazine cannot take responsibility for inequities arising from swapping. It's a case of "let the swapper beware." But, it's fun to try.

EXPLORER INVESTITURE CEREMONY

By Paul F. Runge,
Asst. Scout Executive, Atlanta, Ga.

TO RECOGNIZE NEW EXPLORERS IN THE TROOP.

PROPS: Two large and seven medium candles. The seven medium candles are mounted on the left side of the table, while the large one is mounted on the extreme right. The remaining large one is used as a torch by the Scoutmaster.

In the darkened room, with only the torch candle lit, the Explorers are asked to come forward and face the table. The Scoutmaster and Explorer Advisor are in back of the table.

SCOUTMASTER: You young men stand on the threshold of a new adventure. As Scouts in this Troop you have had fun, companionship, and good experiences in the days gone by. As explorers of the future you have new worlds to grasp, new visions to see, new horizons to conquer.

You see before you seven candles representing the stars of the Big Dipper. As I light this star, know that it stands for the larger opportunities of service which you will have. This one means the greater responsibilities that will be yours, along with your greater privileges. The next one is the steady flame of loyalty you have had and will continue to have for your home, your church, your school, your leaders, your unit. This one points out your opportunity to render leadership to the boys in this Troop and elsewhere. This star is to remind you to "Be Prepared," at all times. The light from this star will help to open doors of vocational exploring to you. This last star is to point out to you the way to Polaris, the North Star.

(*Continues and lights the big candle on the right.*) As explorers of old were guided across the uncharted ocean, the unmapped wilderness of regions never before seen by man; even as explorers today are guided by that same unfailing light, I ask you to remember that this North Star represents your Scout Oath and Law. Wherever you go, whatever you do, as you gaze into the heavens above, remember always in your hearts when you see Polaris the principles which you tonight as young men will reaffirm. If you are willing to accept the Oath and Law as your guide for your destinies, please answer, "I will." (*They answer*)

It is now my pleasure to present to you Mr. ....., your Explorer Advisor, who will counsel with you in your Explorer activities, while I continue to work with you in your various leadership capacities in our Troop.

He will present to you your Explorer certificates.

New EXPLORER FILMSTRIPS

Six new color filmstrips are being released to help explain this new program to Explorers and Explorers-to-be, Sponsors and Sponsors-to-be. Three of the strips are probably waiting for you at your Council office now.

The filmstrips have been created in pictures and language appealing to young men. They will be most effective when shown to Advisors and/or Scoutmasters in the presence of young men. They will be equally effective in telling the Explorer story to all Scouters, from the newest Neighborhood Commissioner to the most veteran Executive Board member.

Explorer Units and Explorer Crews in Troops will use the strips repeatedly to orient new officers, leaders, and committeemen, and occasionally the Sponsoring Institution and parents. Local Councils will use the strips in leadership training courses, roundtables, and organizing new Units.

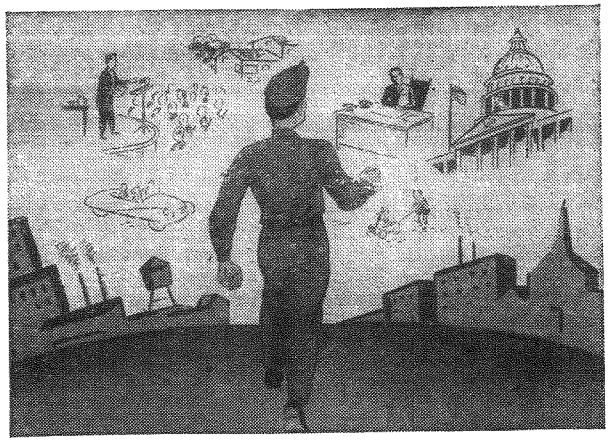
Three titles released in September are:

Exploring — What it is; how it works; what we do.

The Explorer Advisor — His relationships, responsibilities, and resources.

Planning a Three Months' Program — How and why it's done in Exploring.

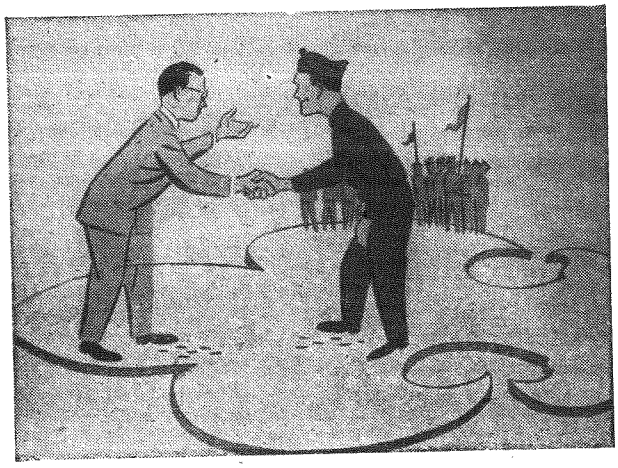
The three strips to be released soon are *The Explorer Unit Council, Planning the Explorer Expedition, and Planning the Explorer Social.*



The first filmstrip shows the three parts of EXPLORING — What it is, How it works, and What Explorers do.

Vigorous physical activity in the outdoors remains a principal feature of the new program.

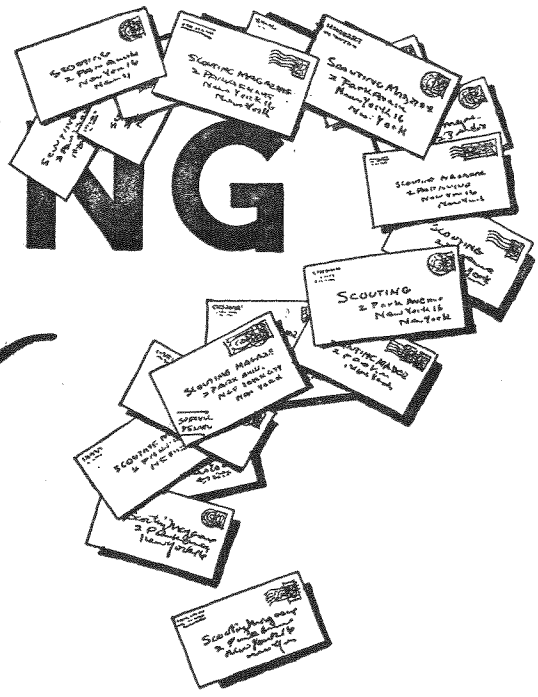
Planning program for a full three months results in better program and activities.



There's complete cooperation between Scoutmaster and Explorer Advisor in Exploring within the Troop.

EXPLORING

Your Questions



● Scarcely had the new program of Exploring been announced than a mounting tide of questions began to flow through the mail to the National Council office. Those most frequently asked are answered here:

Where can we find complete information about the new Explorer Organization and Recognition Plan?

A pamphlet has been printed to be inserted into the Explorer Scout Manual, the Sea Scout Manual, and the Air Scout Manual. Every Explorer should be encouraged to get a copy. It is called New Explorer Plan and Recognition, Cat. No. 3217.

Is there any material prepared to assist Troop Committees in selecting the Explorer Advisor?

In addition to the supplementary literature to the basic manuals mentioned above, there will be six very valuable filmstrips for training. There will be new Explorer Training Courses, and revisions to "Hints on Explorer Leadership" (formerly "Hints on Senior Scout Leadership"), Cat. No. 3482, "Guide For Selecting Leaders of Boys," Cat. No. 6147, and Job of the Advisor in Exploring card, Cat. No. 4277.

What Uniform is worn by Explorers?

For dress occasion, Explorers of Troops and Posts may wear the official khaki Scout or Scouter uniform with a maroon tie, or they may wear the official green Explorer uniform. In either case, the "Explorer B.S.A." strip will replace the "Boy Scouts of America" strip on the shirt. Explorers in Ships or Squadrons will continue to wear the uniform of their program, or the khaki Scout or Scouter uniform with a maroon tie and the appropriate strip. All members of a Crew in a Troop or Unit will wear the same dress Uniform.

For fatigue, all Explorers will wear the official Explorer fatigue uniform, including blue dungarees, white "T" shirt, blue fatigue cap, and optional blue jacket and white leggings.

How do Scoutmasters register Explorers as they reach their fourteenth birthday?

On form "Transfer of Boy Scouts to Explorer Within the Troop," Cat. No. 6196. This form is furnished without cost through the Local Council Office. If the 14-year-old transfers from the Troop to an Explorer Unit, the regular transfer form, Cat. No. 6100, will be used. No fee is involved in the transfer within the Troop. If transferring from the Troop to a separate Unit, a proportionate fee will be charged.

How often do Explorers in a Troop meet?

At least once each month, with the Advisor, to carry out an Explorer Program, planned and operated in the Explorer fashion. Explorers in the Troop may meet just as frequently as their time and schedule will allow. Where a large percentage of the Troop is over fourteen, only a few of them may be in active Troop offices, and the others may meet in Explorer activities on a regular Unit schedule of once a week.

Must every Scout, fourteen years of age or over, become an Explorer?

Yes. "Explorer" is the official term applied to every member of the Boy Scouts of America, fourteen and over, who is not registered as a Scouter. It replaces the term, "Senior Scout."

Is the new member of Exploring required to have a physical examination?

No. The requirement of a physical examination for Exploring has been dropped. However, members should be encouraged to have an annual physical examination. The Local Council and the Explorer Unit may set up their own standards and requirements concerning physical examinations before participating in activities.

Is the name, "Scout," applied to Explorers, Sea Explorers, or Air Explorers?

No. The official terminology is "Explorer," "Sea Explorer," or "Air Explorer."

Does a Boy Scout have to earn the Apprentice rank when he becomes an Explorer?

No. When becoming an Explorer — whether previously a Boy Scout or not — he is received with a formal investiture ceremony. If the Explorer chooses to earn Exploring ratings or to specialize in Sea Explorer ranks or Air Explorer ranks and ratings, he will first qualify as an Apprentice Explorer, and then proceed with his higher advancement.

May an Explorer earn Boy Scout ranks and Merit Badges?

Yes. The Explorer may earn any Merit Badge after he is qualified as an Apprentice Explorer or as a Second

Class Scout. He may work toward Eagle Rank by qualifying first for any one of the following: 1. Apprentice and Outdoor Skills Rating. 2. Bronze Award. 3. Second and First Class Scout Rank.

Where on the Explorer Uniform are the Explorer Rating Badges Worn?

On the right sleeve four inches from the bottom.

Where are the Bronze, Gold and Silver Awards Worn?

The Bronze or Gold Awards, metal or embroidered, will be worn centered on the left breast pocket. The Silver Award will be worn centered just above the left breast pocket. If worn with Eagle, Ace or Quartermaster badge, the award indicating current program is to wearer's right.

Do Explorers who were registered as Explorer Scouts in Posts prior to September 1, 1949, and who are working toward the rank of Woodsman, Frontiersman, and Ranger, lose their rank and have to begin over in the new Explorer Ratings?

No. Any Explorer Unit operating prior to September 1, 1949, may continue to use the Advancement Plan of Woodsman, Frontiersman, and Ranger, as late as January 1, 1951.

Does an Explorer who held the rank of Apprentice Explorer Scout, Apprentice Sea Scout, or apprentice Air Scout lose that rank and have to meet the new Apprentice requirements?

No. He will be recognized as an Apprentice Explorer.

If an Explorer earns Scout ranks or Merit Badges, does he go before the Boy Scout Board of Review and Court of Honor?

No. All review for advancement and all recognition should be made by the Explorer Unit Council. The Unit Council is made up of the Explorers who are elected officers, the Unit Advisor, and representative members of the Unit Committee. In a Boy Scout Troop, that may consist of the Explorer Advisor and representatives from the Troop Committee. Frequently the Scoutmaster will participate, especially where there are few Explorers in the Troop, and few or no elected officers in the Crew.

What changes have been made in Sea Scouting?

Practically none. Since it is possible for a former Boy Scout on his fourteenth birthday to transfer directly to an Explorer Ship, Apprentice requirements had to be eliminated as a requirement for membership. Therefore, the investiture ceremony is substituted. However, an Explorer Ship should set up and maintain standards which will protect the new member and the Ship as far as safety standards are concerned, prior to the Explorer's participation in Ship activities, particularly those related to boating. Since all Advisors of Explorer Units are given the official title of "Advisor," the Skipper will be officially registered as Ship's Advisor. However, for the purpose of ceremony and Ship activities, the title of "Skipper" may continue to be used. Titles of Boatswain, O.D., and Yeoman, may also be continued. The "Sea Scout" will now be the "Sea Explorer." The program, the uniform, the advancement requirements beyond Apprentice, the general activities formerly known as Sea Scouting will continue to be used without change in Explorer Ships.

What changes have been made in Air Scouting?

Practically none. The rank of Apprentice is no longer required for membership as an Air Explorer. The former Boy Scout, or a non-Scout, becomes a member through an investiture ceremony. The Squadron Leader's official title will now be "Squadron Advisor." The "Air Scout" will now be the "Air Explorer." The same program, uniform, advancement requirements, and general activities formerly used by Air Scouts will continue to be used by Air Explorers.

Should every Troop with one or more Scouts fourteen years old recruit an Explorer Advisor?

Yes. Unless the sponsoring institution already sponsors an Explorer Post, Ship, or Squadron. In that case, the Advisor of that Unit serves as Explorer Advisor to all Explorers in the Troop, as well as the Explorers in his Unit. The Explorer in the Troop should meet with the Explorer Unit as frequently as his schedule allows, without taking him away from his responsibility in the Troop.

Will the Advisor be counted in the Crusade goal, "Leadership Two Deep?"

No. The Advisor is not an Assistant Scoutmaster. The Explorer Advisor is a new job and his relationship is only to Explorers. Until there are two deep in the Troop, the Advisor may, if he chooses, and if the Scoutmaster desires, help out where possible with Troop responsibilities.

Must a sponsor organize a separate Explorer Unit when there are five or more Explorers in the Troop?

No. There may be any number of Explorers in a Troop. The decision to organize a separate Unit is the responsibility of the sponsoring institution. However, it may if desirable be encouraged by the Scoutmaster, Advisor, and young men Explorers.

May Explorers registered in a separate Explorer Unit serve as Junior Leaders in a Boy Scout Troop?

Yes. Service to Boy Scout Troops is a major service opportunity for all Explorers, and a particular responsibility for Explorers in the Troop. After age 16 it is not recommended that an Explorer hold positions of Patrol leadership.

How old must an Explorer Advisor be?

At least 21 years of age, but experience indicates that a man with broad experience, possibly the age of the dads of Explorers, is the best man.

Who selects the Advisor?

Within the Troop this is the responsibility of the Troop Committee after consultation with the Scoutmaster and the prospective Explorers.

What happens to the old Senior Scout Unit?

The Senior Scout Outfit and the old Explorer Post automatically become Explorer Posts, unless they request a change to Explorer Ship or Explorer Squadron. Sea Scout Ships and Air Scout Squadrons will become Explorer Ships or Explorer Squadrons automatically, unless they request that they be recognized as Explorer Posts and use the new broader Explorer Program.

When a new Scout Troop is organized and it has one or more fourteen-year-old candidates, does an Advisor have to be recruited?

Yes, except when that institution already has an Explorer Unit or when one is organized at the same time as the Troop. In that case, the Explorer Advisor of that Unit, becomes the Advisor to the Explorers in the Troop.

Will Explorers in the Troop count in our Crusade membership goal for 1949 and 1950?

Yes. Explorers are members of the Troop.

Do we need to add any new men to our Troop Committee when we select an Advisor?

No, unless the Advisor is taken from the Committee. In that case, he should be replaced. However, if there is a Troop Committee of fewer than five, it is advisable to increase it.

EXPLORER PARTY NOTES

The Explorer Advisor who has a few positive suggestions when his Explorers need help in planning a party will have more than a negative effect on the affair. With the fall and winter social season under way, now is the time for all good Advisors to come to the aid of the party. Here are some aids to pass on to party committees.

Mixer

Sometimes a problem at the beginning of a party is to get the fellows and "gals" paired off if they are a bit on the shy side. Other times it is to break up couples of "steadies" for part of the program so that everybody mixes. An old trick in new form is matching halves of Autumn leaves. Get a maple or other brightly colored leaf for each couple. Cut each leaf in half, putting one half in a box for the girls and the other in a box for the fellows. When the party is assembled, everyone takes half a leaf and matches it with the other half. Thus they find partners for the first game, dance, or for refreshments.

Super Salesmen

To get young people acquainted at a party, try Super Salesmen. Cut out magazine pictures of vacuum cleaners, refrigerators, washing machines and other appliances. Give each Explorer one of the pictures. That is the product he must sell to as many of the girls as he can within the time allotted for the game. He may not interrupt another Explorer's sales talk. When he makes a sale, the girl initials the picture of his product. A girl may use as much "sales resistance" as she wishes before buying. The personality boy may find himself tied up with one girl for most of the time, while the less popular lad meets most of the girls by making quick "sales."

Warm Friendships

When you have the party divided off into couples, run a test to find which have the warmest friendship. Ask couples to hold hands. Then give each pair an ice cube to hold. The ones that melt their cube first, have the warmest friendship.

Lucky Lady

To get the lads to circulate during the evening, have someone secretly select one lucky lady for each half hour. At the end of each period the girl's name is announced, and the Explorer who is her partner at the time gets a prize.

Dagwood Specials

Everybody makes his own sandwiches when you set up a refreshment table with sliced bread and various spreads, cold cuts, relishes, and anything that Dagwood might use in one of his specials.

Fireplace Supper

A crew or small Unit who have a fireplace available at their base or someone's home, has the makings of some wonderful times. A fireplace supper, either stag or mixed, is an event in itself, or it may open an evening's program.

The equipment is inexpensive. No elaborate barbecue facilities are necessary. Get a wire grate, preferably with the wires criss-crossed. Stand four bricks on end in the fireplace; they support the grate. At just the right height for broiling meat.

Build a fire of hardwood, or try applewood. If you haven't had a steak broiled over an applewood fire, "you ain't tasted nuthin' yet!" Put on enough wood at the start — at least up to the tip of the bricks — to leave a good bed of coals when the flames die down. Wait till the coals form.

Then on the grate lay your meat. To keep it from sticking, and to retain its juices, sear both sides before broiling. This is done by turning it after a side has laid on the grate less than a minute. Turn the meat three or four times after that. Test with a fork to tell when done.

If you want to serve the meat in a bun or between slices of bread, try toasting the bun or bread. The wood fire adds a flavor to toast.

A variety of meat can be done on the grate. Frankfurters, hamburgers, steaks, fish and chicken are delicious with a wood smoke flavor. The cheaper cuts of steaks can be made tender by cubing them or pounding them with the back of a cleaver or a light hammer. Fish should be split in half as for planking. Chicken should be cut in pieces as for frying. Broiling chicken pieces on a grate is easier than doing a whole one on a spit.

Fireplace suppers may become as popular with your Unit as they did with one Post that had them regularly on Sunday nights for three winters. The more often you have 'em, the better your cooking.