BLUE RIBBON

Win your Exployer Crew or Unit a Blue Ribbon Event certificate. Send in the story (with pictures if possible) of *how* you put over one of your best activities. Other Crews and Units will use it too!

Conservation Projects

Explorer Farmers

By H. C. Evans, Jr., Advisor, Post 95
Junior Chamber of Commerce,
Morristown, Tenn.

When a local school teacher-farmer left for a summer of graduate work, he offered his five-acre farm with equipment, rent free, to Post 95 for whatever use we wished. A Post leader volunteered his free time as overseer, and Scout Farm was born.

Sharing all work and responsibility, fifteen Post members joined the summer project. Thirteen of them were having their first farming experience. They did their own cooking. Before the end of the season, the menus included besides fresh vegetables such delicacies as home-made ice cream, pies, cakes, and biscuits.

The acreage was planted to fifteen varieties of vegetables. The Explorers added seventy chickens and two rabbits to the farm.

In spite of the driest summer in several years, a late planting date, and inexperience of the Explorer farmers, Scout Farm was a complete success. The modest profit realized was used by vote of the farmers to buy equipment for the Post.

Several Scout ranks were completed at the farm. A tally showed that the farm would result in fifty Merit Badges in addition to requirements on Explorer ratings.

Stream Stockers

By James A. Newcomb, Advisor, Post 8
Rotary Club, Peterborough, N. H.

We have been restocking six miles of a trout brook. When done, it will be turned over to boys and girls under 16 years of age. There is no legal restriction on older fishermen, but woe to one seen fishing in that kids' brook. It will be a serious social blunder!

We had wonderful cooperation from the fish and game warden. From the state we borrowed 16mm films on stocking trout, and a conservation officer spoke to us several times on how to do the job.

We had to get the permission of all the land-owners. Everyone came through with an OK, and some donated their own time to help. We used the state fish truck and baskets. We got Boy Scouts to help with the fish planting.

Some of the things still to be done are building fish ladders, also data boxes. The boxes are to collect from the fishermen such information as the number and size of fish caught, so we can tell how well our brook is producing. We have to build a few cutbacks — put a log here and there to divert the current toward a bank, and undercut it to form a hiding place for trout. When the stream gets low, we will shift a few rocks to make pools.

Our Explorers are learning there is more to fishing than baiting a hook. They realize now that if they are to enjoy fishing and hunting, they must put something into the field, that the state alone cannot do everything in conservation.

Trail Builders

By Howard L. Ulman, Jr., Advisor, Post 110
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Williamsport, Pa.

Our Blue Ribbon Event was the blazing of a thirty-one-mile hiking trail through the rugged mountain area east of Williamsport. Much valuable woods experience was gained in compass and map reading, camping, hiking, and nature study.

The Loyalsock Trail is patterned after the famous Appalachian Trail, in that it tends to follow the ridges of the mountain range. We planned it to pass many points of interest such as mountain knobs and secluded streams. Winding its way through the most wooded area in this state, the Loyalsock Trail provides a continuously marked pathway that Post 110 hopes will increase the public's interest in hiking.

We welcome any inquiries from any Explorer or Scout Unit who are interested in hiking our remote and interesting trail. Any of the four sections of it can easily be covered in one day.

Our Local Council has mimeographed copies of detailed information about the trail that may be obtained from the West Branch Council, 4 E. 3d Street, Williamsport, Pa. We also have an 8mm color film about the construction of the pathway, which is available for showing to large groups.

Future plans include construction of side trails to the main one, building lean-tos, and continued maintenance of the trail.

Lake Charters

By David W. Pool, Former Skipper, Ship 88
Kiwanis Club, Sharon, Pa.

The Explorers and leaders of the Ship charted the Pymatuning Lake area and published a guide map of this area on the Ohio-Pennsylvania line. The lake covers 5,000 acres and is 16 miles long.

Sold at 50 cents apiece, the map earned over $300 for the Ship the first year.

The map was printed on a 17x22 inch paper folded three times with a boating photo on the front. Information included about the area was the location, history, recreation facilities, tenting area, boating, fishing accommodations, wild life sanctuary, fees,

EVENTS

Five Explorers of Post 13, Heuvelton, N. Y., receive God and Country awards from Bishop W. Earl Ledden in the Malone Methodist Church, watched by Advisor, the Rev. William Loan.

Photo by Robideau Studios, Malone, N. Y.

Thirteen Explorers, surrounding their Scoutmaster, Floyd Hann of Troop 45, Brazil, Ind., received the Eagle award at a Court of Awards in which Governor Henry F. Schriker took part.

Photo by Terre Haute Tribune-Star

and regulations for use of the area. Also included were the Scout Oath and Law, and the Sea Promise.

Gathering information for the map took a year and a half. Sea Explorers and leaders charted the shore line, channels, boating hazards, islands, bays, picnic areas, roads, and buildings. Sources of information were hunters, fishermen, boatmen, landowners, and anyone who knew something of interest about the lake area. Most valuable was the training received in map making, seamanship, and navigation, plus service rendered to the community.

Forest Fire Fighters

By L. Wilson Kidd, Advisor, Post 101
Izaak Walton League, Sheridan, Wyo.

Our outstanding event was a three-month training course on fire fighting in the national forests. It was set up with the cooperation of the District Scout Committee and the U. S. Forest Service. Each month two three-hour meetings were held. During April and May the meetings were in the school gymnasium. In June they were outdoors.

The indoor meetings consisted of lectures by the Assistant Forest Supervisor and rangers on various phases of fire fighting. The talks were supplemented by colored slides and sound movies.

Included were determination of danger zones, reporting a fire, procuring personnel, tools required, organizing transportation, setting up a fire camp, organizing a fire party, procuring stores and equipment, checking tools in and out, time keeping, figuring payroll, setting up and operating a radio.

During June, the Explorers took trips into the mountains and set up and maintained a camp. They put into practice what they had learned, covering all phases of fire fighting. Small aircraft were used to report findings to the ground forces. The only thing missing was an actual fire.

When it was over, our Explorers were well trained to serve in an emergency back of the fire line, thereby relieving older men for duty.

PAUL

BY HARRY BARTELT,
Scout Executive, North Star Council, Duluth, Minn.

A BOY'S DREAM is to be a man, to do the things men do, and experience the satisfactions of the doing. Explorers are just short of the fulfillment of that dream.

An area unsurpassed in opportunity for adventure is the Superior National Forest in northern Minnesota, with its ancient canoe trails, many of them overgrown and impassable, used for hundreds of years by Indian, the trapper, and the voyageur.

The North Star Council Trail Camps, conducted during the last six summers, gave Explorers a challenging experience in the Superior National Forest. As a result, the old Grand Portage Trail, a stretch of nine miles from Lake Superior to the Pigeon River, was cleared and made passable. This undertaking, sponsored by the United States Department of the Interior through the Indian Forest Service, was completed in time for the Minnesota Centennial in 1949.

The most recent Trail Camps were sponsored by the United States Forest Service under the direction of the Supervisor of the Superior National Forest. A seven mile section of the Kekekabic Trail was cleared. This provided a ready access into remote sections for fire fighting and forest protection.

The last two summers have been occupied with clearing, rebuilding and opening new portages between lakes along canoe routes traveled by foresters and others. This required not only cutting and clearing away brush and trees, but building foot paths, bridges and raised trails through swamps.

The Trail Camps were not all work, for trail building was confined to mornings. Afternoons and evenings were spent in fishing, swimming, berry picking and canoeing over unexplored waterways.

These young men worked and camped in the woods. They had the opportunity to try out their earlier Scout training. They set their tents, made ground beds and slept on them for ten days. Other skills used were axemanship, bridge and dock building, rock wall building, cross cut sawing, canoeing, and hiking.

The Explorers were organized and worked as Crews, under their own Crew Leaders. Each year some had the opportunity to advance in leadership responsibility. One attended all six camps and during the last two years was assistant director.

Much of the value of the trail building to these young men include the satisfactions of doing a job recognized as "man's work." The United States Forest Service officials expressed hearty approval of the work done. Furthermore, many of the trail builders find an increased interest in conservation.

They learn from observation on the trail that many so-called campers leave distressingly unkempt and dirty campsites. They learn first-hand about the destructiveness of forest fires. In fact they begin to appreciate that good Scout camping practices are just what is desired in the wilderness.

A white pine begins to have individuality and is no longer confused with spruce or jack pine. Deer and bear tracks in the mud at the edge of the lake make life seem near and desirable. All in all Explorers crave real adventure in faraway places.

BUNYAN AXEMEN

Paul Bunyan's Axemen

To encourage the basic trail-building skill of axemanship, the North Star Council has a club appropriately called Paul Bunyan's Axemen. Their purpose is to become skilled in using and caring for the axe and in turn, pass the skill along to Scouts and Explorers. They wear the double-bitted axe badge, pictured above, on a camp jacket or sweater, not on the official uniform.

The application for membership, with its two-part purpose, reads:

I hereby apply for membership as a crew member with Paul Bunyan's Axemen. I agree to help carry out the purpose of the club which is to:

1. Become skillful in handling an axe by consistent practice.

2. Teach Scouts and Explorers "Safety Through Skill" in use of the axe.

Membership Requirements

Applicants must be at least 14 years old.

1. Own an axe with a properly fitting head weighing at least 2 pounds, with a handle at least 24 inches long, and properly fitted with a sheath. All following requirements are to be done with this axe.

2. Demonstrate ability to sharpen the axe.

3. Demonstrate Safety Rules in use of the axe.

4. Select a tree at least 6 inches DBH (diameter at breast height) for harvest cutting or thinning; drop the tree; swamp it and cut into two or more logs. (For harvest cutting, a tree must be mature and used for a definite purpose. For thinning, a tree is removed because of poor formation, disease, or competition with more desirable trees.)

Safety Rules

1. Axe head must be tight.

2. Edge of axe must be sharp.

3. Sheath the axe when not in use.

4. Keep spectators at safe distance when chopping.

5. Make sure brush, branches, or other obstacles are cleared away before beginning to chop.

TIMBER FOREMAN CERTIFICATE

Paul Bunyan's Axemen

This Certifies that

_____

Is Appointed as a Timber Foreman

He is authorized to examine candidates and to organize new clubs, all for the purpose of carrying out the aims of Axemen's Club, namely:

"To teach Scouters to be skillful Axemen so they in turn are able to teach Scouts."

Date_____ Signed_____

Woods Boss

6. Secure firm footing before beginning to chop.

7. Chop on firm wooden chopping block by directing each stroke toward the block.

8. Stand on opposite side of a log when branching the log.

9. Stop and rest when tired.

We started our club with a small group of expert axemen at least twenty-one years of age. They recognized the purpose of the club as not social or honorary and accepted the responsibility of passing on their expertness to others.

This charter group received the Timber Foreman's certificate, as illustrated. Later more Timber Foremen were appointed when needed to carry out the program of the club.

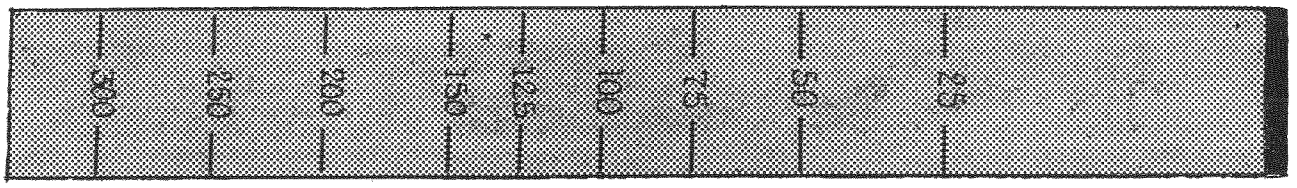
As soon as a Foreman receives his appointment, he may examine candidates. Members who are not Foremen are known as Swampers.

The Paul Bunyan's Axemen Club operates informally with no regular meetings. Combining the results of such a service group with opportunities for wilderness experience like the Trail Camps, we have something that helps hold young men in the Explorer program.

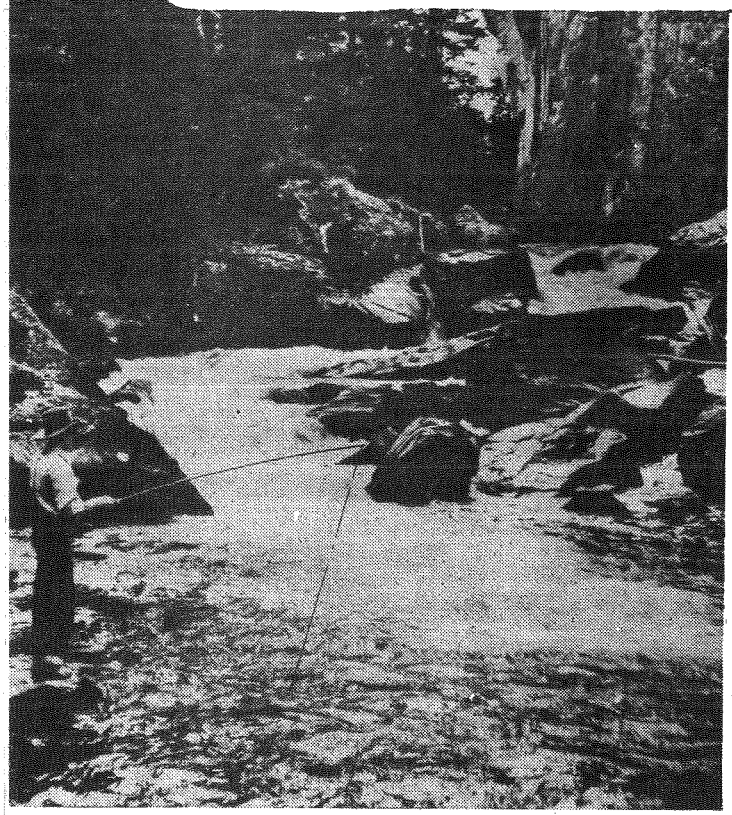
Practical references on axemanship:

Handbook For Boys, chapter 15 (Cat. No. 3225)
Scout Field Book, pow-wow 15 (Cat. No. 3649)
Explorer Manual, chapters 2, 7 (Cat. No. 3506)
Book For Junior Woodsmen by Bernard S. Mason, A. S. Barnes & Company, New York, 1945.

BUCKSAW CONTEST — ***Cut out this Bucksaw Scale and paste on back of a ruler. Get all wood together. Saw steadily for five minutes. Stack wood and measure end of each piece as shown. Total your score.***



PUBLIC FORESTS AND PARKS



YOU SAY YOUR EXPLORERS WANT TO GET OUT of their own "backyard" on their high adventure this year. Help them to do so, and they'll still be around a year from now, with more of their friends, planning another high adventure.

Young men like to do things in a big way. They like to belong to groups that do big things. That urge is satisfied by an expedition to a national or state forest or park.

Information about national forests is available in a booklet called *National Forest Vacations.* A few excerpts from it are given below. It may be ordered for 25 cents from the Supt. of Documents, U. S. Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

Exploring Our National Parks and Monuments is published by Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston. A paper covered edition costs $2.50.

A price list of booklets and folders giving information about the individual national parks is available from the Superintendent of Documents.

Information about your state parks and forests can be obtained by writing to your state capitol.

The Event or Expedition Director will be wise to get all available information early. Then his committee can plan reservations, permits, costs, equipment, transportation, and other details. Chapters 1 and 16 in the *Explorer Manual* will help.

WEST VIRGINIA

NAME	HEADQUARTERS	SPECIAL FEATURES	OUTDOOR SPORTS	ACCOMMODATIONS
Monongahela (on U S 219, 220, and 250. 950 miles of forest roads; 490 miles of forest trails).	Elkins.	Southern Appalachian and Allegheny Mountains. Blackwater Canyon with [illegible] falls. [illegible] Seneca Rocks on [illegible] acres of virgin [illegible] Sawmills. Iron [illegible] mines.	Trout and bass fishing; deer, bear, grouse [illegible]	Eighty improved forest camp and picnic grounds. [illegible] tourist homes.

MINNESOTA

Chippewa (on U S 2 and [illegible] 1,180 miles of forest roads).	Cass Lake.	Winnibigoshish Dam—largest reservoir at [illegible] of Mississippi. Lakes. Forest [illegible].	Fishing and hunting in season, boating, swimming.	Thirty-one improved forest camp and picnic grounds. Numerous commercial resorts and cabin camps nearby.

NEW MEXICO

[illegible] (on U S 64 and 285. 510 [illegible] of forest roads; 640 miles of [illegible] trails).	Taos.	Home and burial place of Kit Carson. Well known art colony and Taos Indian pueblo. Sangre de Cristo [illegible] including [illegible] Peak, 13,[illegible]	Stream and lake fishing, big-game and turkey hunting, scenic drives, [illegible] good [illegible]	Fourteen improved forest camp and picnic grounds. Commercial [illegible] and cabin

ARKANSAS

Ouachita (on U S 70, 71, and 270. 1,670 miles of forest roads. 420 miles of forest trails).	Hot Springs National Park. (Forest lies partly in Oklahoma.)	Ouachita and Kiamichi Mountains. Four lakes. Caddo Gap, where De Soto fought Indians. Crystal Cave. Little Missouri Falls. Slate and crystal mines. Four game refuges. Medicinal springs.	Bass fishing; deer, turkey, and quail hunting in season; scenic drives; swimming.	Twenty forest camp and picnic grounds (Arkansas and Oklahoma). Commercial hotels, resorts, and cabin camps near the forest.
Ozark (on U S 64 and 71. 860 miles of forest roads. 80 miles of [illegible] [illegible]; 490 miles [illegible]	Russellville.	Inviting [illegible] [illegible] Caves	Swimming, deer and small-game hunting [illegible]	Eight improved forest camp and picnic grounds. Commercial cabin camps [illegible]

OREGON

Fremont (on U S 395. 1,806 miles of forest roads; 210 miles of forest [illegible]).	Lakeview.	Snow-clad peaks, ice caves, waterfalls, and scores of beautiful mountain lakes. Lava caves. Deschutes River. Newberry Crater. "Century Drive." Mount Jefferson Wild Area and Three Sisters Wilderness Area. Abert fault east of Lake Abert, second largest [illegible] fault in world. Indian [illegible] [illegible] ings. Protected herds of antelope. Desert.	Outstanding rainbow trout fishing, deer hunting in season, scenic drives, saddle and pack trips, winter sports. Exceptionally good deer hunting in season.	Fifty-five improved forest camp and picnic grounds. Commercial dude ranches, cabin camps, and resorts in and near forest. Seventeen improved forest camp and picnic grounds. Commercial cabin camps in and near forest.

CONSERVATION PROJECTS

This is a man-size field, fully able to challenge whatever adult ambitions and abilities your Explorers have. Its obvious service and outdoor angles also make it a natural for Explorers.

To really accomplish something in conservation, your young men have to do considerable planning and probably call for expert help. That help is willingly and capably given when you know where to ask for it. If a phone call can't reach the expert, a three-cent stamp can. Get in touch with one of these when setting up a project:

Local officers of state conservation or forestry department. Local officers of U. S. Dept. of Agriculture Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service, and Forest Service. County Agricultural Agent. Soil Conservation District supervisors. College or school science teachers. Industrial foresters. Izaak Walton League Chapters. Other sportsmen's clubs. Garden clubs. County or municipal park departments. Friends of the Land Chapters. Audubon societies. Other nature clubs. Conservation Committees of service clubs.

Conservation work makes your Explorers think and act "big." They get a vision of the needs of other people, and of the years ahead as well as today. The Conservation Pledge (right) summarizes this "bigness." Few projects are "one-shot" jobs or "quickies" on any group's schedule. However, they can be broken down into separate tasks and incorporated into your Crew or Unit schedule.

SCOUTING magazine has a reprint titled "The Good Earth," plus lists of conservation projects. Your Unit or Crew may get a copy by writing the Boy Scouts of America, 2 Park Ave., New York 16, N. Y.

The lists include wildlife, forestry, soil and water conservation projects. The projects are based on young man and adult interests; so that men of all ages will enjoy working on them together. They go into working details enough for a group to develop and carry out the selected project.

The activities are built around the plan of (1) Finding the problem; (2) Building an exhibit or demonstration about it; (3) Showing what anyone can do to help solve it; (4) Developing a continuing Unit or Crew program to solve the problem.

Many of these activities can be applied to the Local Council or Unit camping program. The Explorers who work on them will find they have qualified for various parts of their ratings and awards.

Copies of the Conservation Pledge for distribution and display are available at cost from Conservation Pledge, Outdoor Life, 353 Fourth Ave., New York 10, N. Y.

Posters of the pledge suitable for framing, printed in blue and gold on glossy paper, 8½ x 11 inches, are priced as follows:

1 poster 6 cents, 10 posters 25 cents, 100 posters $1.50, 1,000 posters $10.

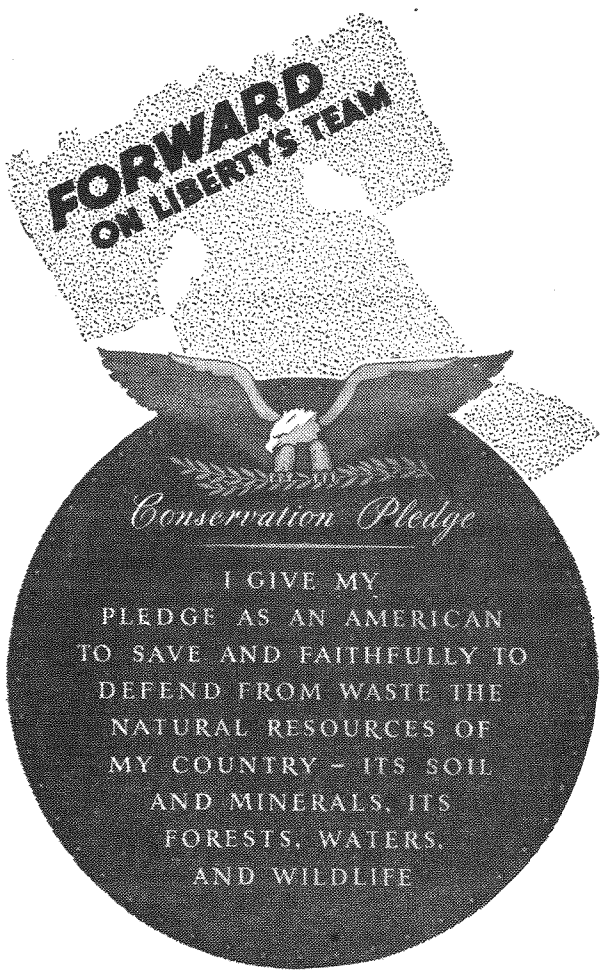
Stickers bearing the pledge design in blue and gold, 2 x 2 inches, useful for sealing envelopes, are priced as follows:

24 stickers 15 cents, 120 stickers 70 cents, 240 stickers $1.30, 480 stickers $2.50, 1,008 stickers $5.

Decals of the pledge in blue and gold, 4 inches in diameter, are 10 cents each or 12 for $1.

Stamp, 2½ x 2½ inches for imprinting the pledge on envelopes or other paper is $1.17.

In their *Annual Report to Chartered Institution,* Explorer Troop Crews and Units are pledging that "We will plan at least one conservation project." This is part of the "Forward On Liberty's Team" program for the next three years. Our liberty and democracy will survive only if youth realizes the vital need of conservation and learns how and starts now to do something about it.



PLANNING FOR APRIL

The highlight suggested for April and developed in this issue is CONSERVATION. Almost all the rest of the Explorer section, starting on page 22, is devoted to this theme. But below are some ideas of other things to do in April.

***

April 13 is Easter Sunday. Explorers of the Christian faith will want to attend church with their families.

***

This is the season to get preparations for your summer expedition, Philmont or other high adventure, into high gear. Page 26 tells how to get information on national and state forests and parks. It's also time to get outdoors more on short trips to toughen up for the big trip.

***

If the fishing season is open, have a dad and son fishing trip.

***

Get a gang to work on Swimming and Life Saving Merit Badges in preparation for summer activities. Explorers who have these two badges can serve as Troop instructors in them.

***

Three articles in the Scout section of this issue suggest programs for Explorers: Pioneer Tools For Civil Defense, Pioneering Skills, and Rediscover America.

Emergency Service

The new requirements for Emergency Service Explorer are listed and illustrated in the March BOYS' LIFE magazine.

Help From BOYS' LIFE

Besides the new Emergency Service requirements in the March BOYS' LIFE these features suggest additions to your Crew or Unit program:

"Square Pegs in Square Holes" (vocational exploration) "Smoke Jumper" (airborne forest fire fighters), "Start Your Garden Indoors," Cowboys Are Crazy" (Philmont ranch rodeo). How to make a boat trailer, fish landing net, camera blind, sea farin' tray, weather station in a bottle, nuthatch bookends, and pack basket. Ten ways to build a fire. Route of the Voyageurs (canoe trip). Mud Detective (soil and water conservation project). Sail making. "Here's Exploring."

"File Filosophy"

You can get a free copy of this 48-page booklet that gives valuable information about the selection, use, and care of files such as used for sharpening axes. Write to Nicholson File Company, Providence 1, Rhode Island, and ask for "File Filosophy."

"Our World of Work"

To make realistic plans for their careers, Explorers need accurate information about jobs today and the jobs that will be tomorrow. This booklet, written especially for teen-agers, gives them those facts. It discusses changes in the world of work in the past fifty years, offers interesting facts about major industries, and suggests trends for the future. Order from Science Research Associates, 57 W. Grand Ave., Chicago 10, Ill., (40¢ each, 3 for $1).

April Roundtable

Does your District hold an Explorer Roundtable each month for elected as well as commissioned leaders and Unit Committeemen? Here's a suggested agenda based on CONSERVATION.

EXHIBITS: 10 minutes

Packs. Miniature camp layouts, cooking fires, pioneering projects, etc. Wildlife feeding stations. *Conservation* and related Merit Badge pamphlets. Rodent traps. Erosion exhibits. Forest fire material. Homemade fire fighting equipment.

DEMONSTRATION & DO: 30 minutes

1. Miniature fire lays, cooking gadgets, etc.
2. Erosion model demonstration.
3. Conservation films.

OPENING: 5 minutes

Explorer Induction Ceremony (see *Explorer Manual* page 327, and SCOUTING magazine for October 1951, page 28).

HIGHLIGHT PRESENTATION: 20-30 minutes.

Local Conservation Needs by forester, game warden, county agricultural agent, or conservation club member.

PARTICIPATION: 30-45 minutes

Each Crew plans one of these projects as camp service events to be carried out by Units:

1. Erosion elimination.
2. Rodent eradication.
3. Tree planting.
4. Fire-fighting equipment.

Crews report to the Roundtable on their plans.

OLD TIMER'S IDEA: 10 minutes

Repeat and discuss Conservation Pledge (see page 27).

CLOSING: 5 minutes

1. Announcemnt of next Explorer Roundtable.
2. Song—"On My Honor."

NIVERSAL EXPLORER
ND SCL BADGES

O DISTINGUISH BETWEEN these two badges, the following description presented:

In the illustrations black indiates blue on the badge; white indiates silver; grey indicates gold.

The only difference between the niversal Explorer Badge and the enior Crew Leader Badge is that he Senior Crew Leader Badge has gold band on its circumference.

See drawing on facing page.

BOYS-IT'S FREE!

HE WONDERS OF CHEMISTRY"

s exciting new book shows how to amaze your friends h chemical magic, describes many fascinating home eriments, tells of fun, thrills and big future opporities for boys who know chemistry Special atomic gy feature Send today!

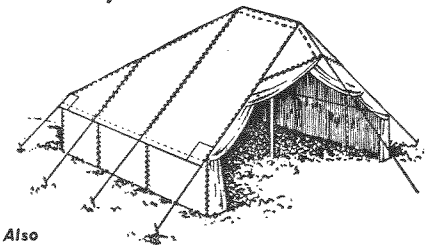
E PORTER CHEMICAL COMPANY

Prospect Ave., Hagerstown, Maryland

LEFT
Universal Explorer Badge, Cat. No. 5604.

RIGHT
Senior Crew Leader Badge, Cat. No. 5612.

Explorer's Tent by **POWERS**



Also
Wall and Pup Tents — Covers — Flies
SEND FOR SPECIAL SCOUT FOLDER
POWERS & CO. 5929 Woodland Ave. Philadelphia, Pa.

It's A Good Scout Habit To Mark Everything With

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"Be prepared" against losses, misuse, ownership disputes. Identify each scout, his clothing and equipment with Cash's Names. Easily attached by sewing or with Cash's NO-SO Cement. Ask your Dept. Store or write us. Samples on request.
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