

Wolf Cubs or Young Scouts

HOW TO TRAIN THEM

Everybody agrees in the importance of keeping touch with ex-Boy Scouts at the critical age between boyhood and manhood. Hence our scheme for "Old Scouts." But very many are also equally agreed on the importance of getting hold of boys younger than the Scout age, and shaping them in the right direction, while they are yet specially susceptible to good influence.

So convinced of this are many that a large number of boys are allowed to be Scouts before they have reached the authorized age.

This is bad for them and bad for the movement. They are apt to overstrain themselves in trying to do the same work as bigger boys. Then bigger boys feel ridiculous when parading with very small boys in the same uniform. For these reasons this scheme of Young Scouts is now offered to assist Scoutmasters and others who desire to give the youngsters some training, preliminary to their becoming "Boy Scouts."

Troops or patrols of Young Scouts can only be started with the sanction of the District Commissioner, provided suitable arrangements can be made.

Whether or not Young Scouts should be invited to join with the Scouts, or even be present at any parade, rally, or inspection, must be decided by the commissioner or other officer in charge of the arrangements.

It will, no doubt, encourage the Cubs to see their elder brothers, the Scouts, sometimes, and particularly a "Silver Wolf," who should be the ideal of every Cub.

On the other hand care must be taken to prevent the Cubs taking part in any event likely to cause strain or undue fatigue, and the feelings of the Scouts, themselves, must always be considered.

It will be noticed that the Young Scout's Promise does not contain direct reference to the Scout Law, nor is any knowledge of the laws required for his tests.

The reason for this is that it is felt the Scout Law of the real Scout is too serious a matter to be treated lightly, and that it is undesirable to ask young boys to promise to observe laws which they are not old enough to fully understand.

Scoutmasters in charge of Young Scouts, in consultation with their chaplain, should of course, teach their boys, in simple and practical manner what is meant by their promise of "duty to God," and also the sense of honor and responsibility; and give such other religious and moral instruction as they think necessary to prepare the Cub to become a good Scout.

This instruction will, no doubt, include most of the Scout Law in its simplest form, but the Cub should be trained to look on the Scout Law itself as part of the real Scout training which he will undertake when he is old enough to become a Scout.

The practice of the daily "good turn" will probably be one of the best methods of training the Cub's character for his real Scout's life.

RULES.

Title—Wolf Cubs or Young Scouts. Age—A boy can become a Young Scout at the age of nine, and he can continue as one till the age of 12, though he may, at the discretion of the Scoutmaster, become a Boy Scout when he reaches the age of eleven.

Uniform—A Young Scout wears a uniform like a Boy Scout, but with the following difference: Instead of the Scout hat he wears a cap, dark green in color, with a yellow cord border. Instead of the Scout shirt, he wears a jersey of dark green or of blue. He is not allowed to carry a staff. He may not wear any of the Scout's badges or any of the other Scout decorations. He may not wear either shoulder knots or garter

tags. The privilege of wearing these is gained when he is promoted to be a Boy Scout.

Organization and Training—Troops or Patrols of Young Scouts will be run so far as possible on the same lines as Scout Troops and Patrols, and, when desired, in connection with them. Fuller details of the training will be found in the Chief Scout's new book, shortly to be published, entitled "Wolf Cubs—A Handbook for the Training of Young Scouts."

Ranks—(1)—Young Tenderfoot or Cub.—A boy must satisfy his Scoutmaster that he knows the Scout signs and Young Scout's salute. Then he takes the Young Scout's promise as follows:

"On my honor I promise that I will do my best—(1) To do my duty to God and the King. (2) To do a good turn to somebody every day."

He is then entitled to wear the Young Scout's Wolf Cub Badge, and become a Young Tenderfoot or Cub. (The two stars which he gains as a Cub are represented on the Scout's Badge which he eventually gains.)

(2) One-Star Cub.—Before being awarded the star (which is yellow and is worn on the front of the cap) the young Tenderfoot must:

(a) Know the composition of the Union Jack, and the right way to fly it.

(b) Be able to do the following knots:—Reef, Sheet Bend, Clove Hitch, Bowline, Fisherman's and Sheep Shank, and understand their special uses.

(c) Know and practice correctly the five body exercises given in the Wolf Cubs Handbook.

He is then entitled to the rank of Wolf Cub.

(3) Two-Star Cub.—The tests are as follows:

Before being awarded his second Star a none-star Cub must:—

(a) Have at least three months' service as a one-Star Cub.

(b) Have a knowledge of elementary first aid and bandaging. (See Scout Chart 16, excepting fractures of thigh.)

(c) Know the semaphore or Morse signs for every letter in the alphabet.

(d) Follow a trail half a mile long in thirty minutes, or, if in a town, describe satisfactorily the contents of one of four shop windows, observed for one minute each, or, Kipp's game, to remember sixteen out of twenty-four well assorted small articles after one minute's observation.

(e) Go a mile in fifteen minutes at "Scout's pace."

(f) Lay and light a fire in the open using not more than two matches.

(g) Cook a quarter of a pound of meat and two potatoes without cooking utensils, other than the regulation billy, in the open, over camp fire, if possible.

(h) Have at least sixpence in the savings' bank.

(i) Know the sixteen principal points of the compass.—"Headquarters Gazette."

PUPILS WILL HAVE FLOWER GARDENS THIS SUMMER

INTERESTING DEPARTURE TO BE MADE AT GEORGE JAY SCHOOL.

Mr. H. B. McLean, principal of the George Jay School, is now putting into actual form an excellent scheme in the laying out of a school garden and plant house for his pupils in a portion of the grounds attached to the school.

Mr. McLean has had four years' experience in the training of children in horticultural science in the East, but this is the first attempt that has ever been made in this direction in Victoria. The Education Department and the Board of Trustees are backing the plan both financially and otherwise. The school garden covers an area of about 113 by 50 feet, and is divided up into 20 vegetable plots of 8 by 13 feet, and 10 flower plots measuring 8 by 4½ feet each. A fence will be placed around these plots and borders of perennials planted. Adjoining the school garden is a plant house. A portion of this building is arranged with benches down each side for demonstration purposes.

The children will be taught the complete life history of the plants. They will be given the seeds, which they will first sow in the plant house transfer to the cold frame and then transplant into the garden, each year obtaining the seeds from their own plants. The house is built on such a scale that it will hold, during the winter months, not only all the plants belonging to the George Jay School, but will be able to store the plants for the whole of the schools in the city.

The plots in the school garden will be worked entirely by the children. For this year there will be only one class of twenty under the direction of Mr. McLean. The class will be composed of at least one pupil from

each division. The membership is quite voluntary, and up to the present time more than 350 children have expressed the desire to join. Selections will be made for the class of those who deserve a reward for general proficiency. Individual vegetable plots will be supplied for each pupil, and will be labelled, whilst two will co-operate in one flower bed.

Statement to be Kept.

Every child will keep a diary and a financial statement. The time devoted to the work will include occasional periods of school time, but mostly recess periods, the noon hour, before and after school hours and on Saturdays. The children will be supplied free of charge, with all vegetable seeds, and the flower seeds may be obtained from the plant house at half the catalogue price. It is hoped by this means to encourage a love of gardening in the rising generation.

For this general nature study work Mr. McLean proposes to give instructions in every branch of horticulture, including the raising of plants from seed, construction of plant house and many other details of this most interesting hobby.

Y. M. C. A. OFFICIAL LEAVES.

Mr. C. G. Raymond, who has resigned his post as educational secretary at the Y. M. C. A. in Victoria in order to undertake the general secretaryship of the association at Elensburg, in Washington, left last week for that town. The educational and religious work has been placed in the hands of Mr. T. C. Johnstone, a teacher in the night school, for the rest of the educational year, which closes with the opening of the Summer.

NEW APPOINTMENTS.

It is the intention of the Civil Service Commission of the Federal Government shortly to appoint an assistant to the Dominion cerealist in the Experimental Branch of the Department of Agriculture. An assistant is also to be appointed to the officer in charge of the general correspondence of the Department of Marine and Fisheries Branch.

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