

Once



**A Scout
Always
A Scout**

**SECOND EDITION
DECEMBER 1930**



Downloaded from:
“The Dump” at Scoutscan.com
<http://www.thedump.scoutscan.com/>



Editor's Note:

The reader is reminded that these texts have been written a long time ago.

Consequently, they may use some terms or use expressions which were current at the time, regardless of what we may think of them at the beginning of the 21st century. For reasons of historical accuracy they have been preserved in their original form.

If you find them offensive, we ask you to please delete this file from your system.

This and other traditional Scouting texts may be downloaded from the Dump.

ROVERING

PROVISIONAL OUTLINE

First Printed March, 1930.

Revised December, 1930.

For further copies apply to your Boy
Scout Council Headquarters or if you can-
Not obtain them there write to

ROBERT S. HALE
939 Boylston Street, Bolton

Price 25 cents each or \$2.00 in lots of 10.

FORWARD

PROVISIONAL OUTLINE

(i) The words of the SCOUT promise are not the same for each language or nation, but the essence* is

That on his honour he will do his best

To do his duty,

To help other people,

To follow the Scout Law,

and it is hoped that he will do this, not only while a boy, but all of his life.

Rovering is for older Scouts, young men and older men; and Rover Crews, except for such cases as a University Crew, are usually part of Scout Groups, almost like graduate students still at their university.

This pamphlet describes part of what is being done in New England. If, after reading it you should be interested in becoming a Rover Scout or Rover Leader, or otherwise helping us, please consult your nearest Boy Scout Council or Troop.

* The exact words of the Rover Scouts of America oath are the same as for the Boy Scouts Of America.

BOY SCOUTS and ROVERING

(1) This pamphlet describes an effort in New England to promote a program similar to that of the Rover Scouts of other nations.

We are conducting experiments with Rover Crews at the request of the Boy Scouts of America, and consulting with the officials and committees of the Boy Scouts of America. This program has been approved for experiment by the officials of the National council; it departs in no way from the principles and spirit of the World-Wide Brotherhood of Scouts, which is not an organization in itself, but is a general name for the people who, in order that they may do their duty better and help other people more, have joined themselves together into organizations whose members are described as Boy Scouts, as Eclaireurs, as Pfadfinders, as Wolf Cubs. As Louveteaux, as Rovers, as Scoutmasters, as Commissioners, as Scouters, and so on. The names hardly matter, it is the intent behind the name that counts.

Each such organization adopts rules for its own guidance, described as its Scout Law, as La Loi des Eclaireurs and so on. Each member when joining his organization makes a promise that he will do his best to do his duty, to help other people and to follow the spirit of the Scout Law.

No member of the Brotherhood as such demands or willingly receives pay for performing his duty or for helping other people. He regards any pay or reward only as something that will enable him to do, or to do better, what he would do without pay if he could.

While the names and details differ in different nations and regions, the brotherhood of Scouts divides itself roughly as follows:

The Boy Scouts (the first portion of the Brotherhood to be organised) are boys of from 12 years up whose motto is “Be Prepared”.

The Scoutmasters and Scouters are the older men who help to train the younger.

The Cubs are the little boys from 8 to 11 years who, while too young to prepare themselves, or be prepared, for actual service, learn the Scout spirit by games and play with a motto, “Do your best.”

Then finally we have the Rover Scouts or Rovers, youths of 17 years up to as long as they care to remain an active part of their organization.

The Rovers are the section of the Brotherhood who have prepared themselves as Scouts, and when too old for boyish work, adopt a new motto “Service” and like the knights of King Arthur’s Round Table band themselves together to help each other serve.

Once a Scout, Always a Scout, the Rover is no more and no less a Scout than any other Scout or Scouter, the Rover is merely the Scout who expects more fun out of life in company with his fellow Rovers instead of carrying on his Scouting promise apart from a crew

ROVERING REQUIREMENTS

For the success of a Rover Crew suitable leadership is of the highest importance. Whenever a suitable leader (see below) is unavailable the Local Council may provide supervision through its Committees and Executives, but the essential point is that while Rover Crews and Rovers should be encouraged to develop their own program they should do so under the guidance of suitable leaders to avoid drifting away from Scouting and Rovering ideals.

The sponsoring institution is primarily responsible for leadership, the Local Council is in all cases given the duty to see that such leadership is provided, and though Rovering may and will start with the help of Scoutmasters and Scouters qualified in character, but not in all the technique to be Rover Leaders, the search for suitable leadership is of the highest importance and those who take part should remember that they will often best serve the Movement by waiting for a suitable leader before investiture.

STARTING ROVERING

A group of Rovers is known as a Rover Crew under a Rover Leader and will usually be organised as follows:

Whoever considers the organization of a Rover Crew preferably should be, and usually will be, already connected with some Scout Organization.

If not already registered with the Boy Scouts of America, one of the first steps should be to so register, as an adult Scouter if he considers becoming a Rover Leader, as an Associate Scout if he expects only to be a Rover.

He should get in touch with his district Rover Commissioner if there is one, if not, with the New England Rover Commissioner, Mr. Robert S. Hale, 939 Boylston Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

Naturally he will also be in touch with the President, Commissioner, or Executive of his Local Scout Council. He will need copies of the book "Rovering to Success," and will find useful other books unnecessary to detail here.

He should organize his Crew in accordance with the principles of the Movement and with such advice and help as he can get. Such a Crew may be known as a Provisional Crew, the word *Provisional* implying that neither the Crew nor the Leader are in any way formally recognized as Rovers.

During a period of at least three months the provisional Crew and Leader should carry on and learn to fit themselves to be Rovers.

The Leader will almost invariably find it desirable to begin at once the Question part of the Rover Leader's Training Course which can be procured from a Rover Commissioner.

During this period of preparation the Provisional Leader should keep his Commissioner informed and the Commis-

sioner should make himself personally acquainted with the Rover Leader and the work of the Crew.

This preparation period is because it is just as important that the Provisional Leader and Crew should take ample time to make up their minds as it is important that those who will approve the Leader and Crew should have time to know of its work and its ideals.

Local and National Council officials have the same administrative responsibilities for the development and operation of Rovering as for any other branch of Scouting.

CONNECTION WITH THE SCOUT TROOP

In many nations a Scout Group may consist of a Cub Pack (8 to 11 years) with a Cub Master; a Scout Troop (12 to 16 years or more) with a Scoutmaster and a Rover Crew (17 years up) with a Rover Leader.

All are part of *one* Scout Group with a Group Scoutmaster who may also be either Cubmaster, Scoutmaster or Rover Leader.

The Rovers are part of the Scout Group just as much as the Scouts or Cubs. They are like students in a Graduate school who have graduated from the college.

There is often one committee with, if needed, subcommittees on Cubs, Scouts and Rovers. Often the chairman of the committee would take the place of the Group Scoutmaster. It will only be in exceptional cases that there will be a Rover

Crew separate from a Scout Troop, as for instance the Crews at Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

The formation of District Crews or Council Crews will, for the present at least, not be encouraged. If a Scout Group has but one or two candidates for Rovers they might be temporarily attached to some nearby Crew.

SKELETON OR LONE PATROLS, ETC.

As a general principle, when there is no District Commissioner available, the New England Commissioner will act as Commissioner for that district, and when there is no Rover Leader available, the District Commissioner, or if there is none, the New England Rover Commissioner, will act as Rover Leader.

In this way it is planned to provide for the cases of a few or even a single Rover who cannot form a Crew nor find a Rover Leader.

If a Scout group with an SM under 30 (or otherwise unavailable as a Rover Leader) should have candidates for Rover, these may be temporarily attached to an active Crew, but of course only when agreeable to the Leader of such Crew and SM.

SEA SCOUTING AND ROVERING

Sea Scouts in most countries are substantially on the same basis as other Scouts except their activities are connected with the sea rather than the land. In this country Sea Scouts sometimes form a slightly different kind of group from a Boy Scout Troop and sometimes are a section or Patrol of a Boy Scout Troop. In all cases there should be no conflict between Sea Scouting and Rovering. A Sea Scout may also be a Rover or a Rover Sea Scout, a Rover may adopt Sea Scouting as an activity or quest without ceasing to be a Rover.

If any details need to be worked out, the Sea Scout officials should be consulted and their desires followed.

QUALIFICATIONS OF ROVER LEADER

A. Qualifications are stated in the Constitution of the Boy Scouts of America, Art. XII

B. A general knowledge of the ideals of the Scout movement as laid down in the Constitution and By-Laws, Handbook for Boys, Scoutmaster's Handbook, and Rovering to Success.

C. Full appreciation of the religious and moral and civic aims underlying the scheme of Scouting.

D. A personal standing, character and experience of life such as will enable him to lead young men and an understanding of the principles of leadership involved.

E. Age – not less than 30, but in special cases Rover Leaders may be appointed at the age of 25 if of sufficient maturity.

F. Three months` service with a Crew.

G. Acceptance by the Rovers of the Crew concerned.

H. Ability to obtain the use of a suitable meeting place, which is absolutely essential to the success of a Rover Crew.

I. Acceptability to the Local Council of the Boy Scouts of America in the district in which the Crew is located, and to the sponsoring institution.

The foregoing are to be considered in their broad aspect rather than literally. Literal compliance with the above would never be enough unless the leader has the Scout and Rover Spirit, and desire as well as ability to serve. The letter of the requirement is to indicate the things to be considered. These rules (except in the case of A, which must be followed literally) are guides to what is desired rather than requirements to be literally followed.

After a suitable preparation period, the Commissioner or the National Council may issue an invitation to the provisional Leader to become an active Leader with authority to invest Rovers.

No one is qualified to become a Rover Leader unless he is the kind of man who desires to serve whether or no he is invested as a Rover, Commissioner or a Leader.

ROVER SCOUT LEADER'S UNIFORM

A Rover Leader wears the same uniform as for a Rover Scout except that he wears a green hat plume on the left hand side.

QUALIFICATIONS OF ROVERS

As in the case of a Rover Leader, the essential qualifications are the Scout and Rover Spirit and the desire to serve. The literal requirements which follow are not to be regarded as the maximum and still more so not the minimum, but as a guide whereby the Rover aspirant and the Rover as well as the Rover Leader should form their own conclusions as to whether they can serve better by being a Rover Scout than by remaining a Scout or Scouter.

(b) CONDITIONS OF ADMISSION

(i) Approval.

Before a young man is admitted by the *Rover Scout Leader* The approval of the Group Scoutmaster or chairmen of Troop Committee and of the Rover Scout Crew is required.

He must either (a) be recommended as a Scout who is considered to be trying to act up to his Scout obligations, including the doing of Good Turns, or (b) if not previously a Scout, be willing to learn practical Scouting, pursue the open-air life, and accept the way of life set forth by the Scout Promise and Law.

(ii) Minimum age.

The age of admission as a Rover Scout is necessarily dependent on the physical and mental development of a boy in his progress to manhood. No one who is under 17 years of age may be invested as a Rover Scout, while it may be desirable to wait until the age of 18 has been attained before investiture.

**(c) CONDITIONS BETWEEN ADMISSION
AND INVESTITURE**

Before a young man can be invested as a Rover Scout he must have fulfilled the following conditions to the satisfaction of the Rover Scout Leader.

(i) Reading.

Have read and studied the Handbook for Boys and Rovering To Success, as well as this pamphlet.

Have studied and understood the Scout Oath and Law as set forth in the Chief Scout's "Scout Law for Rover Scouts" and the discussion of the Scout Law in the Handbook for Boys.

(ii) Practical.

Have studied and understood the Scout Oath and Scout Law as they concern Rover Scouts, and be applying them in a spirit of unselfish service to life in general.

(iii) Have sufficient knowledge to train a boy of Scout age in the tenderfoot tests.

(iv) Probation.

Have undergone such period of probation as the *Rover Scout Leader* and the crew may require. It is strongly recommended that three months be the minimum, and usually longer.

(d) INVESTITURE

Some process of self-examination (in the form of a Vigil or otherwise) and an Investiture are essential to emphasize the fact that as a Rover Scout he is undertaking certain definite responsibilities. The degree of ceremony used in the Vigil and the Investiture will vary, and this must depend upon the wishes of the Crew and of the individual to be invested.

Subsequent Training.

The following are the general lines on which the training of the Rover Scout should be carried out by the *Rover Scout Leader*. The Rover Scout should:

(a) IDEALS

- (i) Develop the spiritual side of his life, recognising that he must do his best to carry out his duty to God as required by the Scout Oath, through the practice of his religion.
- (ii) Make the guiding principles of his life the Scout Law, expressing itself in goodwill, fellowship, justice and universal brotherhood.
- (iii) Carry out the first service or duty he owes – to establish himself in life – and make every endeavour to consolidate his position so that he is not a burden on others or on the State.
- (iv) Carry out the Scout duty of helpfulness to other people, as required by the Scout Oath, into some form of Service to the community, bearing in mind the special claims of the Scout Movement, but with due regard to other loyalties, e.g. home and employment.

(b) PRACTICAL

(i) Appreciate the principles, aims and methods of Scouting in its main sections – Cubbing, Boy Scouting, Sea Scouting and Rover Scouting, and assist in every possible way, e.g. by qualifying to be a Merit Badge Counselor or giving leadership in some other capacity.

A Rover Scout may be a commissioned Scout Leader without ceasing to be a Rover Scout, but the possession of a commission will not give him precedence as a Rover Scout. His duties as a commissioned leader, however, must come first.

(ii) Have a practical knowledge of the matters dealt with in chapter III of *Scouting for Boys* (Camp Life).

(iii) Adopt generally, as part of his outdoor activities, hikes and rambles with a purpose on the lines of the First Class Journey Test, submitting reports and sketches, paying particular attention to any points to which he may be directed by his *Rover Scout Leader*.

(iv) Practise care of his own health in matters of cleanliness, fresh air, exercise, food and clothing; feel the importance in his own and other people's interest of keeping physically fit; and recognise the necessity of keeping morally as well as physically clean.

(v) Cultivate the habit of employing usefully his spare time, e.g. by hobbies, or by studying, exploring, and, as far as possible, practising on or more of the directions of citizen service suggested in the Appendix to *Rovering to Success*.

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES AS A CITIZEN

Have an elementary knowledge of the government of his country and district, so that he understands the responsibilities for the general good imposed upon him by his role.

UNIFORM AND DRESS

The Scout badge should be worn by all grades of Rover Scouts in uniform, the Scout badge is what is also known as the tenderfoot badge because it is the only badge the tenderfoot may wear.

The Scout pin with or without an R.S. on it is worn by Rover Scouts in the buttonhole of the coat in civilian dress.

A Rover Scout wears uniform as for Scout but:

Hat. A bar with R.S. thereon, worn in front, on the strap.

Shirt. With green shoulder straps bearing the special R.S. Badge, and/or the R.S. badge in red on a circular dark green background on the left hand pocket of the shirt.

Shoulder knot. Red, yellow and green.

Garter tabs. Red.

Thumbstick. May be carried in place of staff.

After joining a Rover Scout Crew, if a Scout, he will, until he is invested as a Rover Scout, wear uniform as for Scout, except that the shoulder knot will be yellow and green.

A Rover Sea Scout or a Rover active in Sea Scouting will wear such portions of the Sea Scout uniform and emblems as

are appropriate and in good taste and in accordance with the desired of the Sea Scout Officials.

Rover Scouts in a Council or District may, with the permission of the Rover Commissioner and Local Council wear special neckerchiefs other than their own Group neckerchiefs, on occasions when they meet together for combined activities.

Rover Mate.

A Rover Mate is elected by the Patrol with the approval of the Rover Scout Leader.

Uniform as for Rover Scout with two vertical red braid stripes, 3 ins. long, ½ in. wide, worn on either side of pleat of left pocket of shirt.

Senior Rover Mate.

When there are more than two Rover Scout Patrols in a Crew they may appoint a Senior Rover Mate with the approval of the *Rover Scout Leader*.

Uniform as for Rover Mate with three vertical red braid stripes, 3 ins. long, ½ in. wide, worn on either side of pleat of left pocket of shirt.

Rover Second.

A Rover Second is selected by the Rover Mate to be his Assistant and to take charge when he himself is away.

Uniform as for Rover Scout with single vertical red braid stripes, 3 ins. long, ½ in. wide, worn on either side of pleat of left pocket of shirt.

Assistant Rover Scout Leader.

The qualifications are the same as for Rover Scout Leader, except that the age should not be less than 25. he may wear a red hat plume instead of green.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES ON BADGES, UNIFORM AND DRESS

The clothes and emblems that should be worn on any particular occasion by a Rover Scout is a matter to be decided by the canons of good taste and courtesy to others, and of loyalty to the Movement, rather than by any rules and regulations (whether international, national or local).

The canons of good taste indicate that when a Rover appears alone he may wear civilian dress or working or other dress and such emblems or part of his uniform as will leave his appearance Scoutlike and creditable to the Movement.

When instead of being alone a Rover joins others of his group (as of his Patrol, local association or Council) the canons of good taste again indicate those who appear together as a group should try to have their dress reasonably uniform as among themselves though not necessarily uniform with the dress of other groups.

It will be noticed that the canons of good taste will thus permit a Patrol or Crew of Rovers to adopt a uniform as among themselves which will not be exactly uniform with that of other Crews or other units of the Scout Brotherhood.

Any dress which might be worn by a Rover alone without discredit to the Movement will not necessarily be wrong merely because several Rovers appear together in that same dress. The canons of good taste will govern and Rovers desiring to depart in any way from the dress worn by other Scouts should consult with their Commissioner and Executives and be guided by their wise advice.

In regards to the occasions and extent to which uniform should be worn the canons of good taste should remind us that Scouts are always courteous and will avoid anything that will be objectionable to or even offend the susceptibilities of others. But Scouts are glad to indicate they are Scouts by wearing the uniform whenever to do so will help the Movement and indicate to people that they are proud of being Scouts and Rovers.

A Rover does not wear Merit Badges because of what he had done. He may keep them as a High School athlete keeps and is proud of his school letter, but does not wear it while trying for his college team.

Such emblems or badges of rank as a Rover wears should signify the service he is prepared to perform in the future, not the merit he has achieved in the past.

At the option of a crew the Mate may wear red bars on the sleeves, similar to the Scout Patrol Leader's green bars, instead of on the pocket.

Red is usually use as a Rover colour in the same way that green as a Scout colour and yellow as a Cub colour. Thus the

Rover wears red garters and if a Rover Crew had a Crew flag it would have some red on it.

HONORARY AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP AND CO-OPERATION OF SCOUTS WHO ARE NOT ROVERS

A scout who continues to observe the Oath and the Law remains a member of the Scout Brotherhood up to any age and irrespective of his connection with any particular group.

The essence of being a Scout is the doing his best to do his duty and to help other people according to the spirit of the Scout Law. No one who is a Scout by the above definition is an outside to the Rovers. Of his own accord he will prefer not to hold himself out as an invested Rover but his help should be welcomed and especially his wise advice and co-operation when he is a Commissioner or Executive.

Any Scout may be classed as an honorary or associate member of any particular unit which desires to have him as such in accordance with its own rules. The extent to which he wears the corresponding uniform and emblems is a matter of good taste, as well as of the rules of the unit of which he is an honorary or associate member.

EXCETIONS TO THE REQUIREMENTS

The standards for Rovers given above are not rigid but are intended to be very high and will prevent our accepting and investing as Rovers anyone under 17, and limit our accepting either small groups or single potential Rovers who have been unable to find a Rover Leader qualified to lead them and interested enough to warrant our accepting him as a Rover Leader.

But except for wearing the Rover badge and holding himself out to be an invested Rover, there is nothing in the Rover program which is forbidden a Scout.

There is no reason why an active Scout or an Associated Scout should not adopt the motto of Service, no reason why he should not begin to qualify himself and keep himself qualified to become a Rover and remain a Rover with the Rover spirit.

Hence, if a Scoutmaster is willing to have Scouts or Associate Scouts in his Troop endeavour to qualify themselves and show themselves qualified as Rovers, there is no reason why these should not be a sort of Senior Patrol to do service for their Troop (and others) along Roving lines while trying to find a suitable Rover Leader.

Whether the practicing to become Rovers before becoming connected with an organized Rover Crew may be counted towards the three months` preparation period will be decided in each case by the Rover Crew which the aspirant may later join to be invested.

REPORTS, FEES, DUES, ETC.

Each Rover should keep his Leader informed on his address and of his work.

Each Crew may establish its own dues, as well as any additional rules or qualifications for its own members.

Each Rover Leader reports to his Commissioner the number of Rovers he initially invest, and thereafter reports annually as of 31st of December the number of his Crew whom he considers sufficiently active to justify him in reporting them as Rovers.

He should also report, but not in any set form, such information as he thinks will be useful to his commissioner, and should keep such records of his Crew as he would like a previous Leader to have kept in case he should take over an already formed Crew.

A Rover Commissioner reports annually the names of the Crews and their Leaders in his district and the number of Rovers reported by each Leader. He makes additional reports and keeps additional records on the same basis as the Rover Leaders.

Rover Leaders and Commissioners in no case receive pay for their work as Leaders and Commissioners, but may accept voluntary contributions from the Crews, Leaders and others toward clerical and travelling expenses.

Rovers should register with the Boy Scouts of American in accordance with their position and associates, veterans, Scoutmasters, officials, etc.

PROGRAM

There is no set program for Rover Crews such as the progression of Boy Scout from Tenderfoot to Eagle. Each Rover Crew (in fact each Rover Patrol and almost each Rover) makes its own program.

Such a program would be built up of “Quests” like those of King Arthur’s Knights and these might be “Big Good Turns” done inside or outside the Scout Movement. Together with the programs of “Quests” or “Service” would be a program of “Preparing” for avocations and possible vocations, as when a Rover or Rover Patrol made themselves specialists in subjects like those of merit badges, or if several Rovers were taking the same course at a night (or day) school, they could study together.

The English pamphlet “Rover Quests in Practice” gives a quite elaborate scheme: apparently too elaborate as yet for American crews but with many useful ideas.

An article in the “Quest,” a magazine published by the Rovers of Altrincham, England, gives an account of the methods used by some English crews for training of aspirants and younger Rovers.

QUESTS

The Rover Program is continued “Preparation” of all sorts and also “Service” which is another word for “Good Turns” or “Questa”.

Rovers band together in order to “prepare” and to “serve” more efficiently than if each Rover worked independently, and in order to enjoy companionship.

The following lists but very few out of many activities.

Group study and discussion of any subject that interests the group.

Preparation for service. Most Rovers will prepare to present themselves with knapsack, with tent, ground sheet and rations to do service in case of disaster without asking for anything for twenty-four hours and thereafter needing only uncooked rations.

Publish a group magazine.

Join the blood transfusion scheme.

Care for a section of the Green Mountain Trail, or other trail.

Provide SM and ASM, etc., for a new Troop until it can find its own, or to help out a Troop.

Have headquarters where Rovers from foreign countries and Deep Sea Scouts can find friends.

Organize a First Aid Crew.

Look after the parking of automobiles on Sundays at the church which sponsors their Scout Group.

Look after the bird houses and bird feeding stations at Scoutland.

Make a complete map of their Council camp site with directions for reaching.

Visits to other Crews to get ideas.

Give a play or run a concert for Scout funds.

Run a dance or theatre party for their best girls (other girls not excluded).

Keep a scrap book with all the interesting things about the Scout Group.

When away from their Crew (as at college or in the country) help any others who aspire to become Rovers or who are Lone Rovers or Lone Scouts, as for instance help Farm or Home Patrols.

Good authorities suggest that there be a main winter activity indoors, and then a main summer activity outdoors, but a general outline such as this pamphlet need not go into details.

The main object of having a mature Rover Leader is to avoid the necessity of a set program of activities.

But it is worthwhile to note that Rovers are *Scouts*.
Scouts are trustworthy.

We need not impose a program on the Crew.
Scouts are helpful.

Their Quests will be service to others.
Scouts are friendly and cheerful.

They will invite their girl-friends in from time to time as well as their boy-friends, and cheer them all up.

The object of Roving is not to *tell* the Rovers *just* how to do their duty or how to help other people. The reason for Roving is that by banding together, the Rovers, with their Leader, will learn by doing and need not be told. The ideal Rover is like the man who carried the message to Garcia.

MEETINGS

The meeting of Rover Crews depend on the program and Quests.

One plan is that each Patrol meets weekly to plan and carry on. The meeting might be to study or to carry on a Quest or to plan a Quest. Then perhaps once a month have a Crew meeting when the Mates or Scribes of each Patrol report briefly to the whole Crew and Leader. The advantages of having each Patrol keep a record of what it is doing and planning is obvious.

THE PRESENTAION OF A ROVER SCOUT

It is desired that the Vigil and investiture should be as standard as practicable though in special cases permission will freely be given to make them accord with the customs of the church or other organizations with which the Crew may be connected, or with the Crew's own desires so long as they accord with the general principles.

This Ceremony is issued as a suggestion.

It conforms with but a few minor changes to that drawn up by the Chief Scout and used in other countries.

The Ceremony is divided into two parts – “The Vigil” and “The Investiture” – and is intended to apply both to those who have not previously been Scouts and to those who come up from the Scout Troop, for in each case they should be fully aware of the step they are taking.

NOTES ON THE VIGIL

Too great emphasis cannot be laid on the importance of the Vigil. The central idea is that the young man, before becoming a Rover Scout, shall, with the aid of the questions drawn up by the Chief Scout, quietly think out what he is doing with his life, and whether he is prepared to come forward and be invested as a Rover Scout, renewing or making his Scout Promise from the man's point of view.

The Vigil should come at the end of the period or Proving and a few days before the Investiture. It should be made clear to the young man that he should not proceed to be invested and to make or renew the Promise until he is quite sure that he can honestly do so. The Rover Leader should point out that a sound fellow thinks carefully before he takes an important step and does not commit himself to a serious Promise until he has resolved to do his best to keep it.

Scouting in all its branches is voluntary and this cannot be made too clear to a would-be Rover.

In the Vigil the young man reviews the past, carefully examines himself, thinks of future possibilities dimly seen, and dedicates himself in silence to the Service of God, and his fellow man. Without this the Rover Investiture cannot be what it is meant to be – an outward sign of attitude of service to life in the world.

There need be no ceremony about this as he can keep his Vigil in the quiet of his own room, but it is the Rover Leader's responsibility to see that no young man joins the Rover section of the Scout Brotherhood without being fully determined to shape his life in accordance with the Rover Scout Ideals.

Where Crews think that the Vigil should take a more definite form, it could be kept in a Church or Chapel, in the open air, in the Rover Den, or indeed in any place where quiet can be assured.

In such cases the Rover Leader might accompany the young man to the place of Vigil, and his sponsors might also be

present. The Rover Leader and the sponsors could then retire, if desired, arrangements being made to see that there is no interruption, and so leave the young man to consider the questions by himself.

Often some slight ceremony may be used when suggesting to the aspirant that he is ready for the Vigil, as for instance, hand him a copy of the Vigil he will use and have him sign the copy after observing the Vigil, bring it to the investiture and let the leader return it to the invested Rover to keep as he would his school diploma or collage degree.

Whatever plan is adopted, simplicity and sincerity should be the keynotes.

The Vigil is as follows: It will be available on a special bond paper to be suitable for the Rover to keep with his school or college diploma after he has been invested.

To

Who Aspired to Become a Member of the

WORLD BROTHERHOOD OF ROVER SCOUTS

You have been a Rover aspirant for the term required and having worked with your fellow aspirants and Rovers, are not at the time when you should consider carefully whether you desire to do more.

Scouting in all its branches is voluntary and there is no obligation on you to proceed.

You should now take these pages with you to some quiet place where you will not be disturbed, and carefully and thoughtfully examine yourself with the aid of these questions. See whether you are really prepared to come forward and be invested as a Rover renewing or making your Scout promise from a man's point of view.

If you are fitted to become a Rover, you will think carefully before taking the important step of committing yourself to a serious promise until you have resolved to do your best to keep it.

If, after keeping your Vigil and carefully considering the questions, you still desire to go ahead, sign your name on the last page and present this to your Rover Leader, who will return it to you on the occasion of your investiture, so that, so long as you shall continue to be a Rover, you may have it among your cherished possessions as a guide to what you mean to do.

The Vigil of the aspirant to become a member of the World Brotherhood of Rover Scouts.

As one grows older, time passes more and more quickly.

Comparatively speaking, this life lasts for a short time only and is soon away.

1. Am I making the best use of the life God has given me?
2. Am I frittering it away, in doing nothing that counts – that is, wasting it?
3. Am I working at things that are not doing good to anybody?
4. Am I seeking too much my own enjoyment or moneymaking or promotion without trying to help other people?
5. Whom have I injured or hurt in my life? Can I do anything to make amends?
6. Whom have I helped in my life? Is there anyone else I can help?

We get no pay or reward for doing service, but that makes us free men in doing it. We are not merely working for an employer but for God and our own conscience. This means that we are Men.

The Rover Section of the Scout Movement is described as a “Brotherhood of Service,” so if we join it we will get the opportunity of doing service in many ways that would not have been open to us otherwise.

Service is not for spare time only. We must be constantly on the lookout for opportunities of serving at all times.

1. Am I joining the Rover Movement only for the fun I can get out of it?
2. Am I determined to put real self-sacrificing service into it?
3. What do I mean by Service?
4. Do I really think for others, rather than for myself, in my plans or undertakings?
5. For what kind of Service and I best fitted?
 - (a) At home?
 - (b) At work?
 - (c) In my spare time?

As the success of our Service will depend to a great extent on our personal character, we must discipline ourselves in order that we may be a good influence to others.

1. Am I determined to try to give up the bad habits acquired in the past?
2. What are the weak points in my character?
3. Am I absolutely honourable, truthful and trustworthy?
4. Am I loyal to God and to my Country, to my employers, and to my employees, to the Scout Movement, to my friends and to myself?
5. Am I good-tempered, cheery and kindly to others?
6. Am I sober and clean-living and clean-speaking?
7. Have I will-power and patience to stick it out when things go against me?
8. Have I a mind of my own, or do I allow myself to be carried away by the persuasion of others?
9. Am I strong-minded enough to do my best to withstand temptation in all its forms?
10. If I am weak in some of the se things, do I resolve here and now, with God's help, to do my best to strengthen myself?

May God give me strength to go forward henceforth a real man, a true citizen, and a value to my country.

The signature of.....

After his Vigil on.....

It will be assumed that Rover Leaders and Commissioners will have observed the Vigil themselves before they begin to invest Rovers.

THE INVESTITURE

Rovering is in no sense a secret Society, and all information regarding it should be placed freely before those interested.

It has been formed however that to have a final investiture when an aspirant makes or renews his Scout Promise a private meeting where Rovers in uniform attend to welcome their brother into the crew adds a dignity which would be sacrificed if the investiture were made a public ceremony.

This practice should not exclude from the ceremony Scouts of high position or even non-Scouts whose presence is desired by the crew.

For the same reason the forms and wording of the investiture ceremony should not be made generally public, though available for information of anyone properly interested; in particular the aspirant should be fully informed by the Rover Leader shortly before the ceremony.

No particular portion of the ceremony is obligatory. Permission will freely be given to crews to adopt something simpler or something more elaborate in accordance with their own desired and the custom of the institution with which they are connected.

A form suggested by the Chief Scout with a few minor changes may be procured from a Rover Commissioner.