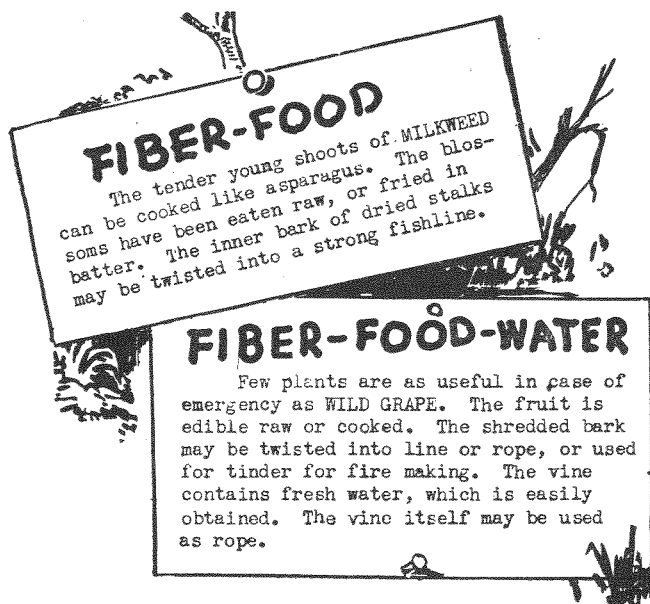


SENIOR PROGRAM



Build A Nature Trail

SENIOR SCOUTS can lead their friends and neighbors to the beauty and wonders of the outdoors via a Nature Trail, suggested for May in the *Senior Program Notebook*. Of course, in carrying out this community project, the Seniors' own knowledge of nature will grow.

Choosing a piece of forest, prairie, marsh, or desert (or combinations of these) for the trail depends on three factors: convenience in reaching the area, an interesting number and variety of natural features, and the owner's permission to use the land.

The next step is to lay out the trail, which may run from 300 yards to a mile, and mark its course with brightly painted stakes, stones, or pennants. Whether an existing path is suitable or needs repairing, or a new one must be built, the rule is to leave the area as natural as possible. For example, detour around fallen logs and large rocks rather than moving them. Streams and ravines may have to be bridged, and marshy spots may require a corduroy path.

Then the things to look for along the trail must be marked by whatever devices the Seniors can invent. Flowers, trees, and rocks are fairly easy because they "stay put"—although flowers and the appearances of trees vary seasonally. One way of marking these stationary things is by signs tacked to stakes set nearby. The signs illustrated above were lettered and typed on 3x5 cards and waterproofed with shel-

lack. The text material on them was taken from nature books. Notice it is simple. Uses of the specimens were emphasized because this particular trail was for instruction in living off the land. The identifying characteristics of each specimen were left to study by the observers.

Even without skunks, rattlers, and wasps in the area, it is hard to "hang tags" on the birds, animals, reptiles, and insects. However, their nests, burrows, dens, tracks, runways, and feeding places can be marked by signs. Feeding and watering stations increase the chances of their being seen. Plaster casts of animal and bird tracks may be staked down beside the trail. Colored pictures of these elusive specimens, mounted on boards and shellacked, may be set up at the start of the trail or at points where the wild life is likely to be seen.

In selecting the site, laying out the trail, and marking its features, ask the help of expert naturalists such as teachers and students of biology, botany, and zoology; members of bird, garden, and other nature clubs; nurserymen; agricultural teachers and agents; foresters; game wardens; conservationists; and the Merit Badge Counselors on nature subjects. When the experts cannot be consulted in person, get their help through the books and pamphlets they have written.

A detailed explanation of building a Nature Trail is contained in *Nature Adventuring*, published by the Boy Scouts of America, Cat. No. 9253, price 10 cents, and in two articles in *SCOUTING Magazine* of June and July, 1943. Other sources of information are: National Audubon Society, 1006 Fifth Avenue, New York 28, N. Y.; American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West, New York 24, N. Y.; Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland, Ohio; *Nature Magazine*, Washington, D. C.

When the trail is ready, there will come the fun of opening it to school children, Boy Scouts, and older folks—anyone who wants to learn more about nature and will help protect the trail. As in many service projects, the Seniors who do the work on the trail are likely to learn the most, as well as have the pleasure of doing for others.

Keep 'Em Flying

NEW activities arouse more interest in the technical side of Air Scouting than a model plane meet. Following the *Senior Program Notebook* suggestion of

HELPS



holding one in May, now is the time to start planning. Old hands at running meets say that the announcement of one should be made at least six weeks in advance.

If it is your Squadron's first attempt, try a Novelty Contest — the term applied in model flying circles to practice meets. It allows a variety of planes to compete in a few events and leads to Informal and Formal or Sanctioned Contests later.

To do the "reconnaissance" on how to conduct all kinds of meets, get a copy of *Model Airplane Contests*, published by the D. Appleton-Century Company. If the public library doesn't have it, spend \$1.25 for this useful addition to the Squadron library. Also write the Academy of Model Aeronautics, 1025 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C., for the latest official contest rules. These will start you off according to the current standards set by the national authority on model building and flying.

As the above book fully explains, here are a few of the decisions the Squadron must make in planning a meet. Shall it be indoors or outdoors? Shall it be invitational or open to all? In an open contest the entrants usually are divided into age groups: Junior Class up to 16, Senior Class between 16 and 21, Open Class 21 and older. Sometimes there are separate classes for girls and women. Expert competitors may be placed in an advanced class. Finally, the planes are classified according to specifications.

Some events in a Novelty Contest are: exhibition of non-flying models, balloon bursting by models armed with pins, spot landings on small marked area, line take-offs between two lines, aerobatics, and practice contest according to official rules.

The Squadron sponsoring a meet for other Squadrons and model clubs gains more than fun and competitive experience. The Seniors learn to plan and carry out such events, and discover the responsibilities of officiating. They interest both young and older men in the Senior Program. So "Keep 'Em Flying" in model meets.

Photograph by Tom King

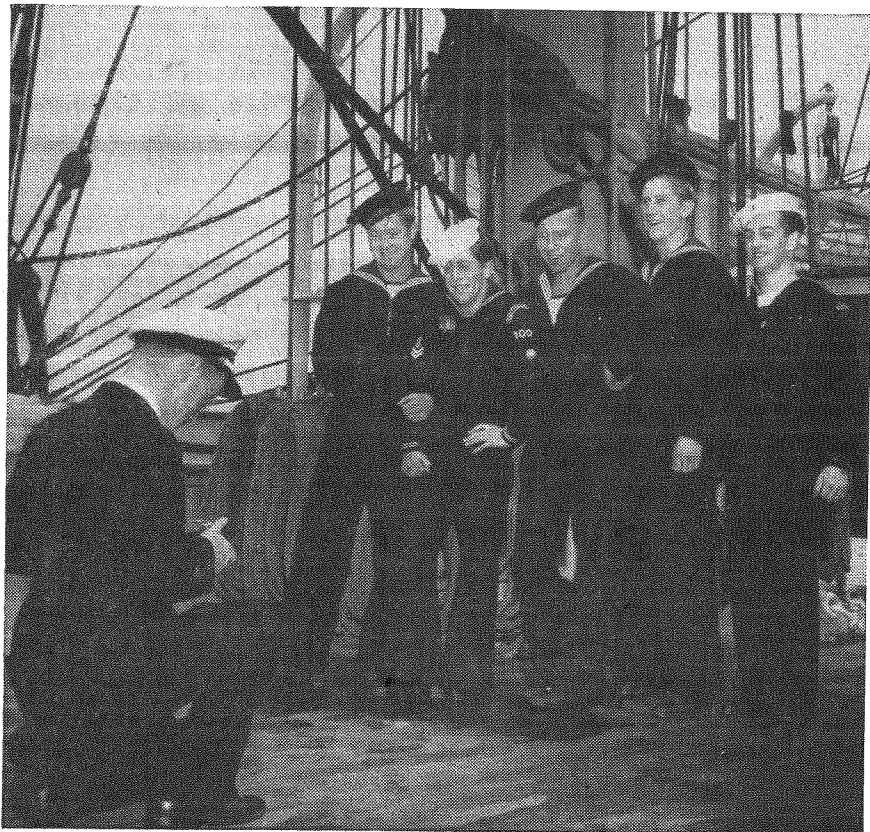
Smiles Across the Sea

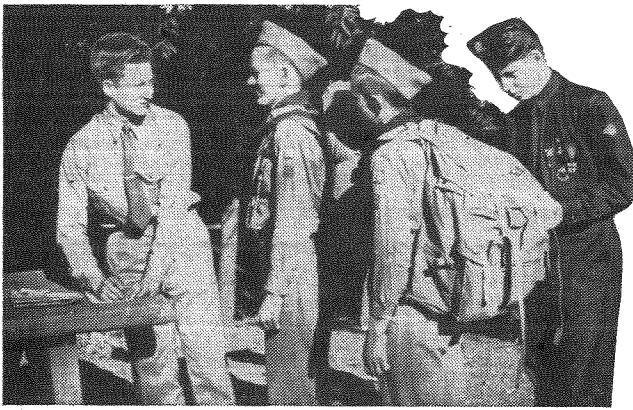
World friendship means more to San Francisco Sea Scouts since they took part in their city's reception of 115 Danish Merchant Marine Cadets in January. The Cadets arrived on the State Training Ship *Danmark*, one of the few remaining square-riggers. Her annual training cruise is part of the eight-year course leading to a third mate's license.

Typical of the cross-the-sea friendship activities were those of the S.S.S. *Viking* (Skipper Frank H. Merriman) and the S.S.S. *Flying Cloud* (Skipper John H. Hedden). Parties from these Ships were piped aboard the *Danmark* and inspected her from bow to stern. Language proved no barrier to the young men swapping yarns and souvenirs and taking pictures on deck.

In return some of the Cadets attended *Viking* and *Flying Cloud* Ship meetings and were guests at dinners and parties in Sea Scout homes. Three Cadets, who also were Danish Sea Scouts, became honorary *Viking* members; and the *Viking* presented an album of popular American recordings to the *Danmark*. Cadets inspecting the Council Sea Scout shore base commented on the wealth of equipment compared to that in Denmark.

Quoting the *Flying Cloud* Ship's paper, "As we watched the *Danmark* beat out through the Golden Gate, under a full spread of canvas, we were full of admiration for a kind of seamanship now rare, but still beautiful, and for our brother Sea Scouts from across the Atlantic."





An Air Scout registers two Boy Scouts in the Camporee while an Explorer inspects their packs.

By Clifford H. Erickson

Scout Commissioner, Sonoma-Mendocino Area Council, Petaluma, California

Question 1: How can we get enough officials and administrative assistants for our Camporee staff? *

Question 2: How can we interest Senior Scouts in taking part in our Camporee?

Double-barrelled answer: Have the young men serve on the Camporee staff!!

THESSE were the questions and the answers proposed at the Santa Rosa District Roundtable when preparations were being made to entertain the Council's first postwar Camporee.

The experience following proved the double-barrelled answer was the right one, and here's why.

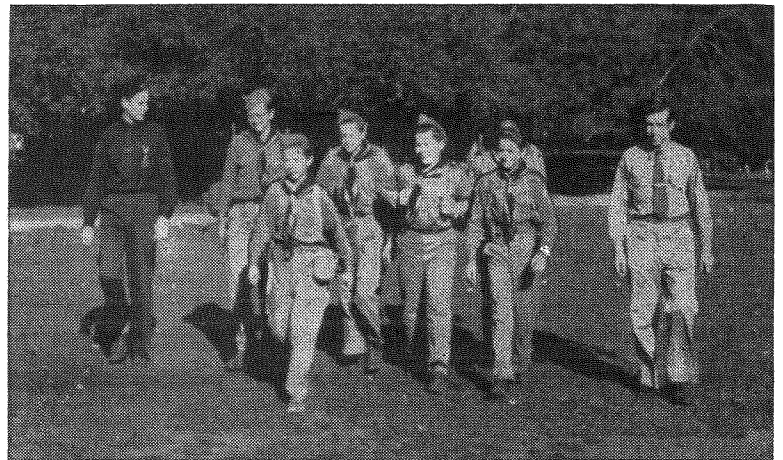
From the standpoint of Camporee efficiency, many Senior Scouts have been through the mill and know the skills involved in the various events on the program. Whether they have had Scouting experience or not, they generally have more time than Scouters do to study the rules and become familiar with the technical details of the events.

Young men are still close to the boys' viewpoint, so they can work smoothly with Boy Scouts. Any tendency on the part of some Seniors to be arbitrary or to "throw their weight around" when given authority can be counterbalanced by teaming them with older men.

A DOUBLE-

From the Senior Scouts' standpoint, the Camporee staff offers them a chance to give the service that is one of the four fundamental activities in their program. Although fifteen years does not necessarily make a young man of every Senior, they all have a strong desire to be treated like men. Serving on the staff, associates them with older leaders of the Council on a man-to-man basis and allows them to do a man-size job. At the same time they are live "ads" for Senior Scouting, and thus help to hold the line of membership from the Troop to the Senior Unit.

On the staff of the Sonoma-Mendocino Area Council Camporee were Explorer Scouts of Post 226, and Air Scouts of Squadron 20, both from the host District. Posted at the entrance to the grounds as the combined service unit, they were the first to meet the Boy Scout participants and welcome them.



Two Senior Scouts escort a Patrol to its assigned campsite.

Here the Seniors registered the Troops and inspected and graded the Scouts' packs as part of the competition. Then a Senior guided each Troop to its assigned campsite, meanwhile giving general information about the Camporee, answering questions, and helping the boys feel "at home."

During the next two days the Seniors acted as guides and judges in many of the events. Since Camporee competition pits Troops against standards of performance instead of against each other, one of the problems is to assure uniform scoring. The Seniors were responsible for this important administrative detail through the checking of all the Troops' score sheets. Each team of two Seniors was assigned a series of events in which they checked all the

BARRELLED ANSWER

sheets. This was done rapidly and accurately, so that no Troop had to stand around waiting for its scores.

The Explorers were in charge of First Aid. In the headquarters area they erected a special tent equipped with cots and a large First Aid kit. They took care of the few minor injuries that happened, and were ready for any emergency.

Chow for the whole Camporee staff was provided by the Air Scouts. They prepared the menus, bought the food, and cooked and served it—and none of the staff reported to the First Aid tent later.

Around the campfire the Seniors played an active role. They led some of the singing and put on their own skits and stunts. At the Court of Honor, held during one of the campfire programs, the participation of the young men added dignity to the ceremony and made it more impressive to the Boy Scouts.

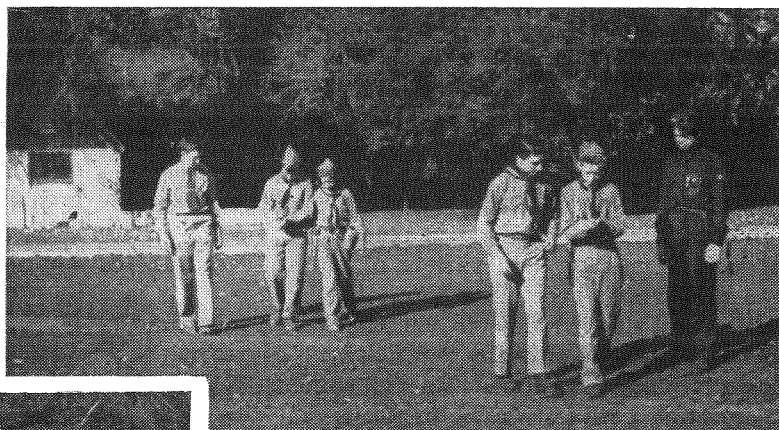
At night the Seniors were in charge of policing the grounds. They checked in and out the Scouts who had permission to leave the campsite and gave a helping hand wherever needed. After Taps they made the rounds at intervals to see that all was well.

Quoting a report on the Camporee, "This in brief, gives an idea of the splendid service rendered by the Senior Scouts. These young men received a real value out of their Camporee experience and had a lot of fun, too. They were able to put into practice some of the principles learned in the Senior Program.

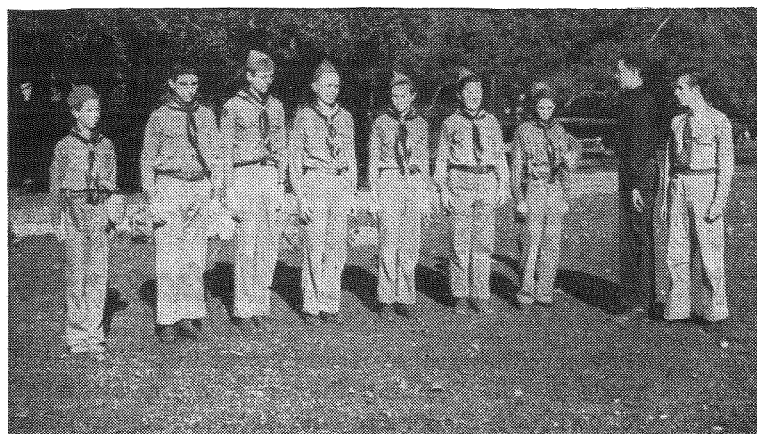
"We feel that all our Senior Scouts should be given such opportunities for service whenever possible. They will be glad to cooperate and in a practical, dependable manner, will put into action their more mature understanding of the true values of Scouting."

There are many other ways that Seniors can serve at Camporees. They do humble but necessary tasks willingly, and they have a good time if they have work that demands more responsibility. Other assignments they might handle are the following:

1. Suggesting to the committee, events to be included on the program and rules for conducting them.
2. Collecting equipment and supplies—only by properly licensed drivers if done by truck or car.
3. Selecting and marking Troop or Patrol campsites and areas for holding various parts of the program.
4. Operating a trading post or canteen to furnish fresh milk, meat, and vegetables at cost.
5. Giving brief demonstrations of how events are to be run, so they will go smoothly.
6. Giving demonstrations and arranging exhibits supplementary to events on the program.
7. Taking photographs to be kept as a record and for promotion of future Camporees.
8. Assisting with the publicity by writing and submitting newspaper and radio stories both before and immediately after the Camporee.
9. Making a final check after Troops or Patrols have policed the grounds at the end of the Camporee, and returning equipment and supplies.



Boy Scouts in Compass event observed by Senior Scouts, whose experience in use of compass makes them competent judges.



Patrol at Personal Inspection under the practiced eyes of an Explorer and an Air Scout, who also will inspect their campsite.