

EXPLORER

HERE we go, get your best gal, grab your swim suits, and let's shove off to our annual Splash Party. This event, when carefully planned and timed, can be both the last fling of summer and the kick-off of an interesting fall program.

Your Explorers, of course, vote to have this event, or you don't bother with it. But show them this writeup, and see if they don't go for it. Then see

that they name their committee and Event Director to handle it, and they're on their way.

Get the bids out early. Make them nautical in design; that adds to the fun. Shape them like sailboats, canoes, sea horses, shells, fish, pirate flags, or sea chests.

A well-rounded program will include races for Explorers and for their ladies. Hold some in shallow water for novices. Arrange the party more for fun than for skill.* Be careful in the co-ed races; the gals may show up the fellers.

The Beauty Parade will be a highlight. Each Explorer hands his "beauty" into a boat or canoe and then dives into the water, hangs on the stern, and propels the craft past King Neptune (the judge).

*A new book with plenty of ideas for this sort of program is *More Fun In the Water* by Ediola J. Bourgaize, Association Press, New York, \$2.00.

By O. W. Bennett
National Director
Explorer Service



SPLASH PARTY



If boats or canoes aren't available, the Explorer presents his "beauty" to the King who awards her a prize as the "most something or other." Every girl wins a prize. You'd better have the "most something or other" for each girl figured out beforehand. Ad libbing in this department can easily lead to hurt feelings on the part of sensitive girls — and most of 'em are.

Let me warn you, don't pick the "most beautiful;" leave that to Atlantic City. Award large colorful cardboard discs or ribbons appropriately inscribed for souvenirs as well as prizes.

After the beauty parade, a corn roast or barbecue will satisfy the appetites worked up in the water. Whatever you have, be sure there's plenty of it.

The early evening might be spent in boating and canoeing. Don't try to organize this. Sailors and landlubbers alike will want to chart and steer their own courses. Just make sure everyone agrees on the same time to debark.

Around the campfires after dark is the setting for harmonizing. You may have to be prepared to fill in an occasional lull. But let the young folks sing what they want to — what's popular nowadays, not in your days. Don't expect them to sing camp songs instead of sweetheart songs.

Now for a few of the water events. First, is Sponge Fishing. Fill a bunch of balloons with water and toss them in the pool. The team wins that retrieves the most and puts them in a basket on the shore. The sponges are harder to handle out of water than in.

Newspaper Race — read a newspaper while swimming on the back.

Candle Race — carry a lighted candle while swimming; return to start and get a light if the candle goes out; no splashing the other fellow's candle.

Needle Threading — do it under water with darning needle and heavy thread.

Waiter Race — carry a paper plate on the finger tips while swimming; add a cup to make it harder.

Watermelon Scramble — winning team is the one that gets a greased melon from the center of the pool back to its goal.

Boat race — blow or splash a toy boat.

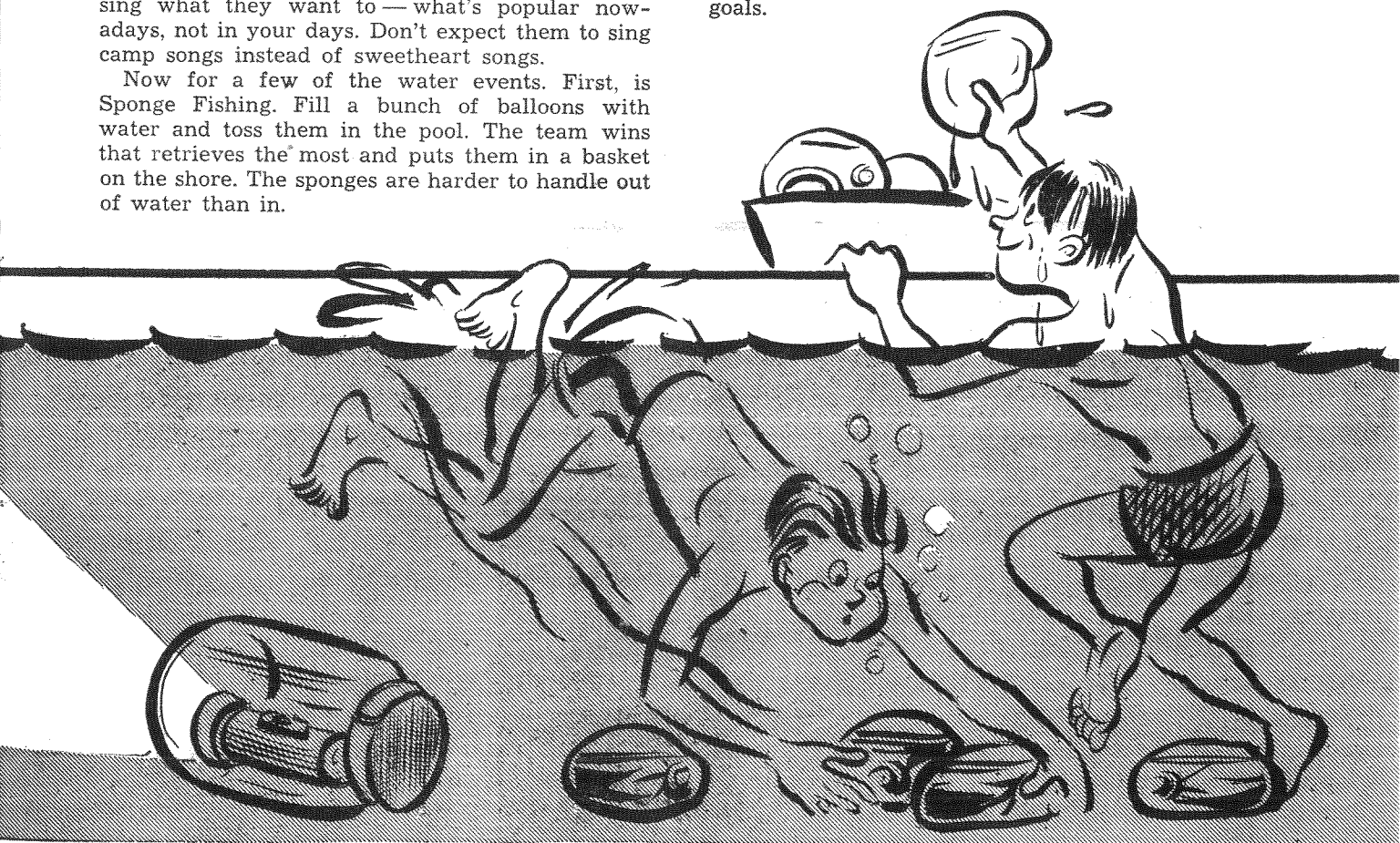
Siamese tag — players pair off and lock arms.

Mama and Baby — Each contestant puts bonnet and diaper on "baby" and carries "baby" across pool.

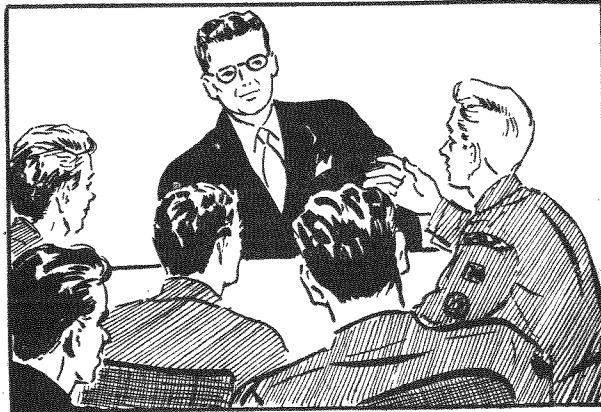
Sunken Treasure — pennies, spoons, or other sinkables are scattered in pool; winner is one who can retrieve the greatest number in one breath.

Dog Race — dog paddle and bark like a dog.

Ping Pong Polo — toss ping pong ball into center of pool; teams try to splash it over each other's goals.



DISTRICT EXPLORER EVENTS



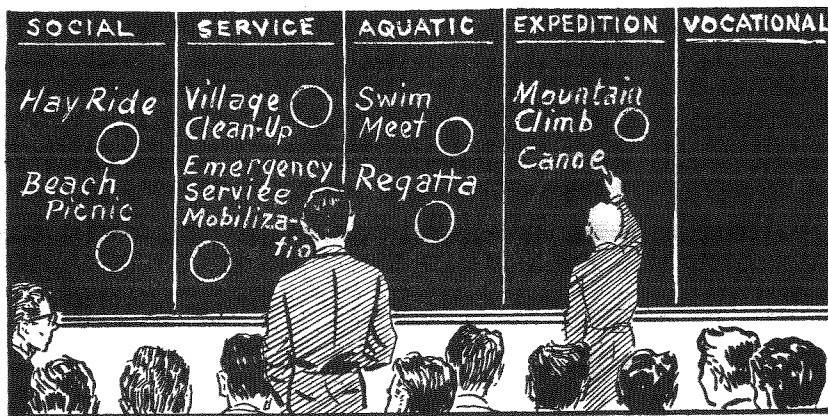
"Our job as Chairmen is to lead in planning."

2. The Conference Chairman appoints five Explorers as Chairmen of the Planning Committees — Social, Service, Aquatic, Expedition, Vocational. He meets with them and their own Advisors and discusses their program planning responsibilities.



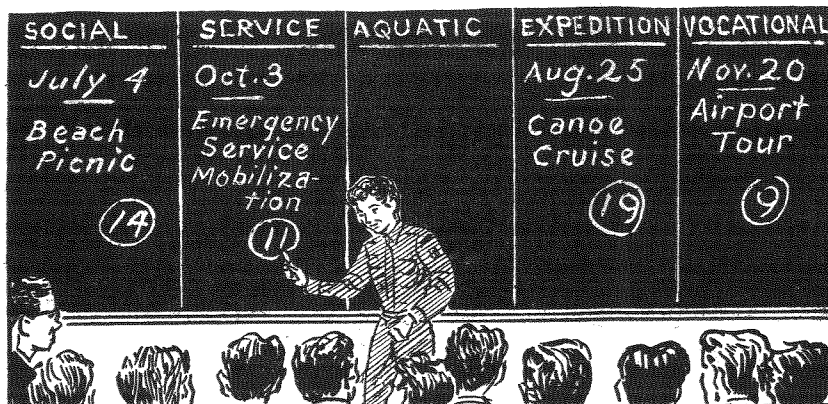
"To Explorer Advisors in the Southeast District . . ."

3. The Conference Chairman invites to the Conference at least one Explorer and Advisor from every Troop, Post, Ship, and Squadron in the District. He requests them to bring program suggestions from their Units for the next six months.



"Our Committee recommends a Canoe Cruise."

6. The Chairmen report to the Conference their Committees' recommended events. These ten recommendations are listed on a blackboard or chart in a column for each Committee. The Chairmen lead in discussion of these events.



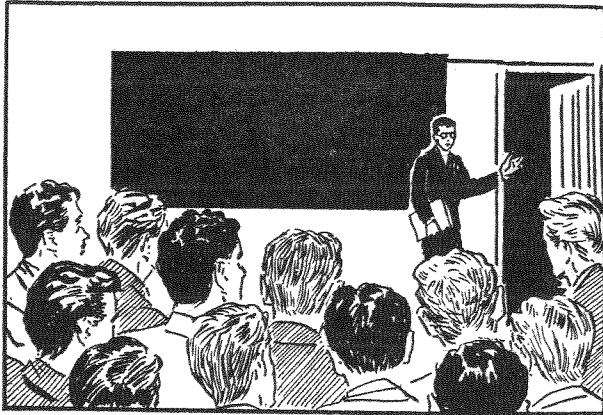
"Then we agree on October 3 for the Mobilization."

8. The Scout Executive, Conference Chairman, Planning Committee Chairmen and their Advisors meet and schedule the accepted events on the District Explorer calendar. For each event they appoint an Event Director.

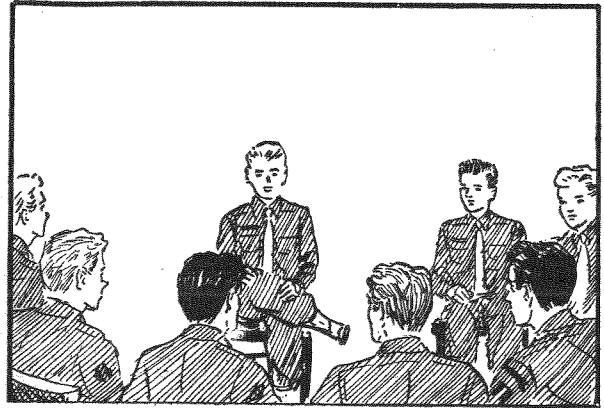


1. For planning and promoting big events for all Explorers in the District, an Explorer Activity Planning Conference is recommended twice a year. The District Camping and Activities Committee

appoints one of its members as Chairman of the Conference to supervise District Explorer events. Steps 4-8 below may be accomplished in a session of two or three hours.



"The Service Committee meets in the next room."



"How about an Emergency Service Mobilization?"

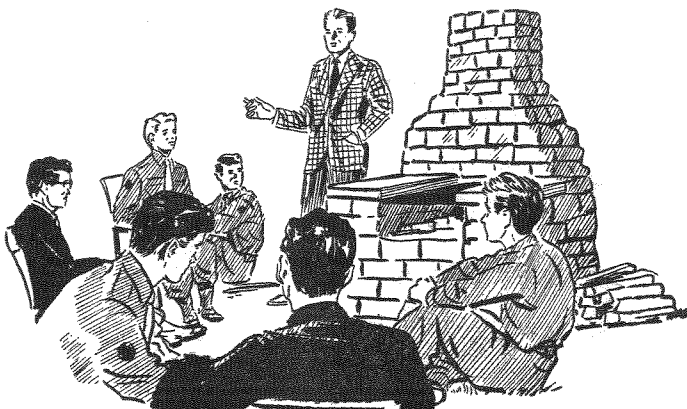
4. At the Conference the Chairman outlines the method of District Explorer planning to be followed. He divides the Explorers and Advisors among the five Committees according to the members' choices as far as possible.

5. The five Committees meet separately with their appointed Chairmen. Each plans two events in its field of activity to recommend to the District Explorers. Such items as equipment, cost, transportation, and a date are suggested.

SOCIAL	SERVICE	AQUATIC	EXPEDITION	VOCATIONAL
Hay Ride (4)	Village Clean-Up (6)	Swim Meet (5)	Mountain Climb (2)	Airport Tour (1)
Beach Picnic (14)	Emergency Service Mobilization (11)	Regatta (4)	Canoe Cruise (19)	Farm To (1)

"All in favor of an Airport Tour say Aye."

7. The Conference votes on the number of events to be held and then on the specific events to be included. Each person has as many votes as the number decided upon. Voting is done across the board, in rows instead of columns.



"Our job is to check on Mobilization plans."

9. Each Event Director selects his own committee of Explorers, Advisors, or others to help him. They make and carry out detailed plans for their event. The Conference Chairman follows through with all Event Directors and their Advisors.



BLUE

We're sending out "thank you" certificates everyday for Blue Ribbon Events. Has your Explorer Unit or Crew sent in your best activity? Thousands of other Explorer leaders will read it and possibly use it. Send in your Blue Ribbon Event today.



Indian Lore

By Hugh M. Howey, Advisor,
Post 80, New Philadelphia, Ohio

Our major emphasis has been on Indian lore. At the County Fair we put on dances and gave talks on Indian craft, customs and dress, to large audiences. At the Local Council annual dinner our Post gave a series of Indian dances with explanations of their meanings. They were well received and made the young men feel their study and work was worthwhile.



Fair Camp

By William J. Rioux, Advisor,
Post 49, Sumner, Washington

The Western Washington Fair, held each September, is a highlight to every Explorer and Scout who attends because he is one of 135 chosen from about 30,000 in this area. Our duties include first aid, messenger service, lost and found service, grandstand ushers, etc., during the nine days of the Fair. Last year, for example, we found 108 lost children. We also put on exhibits in the Boy Scout building.

Our Post finds the Emergency Service training very interesting; it helps us work together. We have an emergency trailer ready for use at all times.



Historical Cruise

By Rev. Albert V. Lang, Skipper,
Ship 65, Cape May Court House, N. J.

The outstanding event of our Ship in 1950 was a four-day historical cruise from our base at Stone Harbor to the Mullica River area, which abounds in places of historical importance of the Revolutionary War. Our Explorer Ship *Shark* followed the course of the British fleet and visited the early American towns along the river.

One night we anchored in a lonely cove and camped on the dunes. We fished and swam in the bay. We met some youth on a church conference and took part in their recreational program.

The cruise combined the elements necessary for a successful Explorer event: (1) Adventure, sailing into unknown waters. (2) Use of previously learned skills such as chart reading, running a compass course out of sight of land, taking care of a motor breakdown, and cooking meals. (3) Recreation and sharing experience with other youth.



RIBBON EVENTS



Radio Station Party By Arnie Stierman, Advisor, Post 2, Dubuque, Iowa

We had held weekly classes in social dancing, and the booklet *Your Ticket to Popularity* had been in circulation. The party was held in the candle lit main studio of Station KDTH, our sponsoring institution. Since our hobby is Indian lore, that motif was carried out. The centerpiece was a bonneted chief's head in papier-maché, 14 feet across. Bonnets, bustles, and beadwork completed the picture of a curio shop.

The party opened with a half hour of mixer games. Our pianist was supplemented by records. A 15-minute broadcast was staged while the Post charter was accepted, Post activities described, and Explorers and girls interviewed. (This broadcast was repeated during Anniversary Week.)

Climax of the party came when one of our whip crackers cut down a balloon filled tissue paper basket. Balloons contained tickets for which the holders claimed souvenirs.

The punch-making, decorations, finances, and other details were handled by committees. The Scout Executive and his wife chaperoned, and parents and leaders and wives dropped in for a few minutes throughout the evening.



Auto Tours By Louis A. Seara, Advisor, Post 52, Staten Island, New York

These two tours of three days each were well planned by the Explorers themselves. We had a trailer to carry equipment, and we camped out. The cost per trip averaged \$50. Distances traveled were 387 and 258 miles.

On the first tour to Benton, Pennsylvania, we were shown the construction of a dam to make an artificial lake on Red Rock Mountain. We saw Kitchen Falls in a state park. By way of vocational exploration, a doctor gave a well rounded discussion of what a country doctor must do. He explained the roadside signals of a flag by day and a lantern by night to direct the doctor to his patients. Finally he guided us to church on Sunday.

The second tour was to Great Barrington, Massachusetts, where we inspected the airport under the guidance of the owner and a pilot. After learning how ports and planes are operated, we had a long flight over the surrounding countryside. To gain a little woodcraft experience, we built a small bridge across a stream near the airport. Then we visited the Berkshire Council camp.

Careful planning and the cooperation of friends at the places we visited made these tours outstanding.



Emergency Service Camps By Holland St. John, Assistant Advisor, Post 15, Spokane, Washington

To promote Emergency Service, our Post turned what normally would be week-end camping into four week-ends of training and sport. At a nearby Council camp we worked on Emergency Service skills and along with this had skiing, tobogganing, and snow games to toughen up.

After each Explorer completed the Emergency Service requirements, he commenced working on Explorer Ratings. The first the fellows chose was physical fitness because of its connection with Emergency Service. Stalking in snow proved lots of fun as well as picking up other outdoor skills, such as foil cooking, winter hiking, and compass work.

These week-ends proved to us that business and pleasure do mix and pay!



Outing By Lt. Robert W. McCarthy, Scoutmaster, Troop 7, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Last December as the new Scoutmaster I found the Troop consisted of two Explorers and four Scouts. After a talk with them, I learned they had not had a hike in over a year. Right then and there we put the OUTING back into Troop 7's Scouting, with an outdoor trip of some kind twice every month.

Three and a half months later our registered membership was 15 Explorers and 11 Scouts. Our plans for the future call for the same outdoor program. Our Blue Ribbon Event was to put outing back into Scouting and in doing so, put Troop 7 back on its feet.



Dad-Son Cavalcade By Clare O. Dunlap, Advisor, Post 123, Newton, Kansas

Our Dad-Son Cavalcade to Philmont in 1949, was a horseback, camping, fishing trip along some of the best trails, beauty spots, and fishing waters at the Scout ranch. Interest in it grew so that we had to divide the group into two cavalcades of 22 each, including 10 dads. The dads and sons said they really got to know each other. We are planning a similar trip to Philmont this summer.





GET A MESSAGE THROUGH

By
Harry Harchar

BOYS' LIFE

EXPLORERS stand in the first line of communications in local Civil Defense. Back of them is Scouting's proud record of getting messages through in times of disaster. "Assisting in organizing, training, and participating in Civil Defense messenger services" is one of the basic duties agreed upon by national Civil Defense and Scouting authorities.

Three local groups that your Explorers might tie up with on this service are the local Civil Defense authority, the American Radio Relay League, and the American Red Cross chapter. These groups are already cooperating on communications. You may contact them through your Local Council, your District Commissioner or directly.

Methods of organizing, training, and participating are outlined in one of the new pamphlets, *Collection, Distribution, and Communication Services* (Cat. No. 3195) 15 cents.

Since there is no age limit for a ham radio operator, Explorers are eligible to try for the novice license which the Federal Radio Communications Commission will put into effect July 1. Qualification for the Radio Merit Badge will go a long way toward preparation for the new license. *BOYS' LIFE* magazine will run a series of articles on it this fall.

Explorers with neither interest nor aptitude in radio work are still in great demand for relaying messages locally, either within message centers or throughout the community. Depending on local conditions, alternative methods must be planned such as delivering messages on foot, bicycle, auto, or boat. Explorer drivers of motor vehicles, of course, must be properly licensed.

COLLECTION DISTRIBUTION AND COMMUNICATION SERVICES

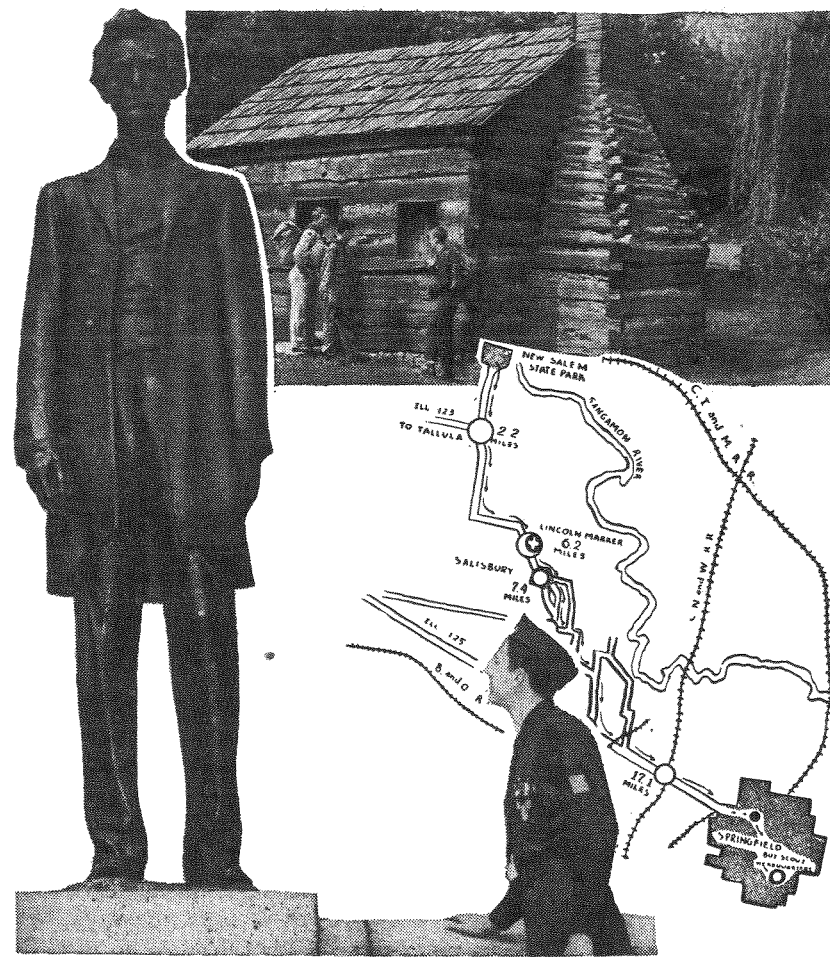
SURVIVAL - CIVIL DEFENSE - EMERGENCY SERVICE
PROGRAM SERIES

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Here are some steps to "Be Prepared" for Civil Defense messenger services:

1. Write a plan of operations and training in cooperation with the local authorities, mentioned above.
2. Organize and practice a mobilization system for your Explorer group.
3. Know your community, its street or road layout, and the buildings that will be important in a disaster.
4. Learn message handling techniques such as how to receive telephone messages and how to prepare them for transmission.
5. Learn the Morse code; get a ham license.
6. Volunteer your services during American Radio Relay League Field Days and test runs to act as messenger or message center aide. (Your police or Civil Defense authorities will know who is head of the ARRL.)
7. Make or obtain and practice using whatever equipment may be needed.
8. Toughen up physically so you will be in condition to serve under hardship.
9. Practice getting messages through by various methods — on foot, skis, boat, bicycle, etc.





The LINCOLN TRAIL HIKE



FOUR SCORE and seven years ago, Abraham Lincoln would have been surprised to find fame literally attached to his footsteps, even as he was then surprised at the growing appreciation of his talk so poorly received at Gettysburg the previous November.

Sitting then as President of the United States, it would never have occurred to the Great Emancipator that the twenty Illinois miles he walked so often in his young manhood would become a mecca for modern-day pilgrims — tens of thousands of Scouts and Explorers walking the same twenty miles. Today, no less than three Lincoln Trail hikes are growing in popularity, with scores of Explorers traveling across several states to walk in Lincoln's footsteps.

Over ten thousand boys have walked the Illinois Lincoln Trail alone, since the first Scout earned the Lincoln Trail Medal on November 6, 1926. The total for 1950 in Illinois was 1,271, with that number likely to be surpassed in 1951.

Lincoln was a man just turned twenty-one when his parents brought him to Illinois. After he helped his father and stepmother winter the first year, Abe landed a job on a flatboat and soon settled in his own home at New Salem on the Sangamon River. At New Salem he clerked in a general store,

while he studied law from books borrowed from his friend, John T. Stuart. Since Stuart resided in Springfield, "Honest Abe," as he was then beginning to be called, had a twenty-mile journey facing him each time he was ready for another book. Transportation, other than on his own feet, was both difficult and costly, so Lincoln walked — often making the forty-mile round trip in a single day.

In 1926 the Abraham Lincoln Council established its Lincoln Trail Medal. To qualify for the medal, an Explorer must read one of several recommended books about Lincoln, and submit a written report, then hike the Lincoln Trail. For complete details you can write the Abraham Lincoln Council, 730 E. Vine St., Springfield, Illinois.

There are two other popular Lincoln Trail hikes open for Explorers. The Kentucky trail is thirty-four miles long, and usually requires two days to cover. For information about the hike, and the medal awarded for the hike, write to the Louisville Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, 431 Liberty Street, Louisville 2, Kentucky. The third Lincoln Trail is in Indiana, and is eighteen miles long. A medal, too, is awarded for hikers who complete this trail. Write to the Southern Indiana Council, Boy Scouts of America, 206 S.E. First Street, Evansville 8, Indiana.



AUGUST PLANNING

July Planning
Was Covered in
the May SCOUTING



AUGUST is the time to look ahead to your plans for the coming program year (September 1951 to August 1952) as well as for the fall quarter (September to November). We'll give you details on all that in the September issue which will be mailed about August 1. Meanwhile you can review tested methods of quarterly and annual planning in any of these publications:

Hints on Explorer Leadership, chapters 6-7.

Explorer Manual, chapters 15-16.

Handbook For Skippers, chapters IV-V.

"Program Planning" on pages 24-25 of January 1951 SCOUTING Magazine.

Try These in August

Hold an **EMERGENCY SERVICE TRAINING CAMP**, perhaps at the Council campsite. If many fellows work during the week, have it over a week-end. There's lots of program material in the new series of booklets described on page 10 of this issue. "Civil Defense Via the Outdoors" on page 20 provides more suggestions. There's good survival training material on page 22 and also back in the April issue on page 18.

Give a **SPLASH PARTY** as described on pages 28-29 in this issue. The "Water Sports" story on pages 26-27 of the May issue gives more ideas on this.

How to run a **REGATTA** is explained on pages 22-23 of the April issue.

If you want still other late summer program suggestions, roam back through the Blue Ribbon Events published every month since February. Those are events that have worked.

BOYS' LIFE Suggestions

The magazine for Scouting and Exploring is coming up with a score of stories that will suggest events for your Unit to do in August. Here they are.

JULY ISSUE — The Pup (tent) Grows Up. How to handle a canoe. Training a roping horse. How to dive. Skill-O-Ree (archery). Family survival training. Exploring with the Old Timer.

AUGUST ISSUE — Adventure camping. Camping in the rain. Seven-Week Regatta. Square Pegs in Square Holes (vocational counseling). How to build a complete home workshop. Hoomaka He Paami (They play it rough in Hawaii). How to

sail. The How of Tennis. Physical fitness in Civil Defense. Exploring with the Old Timer.

"Pioneering Projects"

This book by John Thurman, Camp Chief, Gilwell Park, England, is reviewed by O. W. "Bud" Bennett, National Exploring Director.

A most refreshing book, one which approaches "pioneering" from a truly pioneering standpoint.

Basics, which are well covered, plus projects makes it a valuable addition to the Explorers' library.

I thank Mr. Thurman for comments such as these:

"Are you a Scoutmaster who is concerned to train and develop the characters of your Scouts . . . or are you just an overgrown Boy Scout?"

One of the great joys of Scouting is improvisation.

"A pioneering site is in no way different from a camp site." and on that, as you know BP said, "We leave nothing but our thanks."

As a test for a bridge he gives this:

"Can a middle-aged man of reasonable girth and in full control of most of his faculties get on your bridge and cross it with reasonable expedition, arriving safely on the other side — and that, hope, includes most Commissioners who will like to sample your Scouts' efforts."

Somehow I think you'll enjoy this book, too.

"National Forest Vacations"

This pamphlet you should get if a National Forest is on your high adventure or expedition itinerary. Year around use of these forests is explained and pictured. It lists by states all the National Forests, giving name, location, headquarters, special features, outdoor sports, and accommodations. Write for a copy to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Washington, D.C.

Philmont Training Course

Another Explorer Leaders' training course has been added to the schedule at Philmont Scout Ranch, Cimarron, New Mexico. It will be on the week of August 12-18. The fee is \$35. You can combine the course with a family vacation by taking your wife and children along. There will be an additional fee for family members.

