

Norman Rockwell And The BSA

Most folks know the name “Norman Rockwell.” But did you know that the illustrator documented Scouting from 1913 to 1976? Rockwell’s portfolio is evocative of the Scouting spirit and portrays the ideals of the movement during its infancy through the United States Bicentennial.



A Scout is Helpful (1941) – Hillcourt’s “Norman Rockwell’s

World of Scouting” explained this work was inspired by a 1938 hurricane. Rockwell thought to show the rescue in “the hurricane’s fury.” The powers that be preferred that the good turn be pictured in perfect uniform.



An Army of Friendship (1933) – As the Scouting movement made its way around the globe, Baden Powell hoped it would make

future generations less susceptible to war. Here, Scouts from the US, UK, Thailand, Poland, Sudan, and Hungary represent those attending the 4th World Jamboree.



High Adventure (1957) – This time Rockwell illustrated a group of Explorers at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. Modern Explorers are more vocationally oriented; however, the spirit of adventure continues with Venture Scouting. Philmont remains a treasured destination.



Mighty Proud (1958) – Now a scene played out by boys and girls across the country, here Rockwell's young Scout leaves Cub Scouts behind as he dons the antique olive green uniform and garrison hat, while mom pins a Troop 2 patch on his sleeve and brother helps with the neckerchief.



A Scout is Kind – Today's illustrations, named Good Friends (1927) and A Good Scout (1935) portray Norman Rockwell's oft-used interpretation of "A Scout is Kind" as focused on an appreciation for animals (especially dogs). This motif is seen many times in NR's work.





Come and Get It! (1970) – Cooking is a big part of camping. However, this illustration – used on BSA publications – represents the many different ways that a Scout outing plays out. But the Scout in the foreground is feeling pretty good about whatever he's made for the troop.



Stressed Out? Scouts Can Try These Techniques

Scouts in the UK have some ideas for in-the-moment relaxation...
Getting back into the routine of things after the Holidays is

supposed to put folks on even footing. It's supposed to be comforting to be back in "the swing of things." But for many of us, especially during these confusing, frustrating COVID times, that old routine might seem far from mind.

Nearly everyone feels this way, sometimes. And our youngest scouts are no less susceptible to a bad day than the most experienced Scouter.

What's to do? Nothing.

I mean, do something. But not the thing that is stressing you out? Um. IDK.

What do I know about relaxation? I'm blogging at 11:30 PM.

But the folks at *Scouts.org.uk*, compiled a pretty spectacular list of cooling, calming techniques that can be done just about anywhere.

- *Breathing*
- *Go for a walk*
- *Write it down*
- *Talk about it*
- *Eat something tasty*
- *Laugh*
- *Have a hot drink*
- *Get some rest*
- *Light a candle (safely)*

And my favorite, since I have three new kitties...

- *Pet an animal*

Size doesn't matter here – a hamster or gerbil can be just as calming as a Great Dane or a pony. If you don't have a pet at

home, you could visit a city farm or petting zoo, ask an animal-loving friend if you can visit, or just go on a walk around your neighbourhood in hope of encountering a furry friend.

The full list and explanation is [here](#).

However, I do know one thing that can help nearly everyone relax.

A campfire.

And just in case you don't have any tinder in the vicinity, Pedro the Mailbuuro can help.

Crackling Campfire at Scout Camp – 1 hour of Relaxing Nature Sounds and Pedro the Mailburro

Image: [Scouts.org.uk](https://scouts.org.uk)

Scouts Honor: Thomas R., Troop 101 Northborough

Eagle Scout project garnered 300 new LEGO sets for Boston Children's Hospital

Recently, children at Boston Children's Hospital received almost 300 new LEGO sets from a former patient turned Mayflower Council Eagle Scout – Thomas R.

Thomas, a sophomore at Willow Hill School and a Scout in Troop 101 Northborough, learned those little blocks' true value while fighting through illness several years ago.

“During my stay, there was not much I could do because of all the wires attached to me,” he told the Community Advocate last August of his stay at Boston Children’s. “I remember the Child Life Specialist bringing me a new Lego set to build, and that was a lot of fun.”

The Eagle Scout service project, “The LEGO Drive,” was announced in April 2021 via YouTube.

BTW: Shout out to whoever played the LEGO Minifig in the video.

In the video, Thomas explained that he was a patient at Boston Children’s Hospital in 2015; he talked about the cords and equipment and how the distraction of LEGOs was integral to his morale.

“I built [that] set and many more throughout my stay at Boston Children’s Hospital,” explained Thomas. “To bring that excitement to Children’s Hospital, I am hosting a LEGO drive.”

The Advocate elaborated on Thomas’ plan:

Lego sets were collected using an Amazon Wishlist, which shipped directly to Thomas. He also had donation bins set up at his school and house. In addition, a drive-up collection was held at Assabet Park on April 11.

Of course, like many things during 2021, COVID-19 made things difficult for Thomas and his fellow LEGO drivers.

“I delivered 60 sets and will deliver the rest as soon as BCH has lifted their donation restrictions due to COVID,” said Thomas last summer

Although tenacity is not an official part of the Scout Law, it is implied. Despite obstacles, Thomas was definitely HELPFUL to each of the kids at Boston Children’s Hospital who received the LEGOs.

“I am grateful to everyone who contributed to help make this project a success,” he said to the Community Advocate. “I hope the Legos will put a smile on the faces of the patients at Boston Children’s Hospital like it did for me.”

BTW: If you know of a Mayflower Scout who deserves some recognition, email John@MayflowerBSA.com.

Photo submitted to *Community Advocate*

A Scout is Helpful: Session Explains Scoutbook

The Mayflower Council looks to help leaders open Scoutbook on January 31...

Scouts BSA may have been born in 1910, but the current program is a little more contemporary vintage. And since a Scout is brave, Scouting continues to march into the digital landscape.

For example, did you know that Scoutbook is the BSA’s online tracking service?

Scouting.org explains:

From the first knot tied to the final hours of service performed, the Scouting experience is a journey like none other. And Scoutbook is your go-to tool to ensure not a moment is missed – tracking advancement, milestone achievements, and all the fun along the way.

Okay, okay. You’re familiar with Scoutbook. But maybe you are just a bit unsure of how to use the online module. Or perhaps

you are just a bit technologically averse.

The Mayflower Council has a solution.

Mayflower Council Scoutbook Training: January 31, 7:00 to 8:30 PM

Does your unit use Scoutbook, or are you wondering how to get going with it? This session will cover a basic overview and ways to begin using it.

Topics like how to log in and how leaders sign off on requirements will be covered. Please join us with your questions and come away with an understanding of how this tool can benefit the scouts and leaders in your unit.

So, Zoom in on Scoutbook!

Register in advance:

[Register Now](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Annual Recognition Dinner Postponed

Due to the recent spike in COVID-19 cases and in an abundance of caution, for the health and safety of our attendees, the Council Recognition Dinner has been postponed until April 28 at 7pm at the Franklin Country Club. If you have already registered to attend, please mark the new date on your calendar.

The Annual Business Meeting scheduled for January 26 will move to a virtual format from 6:00pm to 7:00pm. Information to access the virtual meeting will be emailed to all board members and chartering organization representatives.

Other upcoming council activities, including the Freeze Out, are still being held as scheduled.

Scouting For “Unbored” Kids In The Winter

A helpful post from Scouting Magazine outlines information about boredom...

We're just a few days into winter, and my kids are already tearing the paint off the walls. Beyond school break and the COVID caution, we're all staring at each other a whole lot.

Looking for relief during the holiday vacation, we found a helpful article from *Scouting Magazine*. And while the information might be a few years old, the sage wisdom makes a whole lot of sense to this parent.

Back in December 2014, in his article entitled, “Activities to help your kids beat winter boredom,” Mark Ray posted, “it’s the rare kid who doesn’t complain about being bored during long breaks from school.

“So what should you do when you hear ‘I’m bored’? To find out, Scouting talked with two experts: Josh Glenn, co-author of *Unbored: The Essential Field Guide to Serious Fun* (Bloomsbury USA, 2012), and Jean Van’t Hul, author of *The Artful Parent: Simple Ways to Fill Your Family’s Life with Art & Creativity*

(Roost Books, 2013) and host of the Artful Parent blog (artfulparent.com).”

The top takeaways include:

- **A Little Boredom Is OK**
- **Preparation Is Essential**
- **Screens Aren't (Necessarily) The Enemy**
- **Fun Is A Team Sport**

But, one anti-boredom balm seemed to elude all of our authors (although admittedly, participation in BSA was probably assumed based on the publication).

However, as we are entering another membership drive here at Mayflower Council, we would also include:

Join Scouting!

Example: Two of my three sons are members of local units. And while the Cub Scout was excited to join members of his Lions Den for a special Pinewood Derby garage (for the Kindergarten set) and looks forward to the next meeting, the older Scout asked to invite a member of his troop to the local Scout Reservation for a hike. We did that.

Then, the middle guy invited a friend along and said we could consider them both “recruits.” We’re heading to the trail tomorrow.

Suddenly holiday break seems just a little too short for this sappy Assistant Scoutmaster!

So, if you are interested in joining Scouting, just send me an email. I’ll get your family signed up before anyone in the house utters b-o-r-e-d.

Summer 2022: Seven Weeks at Camp Squanto

New video highlights Mayflower Council's 650-acre destination for adventure...

Hey, did you know it's winter? "Wonderful" snow, sleet, and freezing temps for at least a few more months. As the commercial jokes, "495 is a pahhhhking lot."

YUCK!

And now, with the holidays in the rearview, we need something significant to look forward to; something that speaks to sunshine and swimming and well, warmth.

For those of you who live near Mayflower Council and Plymouth, Massachusetts, specifically, you need not look any further than the LeBaron R. Barker Scout Reservation.

Of course, right there in Myles Standish State Forest, Camp Squanto boasts 650-acres of year-round camping.

However, during the summer months, Camp Squanto will again feature seven weeks of "high-quality, long-term camping" for Scout troops and individual Scouts.

The official site explains:

Our Scout camp is awesome, fun, week-long, overnight camping adventures for Scouts BSA and Venturers that provide an outstanding program of education, adventure, and purpose in a beautiful, wooded environment with natural ponds. Scouts can earn merit badges and take advantage of advancement opportunities. They'll also enjoy swimming, canoeing, sailing, fishing, nature, archery, shooting sports and learn lots of Scouting skills! All under the guidance of our trained staff

members.

Curious? Want to know more about Camp Squanto?

Check out this video:

Camp Squanto Promo 2022

And then read all about Camp Squanto [here](#).

Exploring The History of Scouts BSA

It's pretty easy to find articles and videos about the beginning of the World Scouting Movement and its "uncle" Lieutenant General Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell – Baden Powell or "BP" (Be Prepared) for short. It's a little more challenging to get to brass tax about the origins of scouting in the United States.

Scouting.org explained:

Stop me if you've heard this– and if you haven't, you must have joined Scouting very recently. It's the story of the Unknown Scout who guided Chicago publisher William D. Boyce through a pea-soup fog in 1909 in London–and that led him to the office of Robert S.S. Baden-Powell, the founder of Scouting. There Boyce picked up a trunkload of literature about the young movement for British boys, leading him to incorporate the Boy Scouts of America on Feb. 8, 1910, soon after returning to the United States.

But despite the made-for-Hollywood story, the rest of the tale isn't as well known, as Scouting.org added, "W. D. Boyce is a

shadowy figure among Scouting's pioneers."

"This is due largely to the fact that he did not take a hands-on approach to Scouting as did the founder, Baden-Powell, in England and, in the United States, Chief Scout Ernest Thompson Seton, National Scout Commissioner Daniel Carter Beard, and Chief Scout Executive James E. West.

"Boyce did his thing and left the details to others."

But what are those details? Or, how did we get here from there?

Well, two different Scouters produced videos to help show us the way.

Check these out:

History of the Founding of the Boy Scouts of America: Did You Know?

How Did Scouting Start in America?

The BSA Uniform: Always In Style

From Army hand-me-downs to Oscar de la Renta, the Boy Scout uniform is, itself, a story...

As you put on your Scout uniform, did you ever catch yourself wondering, how did we get here?

After all, it's one of the most iconic ensembles on earth. No matter where you're from, everyone can picture a Boy Scout.

A neckerchief, olive green, and khaki – top it with a hat (and

knee-high socks); even parodies like Russell's "Wilderness Explorers" in Pixar's *Up* and Sam Shakuski's Khaki Scouts in *Moonrise Kingdom* can't escape the ubiquitous nature of the classic Boy Scout (or Cub Scout) getup.

That's part of what makes those films so great. No matter the color, on and off-screen, a Boy Scout uniform tells the viewer a lot of information, even before anyone speaks.

For example, we're laughing because Russell goes to great lengths (and heights) to earn an important merit badge. We believe Sam can do anything because of his Scout uniform (and seemingly magic backpack).

Meanwhile, and perhaps most importantly, Life Scout Henry Jones Jr. wearing a Boy Scout uniform in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* tells you all you need to know about Indy's character (and gives clues as to why Dr. Jones wears durable adventures gear and a wide brim hat as he gets older).

What's unique about the BSA uniform, with an over 111-year history, remains its utilitarian construction. Its durability. And its ability to tell a story for the wearer.

Over the last few months, Stan "Scouter Stan" Richards has posted three vlogs explaining the importance of the Scout Uniform and how it evolved over more than a century.

Scout Uniform Through History

The Square Knot on the Uniform Tells A Story

What is That on Your Uniform?

And speaking of Oscar de la Renta, *Scouting Wire* did a whole breakdown of the designer's work for BSA.

"We felt the uniform should meet several criteria," de la Renta told *Scouting Magazine* in 1980. "It should be equitable for strenuous activity; it should be made from an easy-care fabric, and at the same time the wearer should still look like a Scout."

What is a Pinewood Derby Garage?

Cub Scout Pack 3104 in Hudson prepares for the big race...

For the majority of Cub Scouts, two words bring visions of pole positions, paint jobs, and – principally – victory.

“Pinewood Derby.”

Unfortunately, for many Cub Scout parents, those words (needlessly) bring sheer terror.

Not because the day is a bore. No, there’s plenty of fun to be had from top to bottom of the track. However, for many modern families, the sound of a bandsaw is just as rare as the dings, dongs, and pings of dial-up internet.

Yes, coupled with the ever-churning imagination of a child, the thought of bringing a muscle car out of a block of pine can make even the most talented lawyer, teacher, chef, or – ahem – writer downright apoplectic.

Thankfully for Cub Scouts in Hudson, Massachusetts, this year a pair of brothers came to the rescue, wearing dark blue Pack 3104 sweatshirts and sawdust speckled beards. Taking the Boy Scout motto to heart, they remain *prepared* to take on the toughest of paper napkin-drawn designs and guide enthusiastic or frustrated Cubs, moms, dads, and mentors through the process.

And they succeeded.

From the wood to the winner, there is an unstated method that

is better taught in a garage than a classroom, better shown than told. And, like so many Cubmasters and grandfathers and den leaders (and, yes, professional carpenters) throughout the United States and the Scouting world, they also center their work in the Cub Scout motto: "Do your best..."

You see, Andrew Hermann, Cubmaster, and his brother Jeremy, the father of a new Lions scout, both know their way around a workbench. And, when there's a Pinewood Derby car to cut, both Scouters offer up one of their well-stocked garages for everything from a tutorial to a tune-up.

There, wielding the well-used equipment (passed down through several generations of scouts) and oft-proven techniques (passed down through years and years of races – and on YouTube) a bit of magic happens.

Out of the shavings and the sweat comes a car. And it's not any old car. It's a Pinewood Derby racer, more precious to the Cub Scout that designed it (or painted it, or decorated it) than any video game avatar or smartphone.

So, how does a good Cub Scout Pinewood Derby garage get run?

Any old way that gets the job done!

A smile helps, too. After all, a Scout is cheerful, no? Interested in running a Pinewood Derby garage? Write to Pack 3104 for some tips and tricks.