

Centennial of the Boy Scouts – 1910-2010
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General Robert Baden-Powell of England was on Hitler's black list. Why? Because Baden-Powell embraced values antithetical to tyranny. He was raised by his mother to succeed in life in spite of the fact that his father (a preacher at Oxford) died when he was three. No excuses, no victim mentality, simply stand up and do what is right. Baden-Powell would eventually write that *"a Scout is never taken by surprise; he knows exactly what to do when anything unexpected happens."*

Rooted in his own military background, the word "scout" originally meant learning how to scout out the enemy – both moral and physical. It was this determination and loyalty to principle, liberty and morality that inspired Scouting here in America. William Boyce, inspired by Baden-Powell and one of his "scouts", founded the Boy Scouts of America on February 8, 1910. The first Eagle Scout award (a purely patriotic and American invention) was given in 1911. Evidently Boyce had been lost in the London fog and was offered by a young Scout to be led to his destination. Upon offering the Scout money, the young lad refused and simply said he was "doing his good turn".

Boyce adapted the Scouting ideals within our American heritage, emphasizing self-reliance, citizenship, resourcefulness, patriotism, obedience, cheerfulness, courage, and courtesy in order "to make men". A multi-millionaire, Boyce donated \$1,000 a month just to keep Scouting alive here on our shores. From its inception and its military roots, Scouting drew its meaning from patriotic loyalty *"to God and Country."*

Scouts live by oaths whose roots go deep into the American soil of conscience. They are to be *"morally straight"* and each Scout Commander is to lead by example. As Baden-Powell stated, *"success in training the boy depends largely on the Scoutmaster's own personal example."* Scouting, though begun in England, is truly an American adventure in the training of the self-government and character necessary in maintaining liberty.

Keep in mind that in 2008 alone more than 2.8 million Scouts and nearly 1.2 million volunteers performed service projects yielding more than 35 million hours of volunteerism. This is the kind of character that built our Nation. So as the Centennial float in honor of Scouting's 100th year in America, remember the oath of each young man who commits himself to be *"trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent."*