



Scouting Around the World

NOVEMBER 2014

National Capital Area Council International Committee

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http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/open_rosters/ViewOrgPageLink.asp?LinkKey=17085&orgkey=1988

The International Committee meets the third Thursday, every other month at the Marriott Scout Service Center, 7:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

Upcoming meeting date: November 20, 2014

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BP Bits:



"When you want a thing done, 'Don't do it yourself' is a good motto for Scoutmasters."
LORD ROBERT BADEN-POWELL (1857-1941)

B-P wrote a weekly Pow-Wow called the Chief Scout Yarns. This one is from 24 Jan 1920: The story of Ali Baba is really an old Arab tale and was written in Bagdad, India. The Scouts of Bagdad recently did the play Ali Baba. As you know, we have every form of religion and at Bagdad there are Chaldoneans, Moslems, Jews and Christians. It was considered a most wonderful thing by the onlookers when during the play Christian boys danced with Moslems. The older men have been asking; "What sort of spirit is this that the British have brought to us? Those boys, instead of being continually at war with one another, according to the religion they followed, are now like a band of brothers together." Such is the brotherhood of the Scouts. We can respect another fellow's religion, and not think any the worse of him because he is not exactly the same as ourselves

Collectors' Corner: Adult Scouter Awards



Japan
Silver Cuckoo



BSA
Silver World



S. Africa
Silver Springbok



World Committee
Bronze Wolf



S. Africa
African Elephant



S. Africa
Silver Protea

International Peace Light



Now in its 27th year, the Peace Light from Bethlehem campaign was originally organized by the Austrian Broadcasting Company - ORF (Linz) - and was part of a large charitable relief mission - Light into Darkness, for children in need in Austria and abroad. Since 1986, there has been a great deal of co-operation between Scouts and Guides in many countries, which has allowed the light to travel throughout Europe such that the light is passed on to 30 European Countries and for the past few years, on to North America, Mexico and Canada. Each year, a child from Upper Austria kindles a flame from the "Eternal Flame" from the Nativity Grotto in Bethlehem where Jesus was born. The light is then flown to Austria from where it is distributed at a Service of Dedication to delegations from across Europe who take it back with a message of Peace to their own countries for use at ecumenical services throughout the Continent. Scouts and Guides can then take the light on to other churches, hospitals, old people homes, prisons, and places of public, cultural and political importance - to anybody that appreciates the significance of the "gift". In past years the light has been presented to Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, Mikhail Gorbachev, the former King Husain of Jordan, EU President Romano Prodi and other members of the European parliament in Strasbourg, the UN Troops in Kosovo and to Ground Zero, New York.

The INTERNATIONAL BOY SCOUTS Program

International Boy Scouts, Troop 1 was the first "mixed nationality" group formally registered by the World Scout Bureau and has been continuously active since its foundation. The Troop's "mixed nationality" Charter, dated October 30, 1925, was issued after the newly formed International Bureau received approval to directly register such "international" groups at the 3rd World Scout Conference. The Charter was signed by Lord Baden-Powell. October 2011 marked the 100th Anniversary of the "British Troop", the "1st Yokohama", and April 2012 was the 100th Anniversary of B-P's visit to Japan and his surprise greeting by Scoutmaster Griffin and the Scouts from St. Joseph College that formed that original Troop.

In Japan, as early as 1908, Scouting came to the notice of a number of influential educators, some of whom adapted Scout ideas to their educational work. However, the first Boy Scout Troop to be established in Japan was begun in Yokohama by Clarence Griffin. As an adult, Griffin was very active in the foreign community in Yokohama and decided to begin a Boy Scout troop in the fall of the 1911. The first meeting of the new troop was held in October of that year with 18 new Scouts: 12 English, 3 American, 2 Danish, and 1 Norwegian. This is the troop that greeted Baden-Powell on his visit to Japan on April 2, 1912. B-P had not heard of any Scouting in Japan prior to his arrival and expressed surprise at being welcomed by a local Scout Troop.

Baden-Powell himself presented Griffin with a warrant as Scoutmaster and the troop was subsequently registered with the Boy Scouts Association in London as the "First Yokohama", a "British troop abroad", and by that registration its membership was restricted to youngsters of British nationality. It does not seem that this limitation was strictly adhered to, but the troop generally marched behind the Union Jack and the Scout flag, and was frequently referred to as the "British Troop." This troop, the First Yokohama, was the forerunner of the International Boy Scouts, Troop 1.

The transition by the Scouts of the First Yokohama to the "international" troop began with Marianist Bro. Joseph Janning's arrival on assignment to St. Joseph College. Bro. Janning had become acquainted with Scouting in the United States; and shortly after his arrival in Yokohama in December, 1917, he became convinced that it would be an ideal addition to the program for all boys of St. Joseph College, regardless of nationality and not primarily limited to the British students of the school. In 1918, Bro. Janning proposed an "international" troop, open to all nationalities, to Bro. Jean-Baptist Gaschy, Director of the College, and to the school council. After hearing his explanation of the Scout movement and his idea of an "international" troop, the council enthusiastically accepted Bro. Janning's proposal. The first meeting of the new international group, consisting of the 36 boys of the 1st Yokohama and a few of their classmates, was held on September 16, 1918 on the grounds of the school. By the end of September there were over 70 Scouts and by the end of 1918 the troop had grown to more than 150 Scouts.

At the 3rd World Scout Conference in 1924, prompted by an earlier letter from Bro. Janning to B-P, the issue of the "International" troop was raised and the newly formed Boy Scouts International Bureau was authorized to directly register mixed nationality Scout groups. The IBS, Troop 1 Charter, dated October 30, 1925, was the first Charter issued by the International Bureau under the new authorization. Lord Baden-Powell and Hubert S. Martin, the first Director of the newly formed Boy Scouts International Bureau, signed the Charter. In 1929, Bro. Janning left Yokohama for the United States, and the troop leadership passed to Bro. William V. (Abromitis) Ambrose.

Such was the political situation that, on January 1, 1941, resulted in the Japanese Department of Education calling for the abolition of all Japanese youth organizations. On January 16, 1941, the Boy Scouts of Japan, which had been formed in 1922, ceased to exist. The international troop was not bound to discontinue its activities, but on December 8, 1941, Troop 1 Scoutmaster, Bro. Gutschmiel, along with Assistant Scoutmaster

Brandmaier and former Scoutmaster Ambrose, were the first arrested as enemy aliens and interned at the Negishi Internment Camp.

Indoor Scouting activities were continued by Bro. Kraft, practising knot tying, first aid, and other Scouting skills while sitting on the stairways of the temporary school building. In 1945, when the war ended, Bro. Haegeli, Director of the school, negotiated the return of the school's property in Yokohama, and St. Joseph College was able to return to its pre-war campus in time to prepare for the start of the new school year. Alfred Agajan relocated to the United States and did not return to the troop. Bro. Francis Tribull, who had been an Assistant Scoutmaster before the war, was appointed Scoutmaster on his return to St. Joseph College, with Bro. Leo Kraft remaining as an Assistant Scoutmaster. The Troop joined with Japanese and American Scouts on September 24–25, 1949 in Tokyo for the first postwar All-Japan camp held by the Boy Scouts of Japan to celebrate the reorganization of the Japanese Scout association. The camporee was organized with the cooperation of the American occupation forces, who had formed their own Scout troops. It was held at Doolittle Field, now called Hibiya Koen, in Tokyo. The Boy Scouts of Japan were readmitted as a full member of the WOSM on June 30, 1950. In the years since 1925 the World Scout Bureau had directly registered a number of "mixed nationality groups" throughout the world. The number of these groups, however, gradually decreased as troops disbanded for various reasons. Until 1955 there was also a directly registered "mixed nationality" Scout troop at the RAF Union School in Habbaniya, Iraq. The Troop was associated with the Union School which had a student body consisting primarily of Assyrian students, with an Armenian minority and a few Indian students. The school was under the authority of RAF Habbaniya and, when RAF Habbaniya was turned over to the Iraqi government in 1955, the Troop was forced to disband.

Prior to 1951 the IBS used an emblem of a simple fleur-de-lis with the letters I, B, and S at the points. In 1952 the emblem was redesigned with a globe at the center, originally showing the continents similar to the Boy Scouts of the United Nations emblem. After review of the new post-war constitution, badges, and program by the World Scout Bureau the globe was simplified to include only grid lines to create a more distinctive emblem. This emblem, shown on the IBS Scouter Badge, is still used by the IBS. The revised IBS Constitution went into effect after review and correction by the World Scout Bureau in 1956 and the first Scouts were awarded "Globe Scout", IBS's highest rank under the new constitution. Between 1956 and 1958, the IBS Committee and Leaders, under direction from the World Scout Bureau and with the cooperation of the Senior Scouts, prepared a new Scout Handbook, which includes the IBS Constitution, designs of the Scout uniforms, Troop 1's distinctive Scout badges and program. The IBS Scout Handbook was first published in book form in 1961; but the newly designed uniforms and badges were worn by the IBS contingent to the 1959 Nippon Jamboree.

The IBS program sections are: Beaver Scouts age 6 to 8; Cub Scouts age 8 to 11; Boy Scouts age 11 to 15; Senior Scouts age 15 to 20; Veteran Scouts age 18 up

Since being chartered directly by the World Scout Bureau as a "mixed nationality", or "international", group the Scout members of the IBS have come from over 40 countries. The IBS lists Scouts of 43 nationalities, including those Scouts that were registered as Stateless due to their political status, as having been IBS Scouts over the years.

IBS Emblem: The IBS emblem incorporates a globe representing the international nature of the group. The current emblem was designed in the early 1950s and the design was finalized with the review and approval of the revised Constitution, Policy and Rules of the IBS by the World Scout Bureau in 1957.



Scout Advancement: Tenderfoot; Second Class; First Class; Forward; Unity; Globe.
Cub Scout Advancement: Bobcat; Wolf, Bear, and Lion; Gold Star Award