June 1910 – “Patrol Leaders – The best progress is made in those Troops where power and responsibility are really put into the hands of the Patrol Leaders. It is the secret of success with many Scoutmasters when once they have half-a-dozen Patrol Leaders, really doing their work as if they were Assistant Scoutmasters. The Scoutmasters find themselves able to go on and increase the size of their Troops by starting new Patrols or adding recruits to existing ones. Expect a good deal of your Patrol Leaders and nine times out of ten they will play up to your expectation; but if you are going always to nurse them and not to trust them to do things well, you will never get them to do anything on their own initiative.

Scouts rush to help after Mount Fuego eruption
Scouts in Guatemala have been hard at work helping people who fled their homes on the slopes of Mount Fuego after the volcano erupted for the first time in more than 40 years. As rescuers hurried to the affected area, local Scout groups mobilised to collect basic supplies for those who’d been forced to leave everything behind. In less than 24 hours, some 20 Scout groups got to work setting up collection centers to gather and sort donations. More than 12,000 people have now been evacuated from the volcano’s slopes, with some 4,200 villagers living in 21 shelters in the surrounding region.
Scouting in Serbia

The first Scout units in what was to become Yugoslavia were founded in 1911 by Dr. Miloš Popović, in Belgrade, Kragujevac, Vranje and Valjevo. As Kingdom of Yugoslavia, Serbia served as one of the 20 original signatories that founded the World Organization of the Scout Movement, from 1922 to 1950. The Russian Scout association Руский Скат went into exile after World War I, and continued where fleeing White Russian émigrés settled, establishing groups in Serbia. The outbreak of World War II saw the suspension of Scouting in Serbia in 1941, when Yugoslavia was occupied by the Germans. Scouting in Yugoslavia was co-opted by the Tito government in 1950, at which time WOSM membership was forfeited, as the new organization did not meet all the criteria for membership, as there were very close connections with the communist government. In 1951, individual Scout associations were founded in all then-Yugoslav republics. The Scout Association of Yugoslavia was renewed under the former Federal Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia on November 24, 1951 at a meeting held in Zagreb, now in Croatia. Individual branches were created for each constituent republic, and the Scout movement grew and thrived until the Yugoslav dissolution in 1991. Yugoslavia, as Serbia and Montenegro, returned as the 137th member of the World Organization of the Scout Movement on September 1, 1995. In the prevailing situation in the Balkans, the association is very active in social work for all segments of the population, and cooperates closely with the Red Cross in providing aid to refugees, opportunities for the disabled, help for orphans and general aid to areas in crisis. The SIS has recently been featured in news stories about the work they are doing for the environment. The SIS is active in a campaign to introduce new methods and materials of packaging, different schemes for garbage collection and recycling program. The Savez Izvidača Srbije is a voluntary, independent, nonpolitical and social organization of children, youth and adults, for development of their physical, intellectual and spiritual potential. Every citizen of Serbia could become a member of the Savez Izvidača Srbije, if he or she accepts the Program of the Association and acts in accordance with the Scout Laws and regulations of the Constitution of Savez Izvidača Srbije, and is active in his or her unit and in the Association. Serbia has a less formal organization. At the heart of Savez Izvidača Srbije are the Groups, typically much bigger than Groups in other countries, containing several Cub packs, Scout troops and Senior Scout units. For example, the France Prešem Group in Belgrade, founded in 1957, has had over 11,000 members, over 200 new members a year. Scout Groups in Serbia tend to be named after people - either from local history or the founders of the Group. Each Scout Group has its own neckerchief, the generally vibrant colors of which are chosen by the members.

Syrian refugees in Turkey find their rhythm with Scouting - Turkey has more refugees than any country in the world, with an estimated 3.8 million Syrians living in the country’s cities and towns. While refugees are able to work, study and get medical help, adjusting to a new life in a foreign country with unfamiliar customs is hard for many. Majd Elewi was a member of the Scouts in his hometown of Homs. Their Scout hut was like a second home; a place to hang out at the weekend, the walls decorated with the group’s collection of scarves and photos of their adventures. But when Syria descended into civil war, the group disbanded, and eventually Elewi was forced to flee. Now 23, Elewi joined the Ibn Al-Walid Scouts - a Scout Group just for Syrian refugees. Then he created the Syrian Scout Brass Band Elewi’s band helps young people to cope with the upheaval in their lives. “All our Scouts came because of the Syrian War so they lost a lot of precious things; their home, friends, family and society. They faced many changes all at the same time, everything including language was different to them, so what we are focussing on is building new friends and breaking the wall between them and the Turkish people by camping and all the activities that we do with the Scouting and Guiding Federation of Turkey.”