B-P said, in what is probably his most-quoted writing about the uniform, “I don’t care a fig whether a Scout wears the uniform or not so long as his heart is in his work and he carries out the Scout Law.” However, this quote is out of context, as B-P goes on to say, “But the fact is that there is hardly a Scout who does not wear the uniform if he can afford to buy it. The spirit prompts him to it.” Scouting uses the uniform both as the great equalizer between youth from families of modest means and those who are well off. The uniform, apart from erasing any class distinctions, also fosters the spirit of belonging into a single society in which all members are equal to one another and responsible to one another. It gives the scouts a sense of pride of belonging to a worldwide movement.

Collectors’ Corner: Big dollar Scouting collectibles
For most of us, big money doesn’t enter into collecting Scout items but there are some very expensive and rare items that command a major investment.

Item 1: $34,000 in 2008, the first BSA Seamanship Merit Badge from 1914 – 2 or 3 known to exist
Item 2: $14,665 for a silkscreened OA Neckerchief
Item 3: around $10,000 depending on shape, 1924 WJ, only 5,000 made of silk that shredded easily
Item 4: $73,000 most expensive so far for 1947 WJ subcamp
Many other items cost a lot of money – some early Eagle medals are $10,000, OA first flap sets go for tens of thousands, old BSA red and white strips go for several hundred dollars each. This realm of collecting is for people with deep pockets and an interest in museum quality/historical items.

Secretary General of the World Scouting Organization Scott Teare received the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award at the Summit’s 2013 BSA National Jamboree. It was the 1995 World Jamboree in the Netherlands that hooked him on World Scouting. “Boundaries keeping people from people and nation from nation dissolved. Historic time-entrenched animosities dissipated. National hatreds were set aside. Children met other children, smiles greeted smiles and fingers locked together not into fists but into handshakes of friendship. I witnessed Scouts conspiring to make peace!”
World Scouting supports the Peace Light of Bethlehem

Every year, the Peace Light of Bethlehem connects people, Scouts and Guides around the world. The Peace Light travels from country to country, from home to home and from hand to hand. Receiving the Peace Light and passing it on reflects a message of hope and peace, a message of sharing your inner light.

Peace project challenge
The peace project challenge invites you to share your inner light and emphasize giving something to others. It could be a smile, a hug or an unexpected act of kindness toward others. We invite all Scouts to create a project based on initiating a positive change with such a simple act of kindness and inspire others to do the same for others.

Steps to help you get started
These steps can help you create your peace project of the inner light.

- Think about the act of kindness and peace you want to share with others.
- Get a friend to share your idea and to help you record your act on video.
- Pick a place where you want to start and begin your act of kindness.
- Put together a video and take some pictures as well. Share it on Scout.org to inspire others to do the same.
- Create your project on Scout.org to share your story. Add the number of people involved and how many service hours you invested in your peace project.
- Share it on social media so that the rest of the world can be inspired.