“Lots of Scouts have asked me whether we could not alter the test of a First-Class Scout by leaving out swimming. I know that there are lots of difficulties in the way for many boys, but that is just one of the tests of whether he is a real manly Scout or not. Swimming is such ripping good fun. It is a big thing to feel that you are master of the water, and instead of being afraid of it as an enemy who will drown you, you make it your friend who helps you enjoy life. Thank god, a very large number of lives have been saved (about 600 – 1920) by Boy Scouts who were able to swim. You ought to Be Prepared to do the same when the opportunity comes to you as it is pretty sure to do some day. There’s hardly a place in Great Britain where you cannot learn to swim if you only set your mind to it and determine to make yourself a First-Class Scout and therefore an A1 man.”

Guinness world record: The largest neckerchief measures 16,719.5 ft and the largest woggle has a width of 7 ft 3.4 in and a height of 3 ft 11.6 in and were created by the Scouting Netherlands region Klein Gelderland (Netherlands) and measured in Duiven, Netherlands, on 7 November 2015. The neckerchief and woggle were created for the Scouts organization's meeting 'Scout it Out', which is organized every 5 years in order to celebrate scouting in the area.

Reminder: 24th World Scout Jamboree, BSA scholarships for Phase 2 (those who applied to the WSJ after July 31, 2018); application deadline is January 31, 2019. See https://wsj2019.us/scholarships/
Scouting in Sri Lanka

The Sri Lanka Scout Association is operated by the Ceylon Scout Council, is a corporation formed by Act No 13 of 1957. The association became a member of the World Organization of the Scout Movement in 1953. The coeducational Sri Lanka Scout Association has 55,076 members as of 2016. In 1912, the first recorded troop of Boy Scouts in Sri Lanka was formed at Christ Church College, Matale by District Civil Engineer, Francis George Stevens. In 1916, The Boy Scouts Association of the United Kingdom formed its Ceylon Branch. In 1953, The Boy Scouts Association Ceylon Branch is succeeded by the Ceylon Boy Scouts Association. In 2011, the First Equestrian Scouts are invested, Sri Lanka is the first country to introduce Equestrian Scouting to the Scouting agenda in the Asia Pacific Region. In one simple investiture ceremony, a historic moment of Scouting in Sri Lanka happened on 23rd January 2009 by having 291 female Cub Scouts, studying in a co-education schools, invested together with 109 male Cub Scouts – all from the 12 districts of Sri Lanka. Program sections include: 5 Years 6 Months to 7 Years - Singithi Scouts; 7 Years to 10 Years 6 Months - Cubs Scouts; 10 Years to 14 Years and 6 Months - Junior Scout; 14 Years 6 Months to 18 Years - Senior Scouts; 17 Years to 24 Years - Rover Scout.

Equestrian Scouts

The World Buddhist Scout Brotherhood (WBSB) is an autonomous, international body committed to promoting and supporting Buddhism within Scouting. The WBSB began as a means to facilitate religious activities among Buddhist Scouts. The WBSB was declared active with the election of its chairman on July 21, 2004, and received consultative status with the World Scout Committee at the WSC meeting on March 9, 2009. The World Scout Committee’s guidelines indicate that at least three years is required to fulfill the requirements before consultative status may be granted.

2018 IN SCOUTING: A YEAR IN REVIEW: It’s been a year of firsts for World Scouting, let’s take a look back on some our favorite moments from 2018: 1. Rovers turn 100! 2. Scouts sign up to make the world’s largest youth contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals. 3. Youth reach 1 billion hours of community service since 2012. 4. World Scout Movement welcomes Bear Grylls as Chief Ambassador. 5. Three Rovers win the first-ever World Scout Film Fest. 6. Scout groups commit to gender equality. 7. Scouts of the World protect world heritage partnering with UNESCO. 8. WOSM recognized 11 new Messengers of Peace Heroes. 9. Girls join the Arab Scout Jamboree for the first time. 10. Scouts fundraise over $60k for their projects on the Scout Donation Platform.