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SCOUTING'S SILVER LEADERS

Buffalo, antelope, beaver. Perhaps you've had the good fortune to watch these remarkable wild animals while you're hiking the backcountry.

You might have noticed them, too, at meetings of your Scout unit and council. Cast as miniature silver replicas, each animal serves as a BSA award recognizing adult leaders for their distinguished service to youth.



The Silver Beaver Award is granted to adult leaders making an impact on the lives of young people by service given through a council. The Silver Antelope Award recognizes service at the BSA's regional level.



Silver Buffalo

The oldest of the three awards is the Silver Buffalo, bestowed for extraordinary service that is national in character. Recipients may or may not be directly connected with the BSA. Like the Silver Beaver and Silver Antelope awards, the Silver Buffalo hangs from a colorful ribbon worn around the neck.

Legacy of the Silver Buffalo

The original silver buffalo was a statue given in 1926 by the Boy Scouts of America to the Scouts of Great Britain. It honors an unknown Scout who helped American businessman William D. Boyce find his way through a London fog. That encouraged Mr. Boyce to learn more about Scouting and to bring the idea to America.



Silver Buffalo Statue at Gilwell Park near London

The first Silver Buffalo Award was granted to Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Scouting movement. The second went to the unknown Scout who had guided Mr. Boyce, and the third Silver Buffalo was given to Mr. Boyce himself.

In the 85 years since then, fewer than 700 adult leaders have received the Silver Buffalo Award. Among them have been many notable Americans:

- Artists Walt Disney, Charles Schultz, and Norman Rockwell
- Musicians Irving Berlin and Marian Anderson
- Charles Lindbergh, after the first solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean
- Athletes Yogi Berra, Hank Aaron, Ernie Banks, and Archie Manning, and coaches Vince Lombardi, Eddie Robinson, and Amos Alonzo Stagg
- Early Scouters Ernest Thompson Seton, Daniel Carter Beard, and James E. West
- Actors Bob Hope and Jimmy Stewart
- 13 presidents of the United States



The Silver Beaver, Silver Antelope, and Silver Buffalo Awards each include an embroidered knot a recipient can wear above the left pocket of a BSA uniform shirt. The colors of the knots match the colors of the ribbons for the awards and serve as reminders of the great service to youth each award represents.

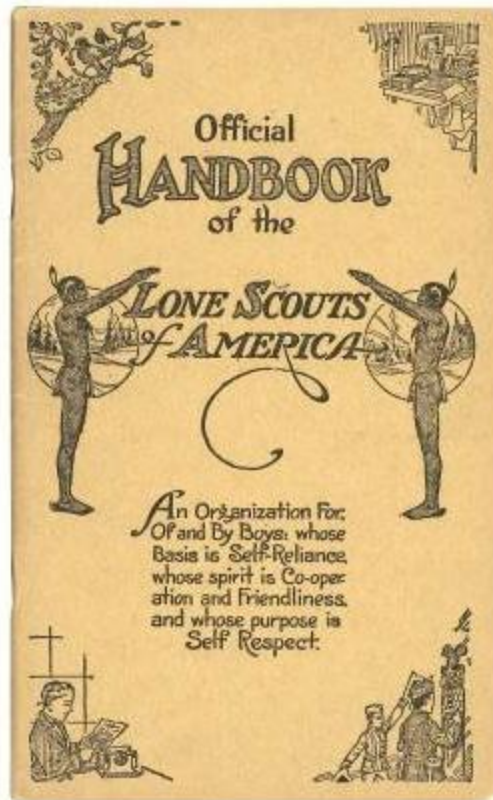
LONE SCOUTS

Silver Buffalo awardee William Boyce worried during the early years of Scouting that the BSA was not doing enough to serve boys who lived on farms and ranches. In 1915 he sought to answer that concern by starting a separate organization called the Lone Scouts of America (LSA).



Lone Scouts of America pin

The LSA celebrated traditions of American Indians. Members completed requirements in *Communicating* (writing stories for newspapers and magazines), *Woodcraft* (similar to the Boy Scout outdoor skills of the day), and *Boosting* (gaining new LSA members). Lone Scouts who earned high marks in all three areas were recognized as Supreme Scouts.



In 1924 the Lone Scouts of America program was incorporated into the BSA. Lone Scouts were soon following the same pathways to advancement as all others in the BSA. While some former members kept LSA rituals alive, the Lone Scouts of America organization faded away.



Photo courtesy of the Boy Scouts of America
A Lone Scout of America shares his interest in Indian lore.

There are currently almost 400 Lone Boy Scouts and 200 Lone Cub Scouts registered through local

BSA councils. Some have homes that are far from any Scout troops or packs. Others live abroad or deal with situations that prevent them from attending regular meetings of packs or troops.



Today's Lone Scout badge

Each Lone Scout has an adult counselor, often a parent or guardian, who encourages, instructs, and reviews the Lone Scout on all steps toward advancement.

Famous Lone Scouts Long before he became vice-president of the United States, Hubert Humphrey was a Lone Scout. So was actor Fred MacMurray, who would one day play a Scoutmaster in the movie *Follow Me Boys*.



Another Lone Scout was beloved American ballad singer Burl Ives. Mr. Ives appeared on stage at National Jamborees in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. His 1963 album *Scouting Along with Burl Ives* is a collection of great Scout songs including "Boy Scouts of America", "I'm Happy When I'm Hiking", "We're All Together Again", and "On My Honor".



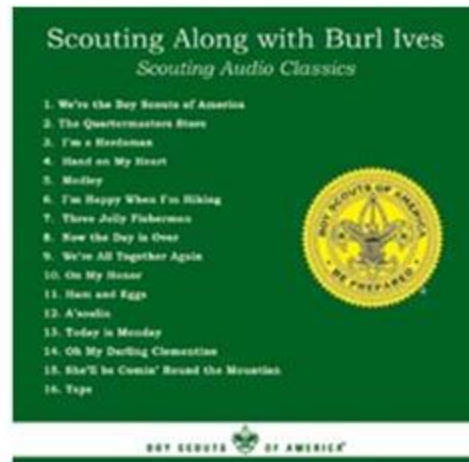
Photo courtesy of the Boy Scouts of America

Burl Ives

In recognition for his contributions to Scouting, Mr. Ives was presented the Silver Buffalo Award by the National Council of the BSA.



Burl Ives' 1963 record



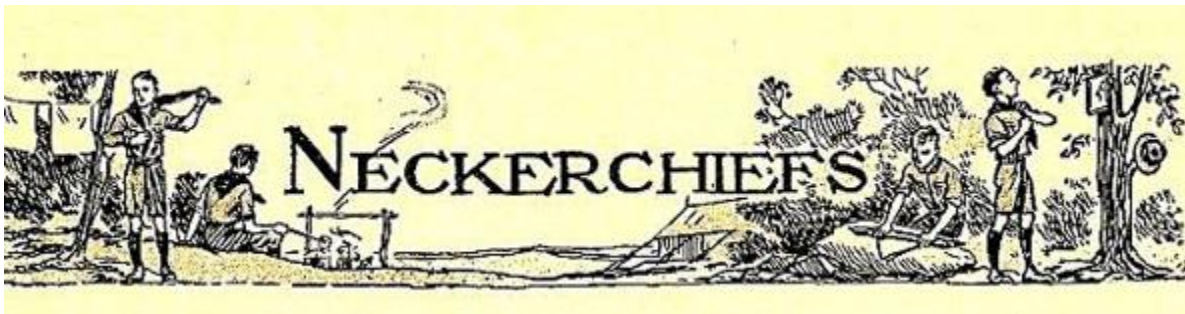
Collector's edition

Get your collector's editions of *Scouting Along with Burl Ives* and the movie *Follow Me Boys* at www.Scoutstuff.org.

To show their pride, modern Lone Scouts proudly wear a gold neckerchief featuring the Lone Scout emblem. It is one of many neckerchiefs approved by the Boy Scouts of America.



Lone Scout Neckerchief



An intent of the Scout uniform is to show that all members are equal in the Boy Scouts of America.



When it comes to variety, though, neckerchiefs allow every Scout unit - and sometimes each Scout - to express individuality. That begins when a boy joins Cub Scouts and continues through the most advanced adult leader training programs.



Tiger Cub



Wolf Cub



Bear Cub



Webelos Scout



Eagle Scout

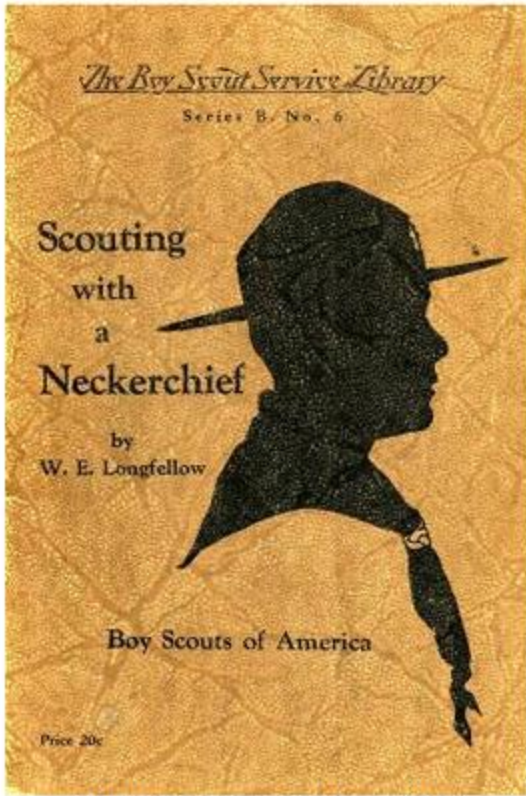


Wood Badge

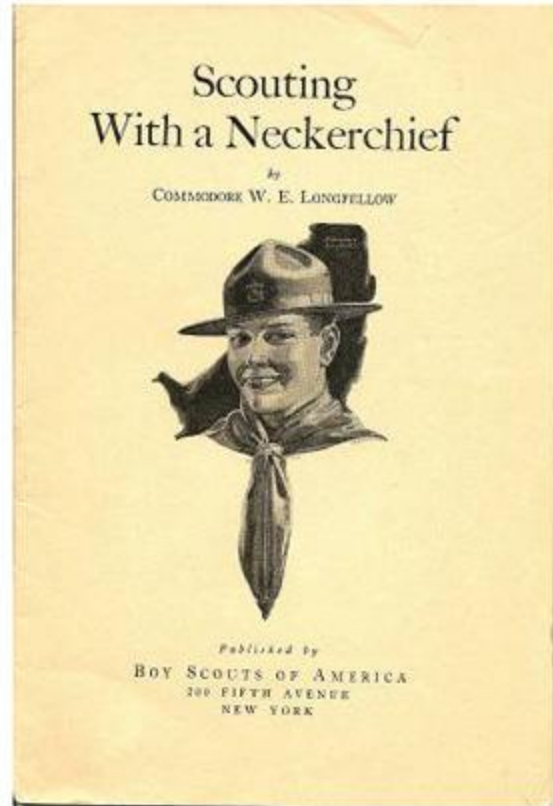
SCOUTING WITH A NECKERCHIEF

"At Santa Barbara following the earthquake and in Illinois and Indiana during the tornado disaster, the Scout's neckerchief was a passport to any Scout through the police and hospital lines. The Scout Uniform in those stricken areas was the badge of a boy on an errand of courageous service."

Chief Scout James E. West wrote those lines to introduce the 1927 pamphlet *Scouting with a Neckerchief*, the BSA's first full exploration of neckerchiefs.



1927 BSA neckerchief pamphlet

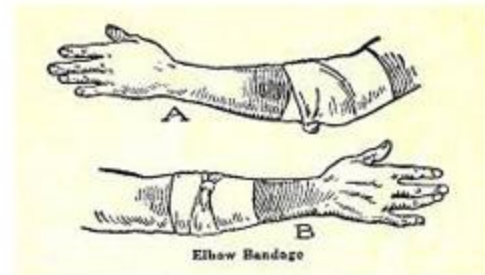


The pamphlet's title page

The pamphlet showed the proper way to wear a neckerchief.



There were also illustrated descriptions of 60 ways a neckerchief could be used. Here are nine of them:



The BSA still encourages members to be good problem solvers. If a sturdy, triangular piece of cloth will come in handy during a first aid emergency or in some other difficult situation; a neckerchief could be just the thing for a positive solution.



For a wide range of official BSA neckerchiefs, see the online selection available at www.scoutstuff.org

"DO A USEFUL THING EACH DAY"

The motto of those long-ago Lone Scouts of America was "Do a useful thing each day." That's a fine guideline for BSA leaders who wear the Silver Beaver, Antelope, and Buffalo awards. It's also a great reminder for Scouts wearing neckerchiefs, and for those who don't, too.

Make it a habit to look for ways to be of use, then do them. You'll be joining with Scouts everywhere who are finding dozens of ways to accomplish that goal, and then discovering the great value for themselves and for others as they meet that challenge.



(This edition of the *Be Prepared Newsletter* was developed and written by Robert Birkby, author of the Centennial edition of the *Boy Scout Handbook*.)