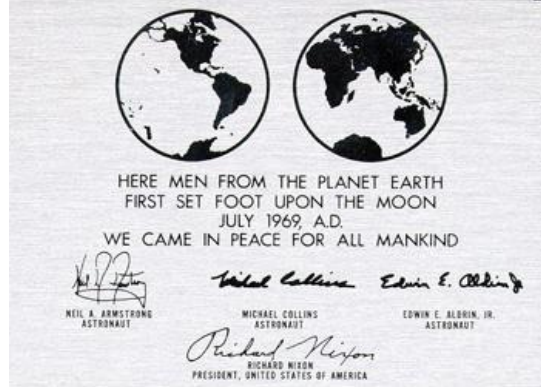


**HIGH TECH EDITION**

**In this Issue:**

- [Last Flight of an Eagle](#)
- [The Technology of Camping Gear](#)
- [STEM Update](#)
- [Future Astronauts](#)
- [Final Tribute](#)



NASA photo  
 Apollo 11 plaque left on the Moon

**LAST FLIGHT OF AN EAGLE**

The Boy Scouts of America joins the nation in mourning the recent passing of Eagle Scout and astronaut Neil Armstrong. As commander of the Apollo 11 space mission, on July 20, 1969, he was the first man to set foot on the Moon.



National Scouting Museum photo

Boy Scout Neil Armstrong



NASA photo

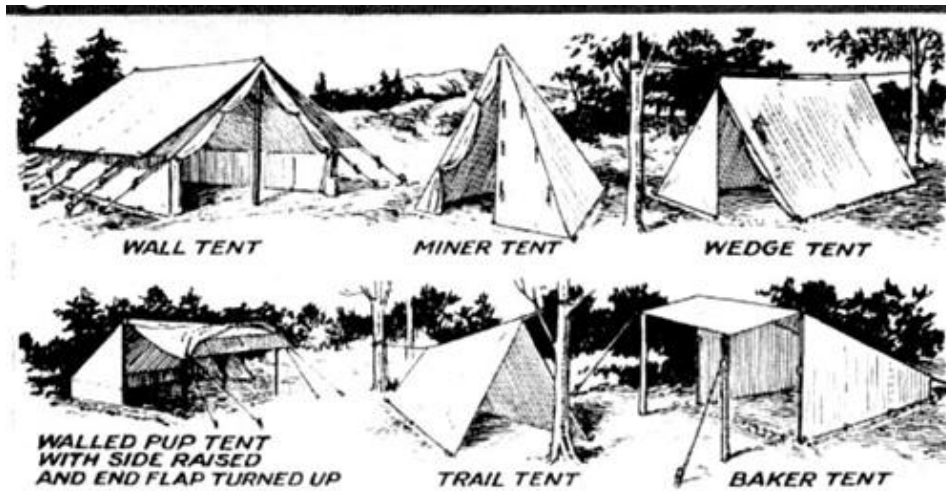
Apollo 11 Mission Commander

Armstrong was a Scout in Wapakoneta, Ohio, learning leadership skills he would use as a pilot and an astronaut. The merit badge program helped spark his interest in science and technology. In later years, he was honored by the BSA National Council with the Silver Buffalo Award and the highest honor in scouting, the Distinguished Eagle Award.

**THE TECHNOLOGY OF CAMPING GEAR**

When Neil Armstrong was a pilot, computers were slow, simple, and short on memory. Scientists and engineers since then have made so many improvements that a cellular telephone today has far more power than all the computers aboard an Apollo spacecraft.

Technology has also had a huge impact on the gear available to hikers and campers. Eagle Scout Armstrong's copy of the July, 1946, *Boys' Life* magazine featured tents made of heavy canvas and without floors, zippers, or mosquito netting.



Six decades later, tents have become comfortable shelters that are sturdy defenses against rain, insects, and cold. Modern synthetic fabrics and rugged designs make them light to carry and ideal for many environments. Find the Eureka Spitfire and BSA Eagle Crest among the terrific tents at [www.scoutstuff.org](http://www.scoutstuff.org).



Eureka Spitfire



BSA Eagle Crest Tent

Technology has revolutionized lighting options, too. Metal L-shaped flashlights of Neil Armstrong's era used heavy C batteries and could be awkward to use. Today's headlamps leave your hands free and weigh next to nothing. LED (*Light Emitting Diodes*) throw a strong beam of light powered by a couple of small AA or even AAA batteries.

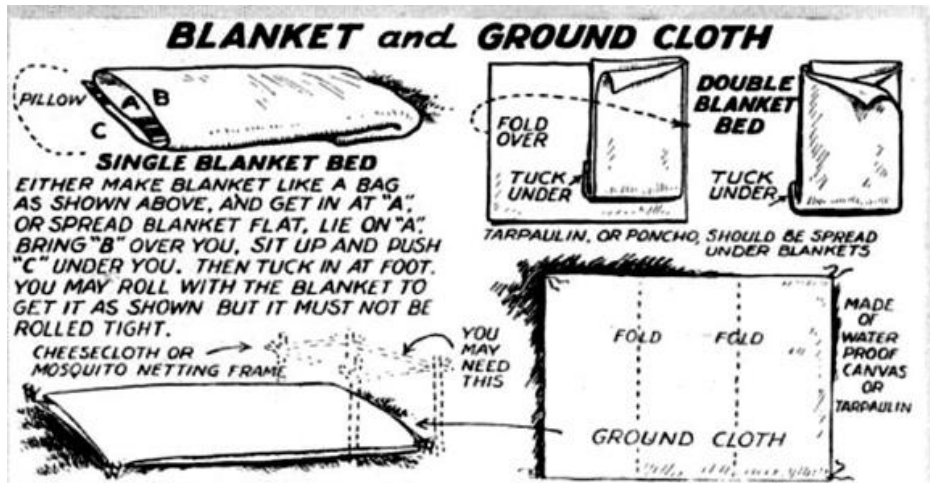


1930s – 1960s BSA Flashlight



Modern LED Headlamp

Science has also done its part for comfortable nights in camp. As Scouts, Neil Armstrong and his friends would have learned how to fold blankets into beds.



Synthetic fill materials and nylon shells make the sleeping bags of today wonders of warmth and convenience beyond the wildest imaginations of those Scouts of old.



BSA 20° Mountaineer Sleeping Bag

Click through the pages of [www.scoutstuff.org](http://www.scoutstuff.org) and you'll find a lot of camping gear that would have seemed almost magical four or five decades ago. Who back then would have believed that Scouts could one day purify water with a wand that emits ultraviolet light, or that a backpacking stove could weigh so little and do so much?



SteriPEN



Whisperlite Hiker Stove

Technology's biggest impact on outdoor gear might be upon the tools of navigation. Scouts have always learned to use maps and compasses to locate their positions, identify landmarks, and find their way. Today, those important skills can be enhanced with GPS (*Global Positioning System*) receivers.



Early Scoutmaster teaching compass use



21st Century GPS Receiver

Programming coordinates into GPS receivers also makes possible the fun of geocaching - a high-tech scavenger hunt. It's a terrific activity for Scouts of all ages, and for families, too.



BSA Geocache Emblem



Robert Birkby photo

A family finds a geocache

The BSA encourages Scouts to take advantage of the best of new developments while still learning basic outdoor skills. A good example is the pairing of the Orienteering merit badge (focusing on map and compass navigation) with the Geocaching merit badge (highlighting much that can be done with GPS receivers). Scouts earning both awards will have a wide range of navigational skills at their fingertips.



Orienteering Merit Badge



Geocaching Merit Badge

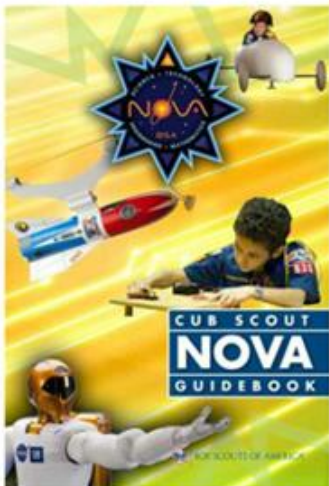
## STEM UPDATE

Scouting continues to roll out the STEM/Nova program to encourage members to explore the excitement and potential of STEM (*Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics*).

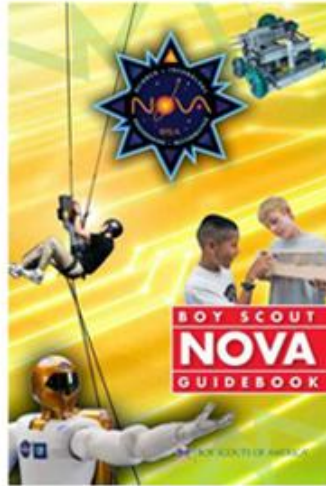


BSA Stem/NOVA Emblem

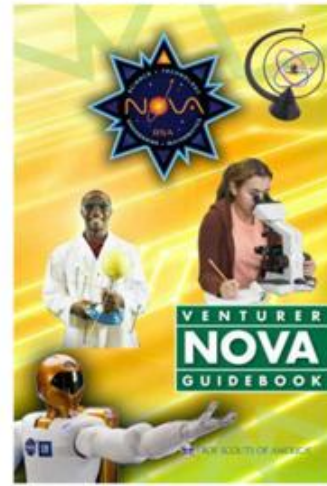
Learn the latest about Stem/NOVA and how you can be involved by reading the guidebooks prepared especially for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers. You'll find them in your local council Scout shops and at [www.scoutstuff.org](http://www.scoutstuff.org).



Cub Scout NOVA Guidebook



Boy Scout NOVA Guidebook



Venturer NOVA Guidebook

## FUTURE ASTRONAUTS

Neil Armstrong was a role model of tremendous influence. Thousands of young people followed his footsteps into the enjoyment and study of technology, engineering, and math. Many found careers in the sciences.

Among them was Scott Parazynski, who was eight years old when Apollo 11 landed on the Moon. He became an Eagle Scout, earned a college biology degree, then completed medical school. His interests in flight and exploration led to a career as a NASA astronaut, flying five missions aboard the Space Shuttle.



Scott Parazynski photo



NASA photo

Dr. Parazynski is the only person who has flown in space and also climbed Mt. Everest. On his ascent of the Earth's highest mountain, he carried in his pocket a lunar rock that Apollo astronauts had brought back from the Moon.

## FINAL TRIBUTE

None of us can predict how far our influence will extend. Neil Armstrong simply tried to do his best to represent America on the Apollo 11 mission to the Moon. In fact, his examples of courage, leadership, and scientific curiosity continue to enrich the lives of many.

As a final tribute, Neil Armstrong's family released this message:

"Honor his example of service, accomplishment and modesty,  
and the next time you walk outside on a clear night  
and see the moon smiling down at you,  
think of Neil Armstrong and give him a wink."



(This edition of the *Be Prepared Newsletter* was developed and written by Robert Birkby, author of the current editions of the *Boy Scout Handbook*, *Fieldbook* and *Eagle Scouts: A Centennial History*.)