

NEPAL SCOUT EDITION



Nepal Scouts photo

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The powerful earthquakes that recently shook Nepal flattened mountain villages and caused extensive damage in Kathmandu. Thousands died, many more were injured, and great numbers were left homeless. Countless buildings of historic and cultural importance were destroyed.

DISASTER RELIEF

Soon after the ground stopped shaking, Nepal Scouts were on the scene to render aid. More than 2,500 turned out to search for survivors, distribute food and supplies, and clear debris. Nepal Scouts continue to offer their help in a time of great need, just as Scouts anywhere would do.



Nepal Scouts photo

Among their efforts have been providing first aid and comfort to injured people, helping protect heritage sites, recovering valuables from temples and monuments, and dispensing relief materials including 200 tents from a Nepal Scout training center.



Nepal Scouts photo

The work is just beginning as Nepal moves beyond emergency response and starts rebuilding cities, villages, roads, and trails. You can be sure that Nepal Scouts will be at the forefront, doing their best to help out as their nation grapples with tremendous challenges.



Nepal Scouts photo

ABOUT NEPAL SCOUTS

Scouting came to Nepal in 1952. Today there are about 20,000 Boy Scouts and around 12,000 Girl Scouts.



Their patch features the flag of their nation. It is the world's only national flag shaped with two pennants. Red symbolizes the rhododendron, Nepal's national flower. The white emblems signify the sun and the moon.



The Nepal Scouts emblem is composed of the fleur-de-lis of Boy Scouts (in gold), the trefoil of Girl Scouts (in green), and elements of the Nepali flag (in red and white). 1952 on the right of the badge celebrates the year of Nepal Scouts' founding. 2009 in Nepali on the left side indicates the same year, but on the traditional Nepali calendar. The Nepali words across the top spell *Nepal Scouts*.



Nepal Scouts photo

Nepal Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts Hiking Together

Scouts in Nepal are organized by age. Boys 7-10 join Cub Scouts, ages 11-15 take part as Boy Scouts, and those 16-25 are enrolled as Rovers. Girls in the same age categories can be Brownies, Girl Scouts, and Rangers. Many of the adult leadership roles would be familiar to members of the BSA.



Scoutmaster

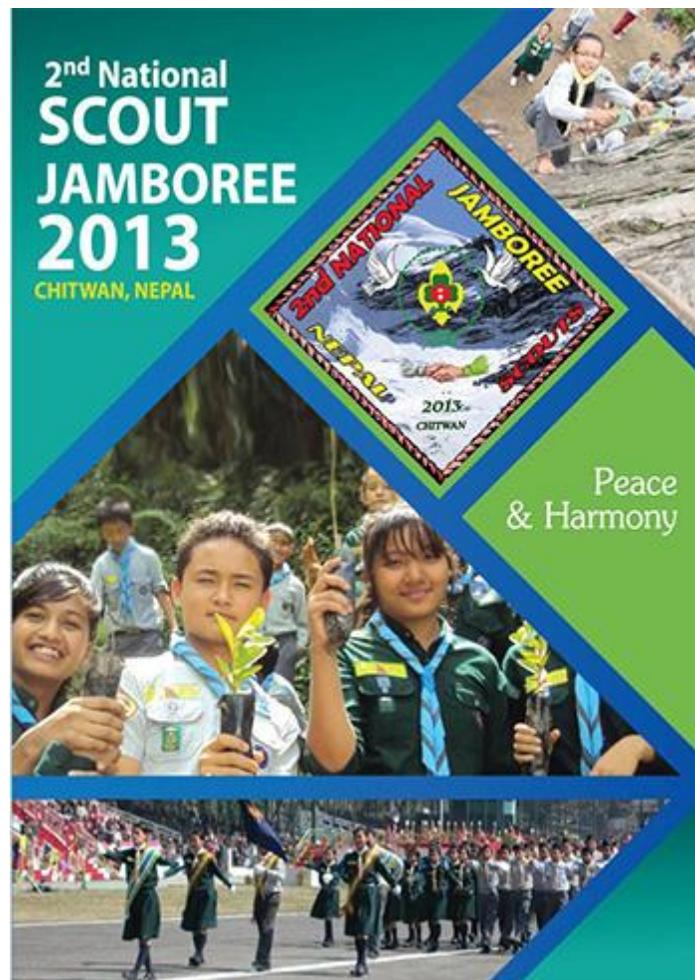


Rover Leader



Commissioner

As with Scouts everywhere, those in Nepal enjoy hiking, camping, and service projects. They have looked beyond their borders, too, hosting national jamborees in 1987 and 2013 that were attended by Scouts from neighboring countries.



Other emblems for Nepal Scouts celebrate some of nation's famous Himalayan peaks, among the highest in the world. The silhouettes of Annapurna, Kanchenjunga, and Everest are embroidered on patches that bear their names.



Annapurna Badge



Kanchenjunga Badge



Everest Badge

Another patch recognizes Baden Powell Scout Peak.



Baden Powell Scout Peak Award

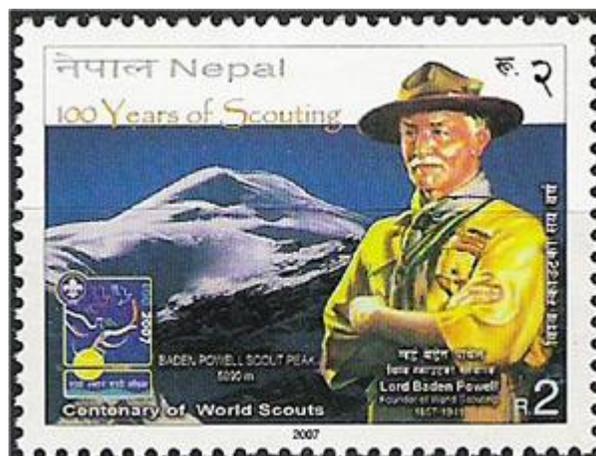
BADEN POWELL SCOUT PEAK

The government of Nepal named a spectacular Himalayan mountain Baden Powell Scout Peak in honor of the movement's hundredth anniversary and its founder, Robert Baden-Powell. It is taller than any North American peak other than Alaska's Mt. McKinley (Denali) and the Yukon's Mt. Logan.



Baden Powell Scout Peak – Elevation 19,114 feet

Nepal further honored Baden-Powell by issuing a postage stamp with his likeness and, in the background, his mountain.

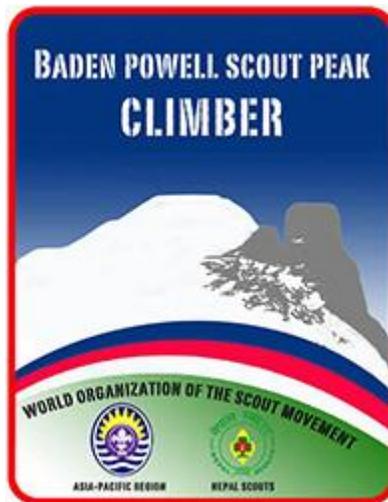


The national mint also issued a 50 rupee coin with the Nepal Scout emblem on one side and a silhouette of Baden Powell Scout Peak on the other. At today's exchange rate, 50 rupees is about 50 cents American.



Nepali 50 Rupee Coin

Soon after it was named, Baden Powell Scout Peak was climbed by 15 Scouts in an expedition made up of team members from Australia, Korea, Singapore, China, and Nepal.



For now, though, all thoughts of climbing Himalayan peaks must be put on hold. The Nepali people have far more important matters to deal with as they continue to focus their energies on recovery. You can be sure that the Nepal Scouts will be there every step of the way.



Nepal Scouts photo

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



The earthquakes in Nepal are reminders that disasters can strike anywhere and at any time. With emergency preparedness training, members of the Boy Scouts of America can make themselves ready to step up to help. Learning first aid, practicing leadership, and completing rank requirements are all ways Scouts can gain skills and experience that emergencies might require.

We can also wish the best for Nepal Scouts, their families, and their nation. Scouting is a worldwide community. All of us look for ways to be of service, whether it is in our own neighborhoods or by seeking ways to support Scouting efforts on the other side of the globe.



Robert Birkby photo

Prayer Altar at Mt. Everest Base Camp

(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*, *Scout Stuff*, *The Conservation Handbook*, and *Eagle Scouts: A Centennial History*.)