

ROVER SCOUTS ASSOCIATION POLICY, ORGANIZATION, AND RULES 2005

Based upon the Boy Scouts Association – P.O.R., 1938; and issued by order of the Headquarters Council of the Rover Scouts Association. The 1938 P.O.R. is the last edition the Founder, Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell supervised; therefore, we believe it to be the authoritative version.

This P.O.R. is presented as a traditional guideline for Rovers and Crews. In some cases, Crews will have already established policies regarding organization, training, and uniforms. The prime directive is that the Crew is self-governing.

CONTENTS

- [General Principles](#)
- [Membership](#)
- [Headquarters](#)
- [Warrants of Appointment](#)
- [Chief Rover Scout](#)
- [Chief Commissioner](#)
- [Camp Chief](#)
- [Commissioners](#)
- [Deputy Commissioners](#)
- [Units](#)
- [Regions](#)
- [Groups](#)
- [Crews](#)
- [Patrols](#)
- [Rover Squire](#)
- [Rover Scout](#)
- [Uniform](#)
- [Badges of Rank](#)
- [Flags](#)
- [Salutes](#)
- [Decorations and Awards](#)
- [Proficiency Badges](#)
- [Business](#)

“Rules on how to play the game of Scouting” – B.-P.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

1. Name. The name of the organization is the Rover Scouts Association (R.S.A.).

2. Rovering. Rovering is a continuation of training given to Wolf Cubs and Scouts (which is to develop good citizenship by forming character – training in habits of observation, obedience, and self-reliance – inculcating loyalty and thoughtfulness for others – teaching services useful to the public, and handicrafts useful to themselves – promoting physical, mental, and spiritual development), but with a wider outlook, and with the added object of helping Rovers to make useful careers for themselves and to render service to the community. Rovering may be used in the following situations: -

- 1) As a theme for a Venture Crew;
- 2) As a way for existing Crews to better understand the traditions of Rovering's past;
- 3) As a method for Scouters of a Pack, Troop, or Group (Cubs, Scouts, Ventures, etc.) to provide a better program for the youth;
- 4) As a way for former Rovers and Rover Crews to become reacquainted in fellowship;
- 5) As a way for those adults who did not experience Scouting as a youth to enjoy it as an adult;
- 6) As a way for Commissioner Service Teams to provide better service to Scouting;
- 7) As a way for Wood Badgers to conduct traditional training courses;
- 8) As a way for Scout Amateur Radio Operators to provide better service to Scouting;
- 9) As a way for B.-P. Guilds to rejoin with Rovering; and
- 10) As stand alone Crews.

3. Types of Rover Crews. There are four types of Rover Crews to organize, as follows: -

- 1) **Traditional.** A traditional Crew follows a chivalry theme.
- 2) **Fraternity or Club.** A fraternity or club Crew.
- 3) **Leader.** A leader Crew of those who are commonly unit leaders but want to do Rovering when they have time.
- 4) **Specialty.** A specialty Crew shares common interests or needs, such as academic or engineering pursuits, and hobbies such as mountaineering or other outdoor activities, etc.

All Crews must accept the Scout Promise and Law from the point of view of an adult. Similarly all Crews should have a Rover Crew Constitution to rule and administer themselves, thereby clarifying their aim and purpose.

4. Aim. Using the methods that were in common use by Rover Scouts on January 8, 1941, the aim of the organization is: -

- 1) To participate in international brotherhood by uniting Rover Crews and Lone Rovers;
- 2) To perpetuate the history and traditions of Rover Scouting, based on "Scouting for Boys," and further developed in "Rovering to Success," by Robert Baden-Powell;
- 3) To participate in progressive outdoor training; and
- 4) To render service to others, i.e., Cub Packs, Scout Troops, Scouting events, etc.

5. Basis. The principles and practice of the organization are founded on the basis of the Scout

Promise and the Scout Law.

6. The Scout Promise. On investiture, the Rover makes, or, if previously a Scout, re-affirms the following promise:

On my honor I promise that I will do my best –
To do my duty to God, and my country.
To help other people at all times.
To obey the Scout Law.

Note: This is a generic version of the original Scout Promise. Rovers should use the Scout Promise that is most appropriate for their situation.

7. The Scout Law. The Scout Law is:

- 1) A Scout's honor is to be trusted.
- 2) A Scout is loyal to his country, his Scouters, his parents, his employers, and to those under him.
- 3) A Scout's duty is to be useful and to help others.
- 4) A Scout is a friend to all, and a brother to every other Scout, no matter to what country, class, or creed, the other may belong.
- 5) A Scout is courteous.
- 6) A Scout is a friend to animals.
- 7) A Scout obeys orders of his parents, Patrol Leader or Scout Leader.
- 8) A Scout smiles and whistles under all difficulties.
- 9) A Scout is thrifty.
- 10) A Scout is clean in thought, word, and deed.

Note: This is a generic version of the original Scout Law. Rovers should use the Scout Law that is most appropriate for their situation.

8. The Rover Scout Motto. The Rover Scout Motto is "Service."

9. Seal. The seal of the organization is in the form of the original Scout badge, superimposed with a geographic globe representing world brotherhood, and "Rover Scouts" on a scroll underneath the badge.

10. Policy, Organization, and Rules (P.O.R.).

- 1) **Establishment.** In accordance with the provisions of the Charter, the Headquarters Council may establish and amend P.O.R. for the further governance and guidance of the Rover Scouts Association.
- 2) **Amendment.** The P.O.R. and amendments thereto shall normally be adopted by resolution of the Headquarters Council.
- 3) **Priorities.** This P.O.R. shall be consistent with the Charter. In the event of any conflicts or inconsistencies, the Charter shall govern primarily and the P.O.R. secondly.
- 4) **Specifics.** All statements contained in official publications of the Rover Scouts Association,

its Groups and affiliates, including (but not limited to) handbooks, pamphlets, instructions, magazine articles, bulletins, manuals, and letters, which may from time to time, be issued for clarification or explanation of official language shall be consistent with the language and intent of the Charter, and the P.O.R. Any contradictory or inconsistent language is unauthorized and without effect.

- 5) **Local Variations.** Local variations of P.O.R. rendered necessary by local conditions (language, customs, etc.) may be sanctioned by Headquarters, R.S.A.

11. Religious Policy.

- 1) **Duty to God.** Our duty to God is central to the Scout Promise, a commitment that forms the spiritual foundation of Scouting. Scouting, as a social and civic brotherhood, does not attempt to advance a particular denomination or religious body. Religious individuals, however, will find in Scouting an effective method of applying faith into a program of personal and social development. Churches, synagogues, and other religious communities will likewise find in the Scouting program a useful tool for faith development.
- 2) **Scouts' Own.** Gatherings of Scouts, known by the term Scouts' Own, are held for the worship of God and to promote fuller realization of the Scout Law and Promise, but supplementary to, and not in substitution for, regular religious observances.

12. Youth Protection. The Rover Scouts Associations has “zero tolerance” for all forms of child abuse and exploitation.

13. Leave No Trace. The Rover Scouts Association subscribes to established Leave No Trace Principles.

MEMBERSHIP

14. Membership. Membership in R.S.A. is in most cases supplemental to service in a registered National Scout Organization; and is open internationally for adults of the age of majority.

15. Honorary Rover. The title of Honorary Rover is bestowed upon individuals who are not members of R.S.A., and who does a good turn for the Rover Scout Movement as determined by recommendation to Headquarters Council, R.S.A. The holding of this title does not confer membership in R.S.A.

16. Registration. Members register initially upon application, and annually by each December.

17. Fees. There is no cost to register or charter with R.S.A.

18. Determination. The membership of any person or Crew may be determined with a further background investigation and resolution of Headquarters Council, R.S.A., which shall be under no obligation to state its reasons for such action.

19. Annual Census. A census is taken from the annual registration returns as of December 31st of each calendar year.

HEADQUARTERS

20. Principal Office. The principal office of the association shall be known as Headquarters, Rover Scouts Association (H.Q., R.S.A.).

21. Headquarters, Rover Scouts Association. Headquarters, Rover Scouts Association is governed by a Headquarters Council composed of member citizens of international communities, with day-to-day operations run by the Executive Committee.

22. Headquarters Council. The Headquarters Council (aka, the Council) consists, under authority of the Charter, of the Chief Rover Scout, the Chief Commissioner, Camp Chief, Commissioners, Adjutant, Chaplain, Chief-on-the-Air (JOTA), Chief-on-the-Trail (JOTT), Group Leaders, Historian, Judge Advocate, Quartermaster, Registrar, Secretary, Surgeon, Treasurer, and Committee Chairmen.

23. Annual Meeting. The Council will hold its Annual Meeting in January, or as soon as possible thereafter, when the following business is to be transacted: -

- 1) Approval of newly elected officers for Headquarters Council.
- 2) Review the association's finances.
- 3) Review, revision, and approval of policy, organization, and rules (P.O.R.), if needed.
- 4) Plan and coordinate a calendar of events.
- 5) Other business as needed.

24. Terms of Office. Headquarters Council warrants of appointment are for one calendar year. A nominating committee shall present a slate of candidates to be considered for the following year, no later than December 1st of the preceding year, for the council to vote on. In accordance with tradition, the positions of Chief Rover Scout and Camp Chief shall remain consistent as long as the office holder agrees to the appointment, is functioning satisfactorily, and there are no challenges for the position.

25. Quorum. A quorum of the Council and its committees shall consist of two-thirds of those eligible to vote. A majority vote is required to pass or suppress a motion. Each member of the Council (or a committee) is entitled to one vote each with the exception of the Chief Rover Scout, who does not vote on issues before the Council, unless to break a tie vote.

26. Committees. The council may designate three or more members as a committee. The committee is headed by a chairman and presents its recommendations to the Council for vote. The following committees are hereby authorized: -

- 1) **Executive Committee.** The Executive Committee shall exercise the powers of the Council in managing the activities of the association; and shall consist of the Chief Rover Scout

- (chairman), Chief Commissioner, Adjutant, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- 2) **Nominating Committee.** The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of candidates to be considered for vacancies in Headquarters Council for the following year, no later than December of that preceding year, for the council to vote on.
 - 3) **Finance Committee.** The Finance Committee shall prepare both an annual budget, and an audit of the associations finances; and shall consist of the minimum of the Treasurer (chairman), and both a budget, and an audit specialist. Prepares and reports on the finance portion of the annual report.
 - 4) **Rover Scout Leader Training Committee.** The Rover Scout Leader Training Committee shall recommend organization, training syllabi, and facilities for the training of Rover Scout Leaders; and shall consist of the Camp Chief (chairman), and two or more Deputy Camp Chiefs.
 - 5) **Planning Committee.** The planning committee prepares the annual event calendar.
 - 6) **Rover Scout Handbook Committee.** The Rover Scout Handbook committee prepares and updates the official R.S.A. Rover Scout Handbook.
 - 7) **International Committee.** The International Committee ensures that non-English speaking members' needs and issues are addressed, to include providing program material in their native language; and shall consist of the Chief Commissioner (chairman), Regional Commissioners, and Group Leaders.
 - 8) **Other Committees.** Other committees may be formed as the council deems necessary.

27. Telecommunication Meetings. Headquarters Council or any committee may meet by telecommunications (telephone, instant message, or group poll). Action taken at such meeting shall be recorded and filed as official minutes of such meeting. All quorum requirements shall apply.

WARRANTS OF APPOINTMENT

28. Warranted Ranks. Warrants of appointment are issued by Headquarters, R.S.A., at its discretion, to Rovers of the following ranks:

- 1) Chief Rover Scout.
- 2) Chief Commissioner
- 3) Camp Chief; and Regional Commissioners.
- 4) Commissioners; Group Leader; Deputy Camp Chief; and Headquarters Council Staff.
- 5) Deputy Commissioner; Deputy Group Leader; and Assistant Camp Chief.
- 6) Rover Scout Leader.

29. Pluralities. A person should not hold two or more warrants, and /or other ranks, unless he has the time and ability to carry out satisfactorily the duties involved.

CHIEF ROVER SCOUT

30. Chief Rover Scout. The Chief Rover Scout is a qualified Rover Scout who serves as the

president of the association; is chairman of the Headquarters Council; is chairman of the Executive Committee; and is chief morale officer of the Rover Scouts Association.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER

31. Chief Commissioner. The Chief Commissioner is a qualified Rover Scout who serves as the vice-president of the association; is a member of the Executive Committee; and performs such functions as may be assigned by the Council, to include representing the Commissioner Service team. In the absence of a Group Leader, the Chief Commissioner shall assume the duties of G.L. for the First Rover Scout Group. The Chief Rover Scout may designate the Chief Commissioner as Acting Chief Rover Scout during the Chief Rover Scout's absence or inability to serve. In the case of the Chief Rover Scout's inability or failure to make such a designation, the Headquarters Council shall do so.

CAMP CHIEF

32. Camp Chief. The Rover Scout Camp Chief is both a qualified Rover Scout, and a former Deputy Camp Chief (4-beads) who is responsible for the international development of R.S.A. Rover Scout Leader Training, and is chairman of the Rover Scout Leader Training Committee. Functions as Acting Chief Rover Scout in the event both Chief Rover Scout and Chief Commissioner are unable or unwilling to function as such.

COMMISSIONERS

33. Commissioners. The following officers shall rank as Commissioners: -

- 1) **Commissioner.** Rover Scout Commissioners are qualified Rover Scouts who are responsible for the welfare and progress of the Rover Movement and for maintenance of the policy, organization, and rules of the organization, and, in particular: -
 - a) To encourage the formation of Crews in their area, and to secure their effective working.
 - b) To secure the harmonious co-operation of all Crews and Rovers in the area of responsibility.
 - c) To be responsible for the training of Rovers and to supervise that training.
 - d) To visit Crews and advise how to conduct them on the lines laid down in "Scouting for Boys," "Rovering to Success," and P.O.R.
 - e) To deal with all matters allotted to him under P.O.R. in particular, with warrants, Honorary Rovers, Crew registrations, membership of Rovers, and decorations and awards.
- 2) **Adjutant.** The Rover Scout Adjutant is the assistant to the Chief Rover Scout. When the office of Adjutant is vacant, the Secretary shall assume the duties of Adjutant.
- 3) **Chaplain.** The Rover Scout Chaplain is a qualified minister of religion who is the spiritual

leader of R.S.A. and represents the association in all matters pertaining to a Scout's Duty to God.

- 4) **Chief-on-the-Air (JOTA).** The Rover Scout Chief-on-the-Air is a qualified amateur radio operator responsible for representing R.S.A on all matters pertaining to Scout radio operations, to include planning, coordinating, and promoting local Jamboree-on-the-Air events. Reports results to the Council.
- 5) **Chief-on-the-Trail (JOTT).** The Rover Scout Chief-on-the-Trail (aka, Hike Chief) coordinates with local Deputy Hike Chiefs to plan, promote, and carry out a world day of hiking per the Jamboree on the Trail requirements. Reports results to the Council.
- 6) **Deputy Camp Chief.** Deputy Camp Chiefs, under the leadership of the Camp Chief, encourage and provide facilities for the training of Rovers, and to organize and function as the course director on Rover Scout Leader training courses in their local or extended area.
- 7) **Group Leader.** *See Rule 50.*
- 8) **Historian.** The Rover Scout Historian is a subject matter expert on Rovering. Researches, reports, and presents findings. Coordinates with unit historians and prepares both lineage and honors, and annual histories of R.S.A. units.
- 9) **Judge Advocate.** The Rover Scout Judge Advocate is a qualified attorney (member of the bar) who represents R.S.A. on legal matters.
- 10) **Quartermaster.** The Rover Scout Quartermaster is responsible for logistics and securing uniforms, badges, and equipment. Maintains e-commerce website, and reports results to the Council.
- 11) **Registrar.** The Rover Scout Registrar is responsible for individual and Crew membership management. Maintains database of members, prepares annual charter renewals, and reports on annual census returns. When the office of Registrar is vacant, the Secretary shall assume the duties of Registrar.
- 12) **Secretary.** The Rover Scout Secretary is a qualified Rover Scout who has general direction of the administrative work of the association, subject to the P.O.R., and to the authority and direction of the Executive Committee. Prepares an annual report of the Rover Scouts Association, and with the approval of the Executive Committee, shall present it to Headquarters Council at the time of its annual meeting. Functions as Adjutant, Treasurer and/or Registrar in the event those offices are vacant. Has authority to sign for the Chief Rover Scout.
- 13) **Surgeon.** The Rover Scout Surgeon is a medical specialist (preferably a qualified Medical Doctor) who represents R.S.A. on medical matters.
- 14) **Treasurer.** The Rover Scout Treasurer is responsible, through methods of internal control, for the recording and deposit of all receipts of the association, for the proper disbursements of its cash, and for control over all property of the association, whether real or personal, tangible or intangible, however acquired. The Treasurer shall present annually a complete and detailed statement of all income and expenses during the prior year together with a statement of assets, liabilities, reserves, and funds of the association as at the end of that calendar year, these statements first having been duly audited by the Finance Committee, and approved by the Executive Committee. Serves as chairman of the Finance Committee. When the office of Treasurer is vacant, the Secretary shall assume the duties of Treasurer.
- 15) **Committee Chairman.** *See Rule 26.*

DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS

34. Deputy Commissioners. The following officers shall rank as Deputy Commissioners: -

- 1) **Deputy Commissioner.** Appointed by, and responsible for assisting Commissioners.
- 2) **Deputy Group Leader.** Appointed by, and responsible for assisting the Group Leader.
- 3) **Assistant Camp Chief.** Assists the Deputy Camp chief in encouraging and providing facilities for the training of Rovers; helps to organize, and functions as an assistant course director on Rover Scout Leader training courses in their local or extended area.

UNITS

35. Units. Units (Regions, Groups, Crews, and Patrols) are established, chartered, and deactivated by Headquarters Council, R.S.A.

36. Establishment. Establishment (or affiliation) of new R.S.A. units is by application to, and approval by Headquarters Council, R.S.A.

37. Registration. All Regions, Groups, Crews and Patrols must be registered at Headquarters, R.S.A., and are recognized as units of the Rover Scouts Association only while so registered.

38. Procedure. Application for registration of a unit is made by the prospective leader either to the appropriate Group Leader, Commissioner, or directly to Headquarters, R.S.A.

39. Renewal. Registration is only effective until the next December 31st. If not renewed at the time of the annual re-registration return, the unit ceases to be recognized and is deactivated.

40. Unit Designations. Heritage is an important element in unit *esprit de corps*. The Rover Scouts Association regularly activates and inactivates units as a result of organizational changes. Throughout this process, R.S.A. must take care to preserve units with the richest heritage by keeping them in active status. This may require transferring a unit designation from one location to another. Use the following priorities to assign unit designations. Give: -

- 1) First priority to preserving Crews that trace their heritage to original Rover Scout Crews.
- 2) Second priority to existing Crews.
- 3) Third priority to Crews with records of unique historical achievements.
- 4) Fourth priority to Crews which have gained the most years of service, and specific accomplishments.

41. Naming Conventions. The following naming conventions are suggested when designating newly established R.S.A. units: -

- 1) **Regions.** Regions are named to represent the geographical area encompassed, i.e., North American Region.
- 2) **Groups.** Groups are named chronologically and generically, in order of establishment, i.e.,

First Rover Scout Group; Second Rover Scout Group; Third Rover Scout Group; etc.

- 3) **Crews.** Crews are named with a number (optional) and a location or function, i.e., Kudu Rover Crew; 3rd Colwood Rover Crew; 1st Crew-on-the-Air (JOTA); etc.
- 4) **Patrol.** Patrols are named with a number (optional) and a location, an animal, or other significant name, i.e., 1st Kelowna Sea Rovers, 2nd Cumberland Rovers; Bear Patrol; etc. (Note: do not use "Crew" as part of the Patrol name)
- 5) **Rover Scout Leader Courses.** R.S.A. Rover Scout Leader courses are named: -
 - a) **Crew.** 1st Gilwell Rover Scout Crew.
 - b) **Patrols.** R.S.A. Rover Scout Leader courses should use traditional Wood Badge Patrol names, and are numbered according to the course number, i.e., course #1: 1st Bull Patrol, 1st Raven Patrol; course #2: 2nd Bull Patrol, 2nd Raven Patrol, 2nd Wolf Patrol; etc.

42. Charters. Charters are issued to all registered units and expire December 31st, each calendar year.

43. Registered Crew Scarves/Neckerchiefs. Similar scarves/neckerchiefs should be worn by all members of a Crew. The color and design of Crew scarves/neckerchiefs will be chosen by the Rover Scout Leader in consultation with the Crew Council, subject to the approval of Headquarters, R.S.A., who will arrange that as far as possible no two Crews shall have scarves/neckerchiefs of the same color and design.

44. Unit History. Unit histories consist of narrative accounts of significant events augmented by supporting documents. They are essential to the corporate memory of R.S.A. because they systematically preserve information for research and reference. The following terms further describe historical documentation: -

- 1) **Emblem.** A design portraying the distinctive history and general function of a unit.
- 2) **Heraldry.** The emblem, motto, designation, scroll(s), and crest of a unit. The purpose of heraldry is that units need visible symbols in the form of emblems to promote *esprit de corps*, morale, and a sense of heritage; which meets this need only as long as emblems are not readily changed.
- 3) **Heritage.** Those traditions embodied in the history, lineage, honors, and heraldry of a unit.
- 4) **Heritage Standards.** When making structure changes, general R.S.A. policy is to keep active those units (Crews) with the most illustrious heritage.
- 5) **Honors.** Official recognition documenting a unit's achievement.
- 6) **Lineage.** The unique, official, traceable record of actions peculiar to each R.S.A. unit; therefore, it is the sole determinant of a unit's rights to history, honors, and emblems. It allows R.S.A. to avoid confusing one unit with another. A current unit may have begun its existence with a different number and designation, but lineage traces all changes to its current designation. The lineages of units are continuous. Neither inactivation nor disbandment terminates a unit's lineage or heraldry. The lineages of provisional units terminate when the unit is inactivated; they cannot be revived.
- 7) **Lineage and Honors History.** A statement that identifies the lineage, accrued honors, assignments, headquarters, and emblem of a unit.
- 8) **Motto.** Part of the heraldry of a unit. It expresses in a word or short phrase the unit's goals, ideals, or principles.

REGIONS

45. Region. For administrative effectiveness, Groups in the same geographic area are assigned to Regions. The Region provides administrative, training, communication and supervisory support to Groups and promotes R.S.A. policy. Each Region is led and managed by a Regional Commissioner (R.C.).

46. Regional Council. Group Leaders should meet regularly with the Regional Commissioner to discuss matters affecting the Region.

47. Regional Commissioner. Regional Commissioners are qualified Rover Scouts, appointed by Headquarters Council, R.S.A., and are responsible for the following functions within a Region:-

- 1) To exercise general supervision over the Region and to coordinate their activities, while delegating the fullest amount of responsibility in their actual management to the Groups themselves.
- 2) To act as Chairman of the Regional Council, and to encourage cooperation between Groups of the Region.
- 3) To secure the formation of a Regional Council.
- 4) To deal with matters relating to the membership of Groups within the Region.
- 5) Are members of Headquarters Council, and are therefore entitled to one vote representing their assigned Region.

GROUPS

48. Rover Scout Group. For administrative effectiveness, Crews and/or Patrols within the same country are assigned to a Group (with the exception of the First Rover Scout Group). The Group provides administrative, training, communication and supervisory support to Crews/Patrols and promotes R.S.A. policy. Each Group is led and managed by a Group Leader (G.L.).

49. Group Council. Rover Scout Leaders (and/or Rover Mates) should meet regularly with the Group Leader to discuss matters affecting the Group.

50. Group Leader. Group Leaders are qualified Rover Scouts, appointed by Headquarters Council, R.S.A., who rank as Commissioners, and are responsible for the following functions within a Group:-

- 1) To exercise general supervision over the Group and to coordinate their activities, while delegating the fullest amount of responsibility in their actual management to the Crews themselves.
- 2) To act as Chairman of the Group Council, and to encourage cooperation between Crews of

the Group.

- 3) To secure the formation of a Group Council.
- 4) To deal with matters relating to the membership of Crews within the Group.
- 5) Are members of Headquarters Council, and are therefore entitled to one vote representing their assigned Group.

51. Deputy Group Leader. Deputy Group Leaders (D.G.L.) are qualified Rover Scouts, appointed by the Group Leader, who rank as Deputy Commissioners, and are responsible for assisting the G.L.

52. First Rover Scout Group. The First Rover Scout Group is comprised of the 1st Gilwell Rover Scout Crew, the 1st Crew-on-the-Air (JOTA), Lone Rovers, and other units from time to time. In the absence of a Group Leader, the Chief Commissioner shall assume the duties of G.L.

CREWS

53. Rover Scout Crew. The Rover Scout Crew is the basic organizational unit, and the working level which translates programs into action. Each crew is led and managed by a Rover Scout Leader (R.S.L.).

54. Formation of a Crew. Crews are established by application and approval for a charter. Before approval of the formation of a Crew, it is essential that there should be a suitable leader who should, if possible, be a warranted Rover Scout Leader (R.S.L.). Failing this, the Crew is led and managed by a Rover Mate (R.M.), who shall qualify as a R.S.L. as soon as possible. Four (4) or more Rovers are required to charter as a Crew.

55. Crew Council. Crew members should meet regularly with the Rover Scout Leader to discuss matters affecting the Crew.

56. Rover Scout Leader. Rover Scout Leaders (R.S.L.) (aka, Skipper) are qualified Rover Scouts, with warrants of appointment by Headquarters Council, R.S.A., and are responsible for the following functions within a Crew: -

- 1) To exercise general supervision over the Crew and to coordinate their activities, while delegating the fullest amount of responsibility in their actual management to the Rover Mates in charge of them.
- 2) To act as Chairman of the Crew Council, and to encourage cooperation between Rovers of the Crew.
- 3) To secure the formation of a Crew Council.
- 4) To deal with matters relating to the membership of Rovers within the Crew.

57. Rover Mates. The following guidelines apply to Rover Mates (R.M.): -

- 1) **Rover Mate.** Rover Mates (R.M.) do not hold warrants, and are either appointed or elected by the Crew with the approval of the Rover Scout Leader, in order to help in its leadership.

In instances where the Crew is subdivided into Patrols, the R.M. serves as the Patrol Leader (P.L.).

- 2) **Senior Rover Mate.** When there are two or more Rover Mates, one may be appointed or elected as Senior Rover Mate (S.R.M.) by the Crew, with the approval of the Rover Scout Leader.
- 3) **Rover Second.** A Rover Second (R.2.) may be selected by the Rover Mate to assist him, or elected by the Crew with the approval of the Rover Scout Leader.

58. Optional Crew Positions. Optional Crew positions include Secretary, Quartermaster, Instructor, Examiner, Chaplain, Surgeon, etc.

PATROLS

59. Patrols. Large crews may be subdivided into patrols, especially geographically separate members who want to affiliate with a certain crew. Each Patrol is led and managed by a Rover Mate (R.M.).

60. Formation of a Patrol. Units with less than four Rovers are chartered (or redesignated) Patrols, by Headquarters, R.S.A. Crews with Patrols may officially charter subordinate Patrols; however, it is not a requirement.

61. Wood Badge Patrols. R.S.A. Rover Scout Leader course participants are assigned to Patrols of three-to-six Rovers each. For historical reasons, the original Wood Badge Patrol names should be used as far as practical; i.e., Wolves, Bulls, Curlews, and Ravens.

62. Patrol Emblems. Baden-Powell's Patrol animal images taken from "Scouting for Boys" may be used as emblems on Patrol Flags, equipment, uniforms, etc.

ROVER SQUIRE

63. Admission to Crew.

- 1) Must be approved by the Rover Scout Leader (R.S.L.) and by the Crew.
- 2) Must be either a) or b):
 - a) Must either be recommended by a S.M. (Scoutmaster) as a Scout who is trying to act up to his Scout obligations, including the doing of good turns
 - b) Or if not previously a Scout, must be willing to learn practical Scouting, pursue the open-air life, and accept the way of life set forth in the Scout Promise and Law. (A Rover Squire who has not been a Scout must pass the Tenderfoot test, make the Scout Promise, and be invested as a Scout). *See rule 65.*
- 3) Must be at least 17 years of age. (*Crews may waive this requirement on a case-by-case basis with Headquarters, R.S.A. approval.*)

64. On Admission to a Crew. On admission to a Crew, he is known as a Rover Squire until

such time as he is invested as a Rover.

65. Qualifications. Before being invested, must satisfy the R.S.L. (Rover Scout Leader) that he knows the Tenderfoot Test: -

- 1) The Scout Law and Promise, and understands their meanings.
- 2) The Scout Salutes (to include Scout staff) and their importance.
- 3) The Scout Woodcraft Signs.
- 4) The composition and history of, and how to fly your countries flag.
- 5) Certain uses of the Scout staff.
- 6) The following knots: reef (square), sheet bend, clove hitch, bowline, round turn and two half hitches, sheepshank; and understands their respective uses.
- 7) How to whip the end of a rope.

ROVER SCOUT

66. Age. No one who is under 17 years of age may be invested as a Rover Scout.

67. Knowledge of Rovering. Have read and studied the following, and have a general knowledge of Rovering to the satisfaction of the Rover Scout Leader and Crew: -

- 1) "Scouting for Boys;"
- 2) "Rovering to Success;" and
- 3) R.S.A. Policy, Organization, and Rules.

68. Investiture. Some process of self-examination (in the form of a vigil or otherwise) and an investiture, during which he will make or reaffirm the Scout Promise, are essential to emphasize the fact that as a Rover he is undertaking certain definite responsibilities. The degree of ceremony used in the vigil and the investiture will vary, and this must depend upon the wishes of the Crew and of the individual to be invested.

69. Self-Examination. A suggested form of self-examination can be found in "Rover Quests in Practice," by Baden-Powell, where the following Quests are suggested in connection with the Scout Law: -

- 1) **The Quest of Truth.** A Scout's honor is to be trusted.
- 2) **The Quest of World Scouting.** A Scout is loyal to his Country, his Officers, his Parents, his Employers, and to those under him.
- 3) **The Quest of Rover Errantry.** A Scout's duty is to be useful and to help others.
- 4) **The Quest of the Younger Brother.** A Scout is a friend to all, and a brother to every other Scout, no matter to what social class the other belongs.
- 5) **The Quest of Beauty.** A Scout is courteous.
- 6) **The Quest of Kindness to Animals.** A Scout is a friend to animals.
- 7) **The Quest of Conscience.** A Scout obeys orders of his parents, patrol leader, or Scoutmaster, without question.

- 8) **The Quest of Happiness.** A Scout smiles and whistles.
- 9) **The Quest of Personal Efficiency.** A Scout is thrifty.
- 10) **The Quest of the Spiritual.** A Scout is clean in thought, word, and deed.

70. Vigil and Investiture Ceremony. The Vigil and Investiture ceremony can be found in “The Investiture of a Rover Scout,” or later in “The Presentation of a Rover Scout.”

71. Training: Ideals. The Rover is expected to adopt and be governed by the following principles: -

- 1) His Promise of Duty to God, through a conscientious effort to develop his own spiritual life, and through the practice of his religion.
- 2) His Promise of Duty to his Country, through an earnest endeavor to secure a proper knowledge of the Government of his Country, and to perform his duty as a Citizen.
- 3) His Promise of Duty to his Neighbors, through a logical development of the Scout Good Turn, after proper preparation and training, into some form of effective service to the community. In so doing he is asked to realize that his first service is to establish himself in life, and to make every endeavor to consolidate his position so that he is not a burden on others, or on the State.
- 4) His Promise to Obey the Scout Law by adopting it as an ideal to be expressed in his actions, and in goodwill, fellowship, and clean living.

72. Training: Practical. The Rover is expected to aim at qualifying himself in the following to the satisfaction of the Rover Scout Leader (R.S.L.) and Crew: -

- 1) Have a working knowledge of camp life with special reference to:
 - a) The normal requirements in regard to personal and camping kit, for both a weekend and a week's hike or cruise.
 - b) The general regulations affecting camping and hiking.
 - c) The use and care of an axe, both hand-axe and felling-axe if possible.
 - d) The use of, and ability to make, the following knots in addition to the Tenderfoot knots: Bowline on a bight; fisherman's bend or hitch; man harness knot; marlin spike or lever hitch; rolling hitch; timber hitch.
 - e) The use and making of the following lashing: Square, diagonal, sheer or round, figure of eight.
 - f) The use and making of the following splices: Back or end, eye, short.
 - g) Hike and camp cookery, the storage of food in camp or on hike, the disposal of refuse in camp, and the supply of hike rations suitable for hikes of both a week-end and a week's duration.
- 2) Participate in hiking, camping and pioneering practices, or in sailing expeditions and cruises, with the Crew.
- 3) Hike - on foot - over a distance of at least 16 miles, spending one night out under cover improvised by himself, or carried on his back, and submit a report of the hike, paying particular attention to a subject such as: Antiquities; Life and Labor; Nature Lore. The report should include sketch maps of any important parts of the route.

- 4) Swim a distance of 100 yards.
- 5) Practice the care of his own health in matters of cleanliness, fresh air, exercise, food and clothing; feel the importance of his own and other people's interest of keeping physically fit, and recognize the necessity of keeping morally, as well as physically, clean.
- 6) Qualify in First Aid training.
- 7) Have a general knowledge of the rights and obligations of citizenship, and a working knowledge of the local government of the area in which he lives, with special regard to finance, education, health services, public assistance, roads, regional planning, police, local authorities' undertakings; have some practical knowledge of his local Council (personnel, elections, what they do and how they work), so that he may understand and be capable of exercising his responsibilities as a citizen.
- 8) Recruit a Rover Squire.

73. Training: Advanced. The Rover is expected to continue his training and activities along such of the following lines as he selects for himself: -

- 1) Advanced campcraft.
- 2) Advanced boat work.
- 3) Advanced pioneering.
- 4) Rover Instructor badge.
- 5) Rambler's Badge.
- 6) Rover Project Badge.
- 7) Scoutcraft Star.
- 8) Service Training Star.
- 9) B.-P. Award.
- 10) International Award.
- 11) "Scoutmastership" with a view to serving as a Scouter, and so returning to Scouting something of what he has received from it.
- 12) The study and practice of any of the subjects or activities mentioned in "Rovering to Success."
- 13) The study of the Constitution and Government of his country.
- 14) The study of the relations of the various countries and peoples which compose our international community.
- 15) The study of the history and organization of World-wide Scouting and Guiding. This study should be amplified by correspondence with Scouts in other countries, and, when possible, by carrying out camps and hikes abroad and by studying the Scout literature of other countries.

UNIFORM

74. Uniform. A Rover wears uniform as follows, with the appropriate badges of rank:

- 1) Hat: Khaki (four dents), flat brim, leather band round crown, and lace worn at back of head and tied in front on the brim of the hat; or a beret or baseball cap.

- 2) Scarf/Neckerchief: Of the Group or Crew registered color, worn with a woggle/slide, or with a loose knot at the throat.
- 3) Shirt: Dark blue, khaki, green or grey, with two patch pockets (buttoned), and shoulder straps optional; or a jersey or sweater of the same colors.
- 4) Shorts (Trousers): Dark blue, khaki, green or grey.
- 5) Belt: Brown or black leather or web.
- 6) Stockings: Any plain color; worn turned down below the knee with red tabbed garter showing on outside.
- 7) Boots or Shoes: Brown or black.
- 8) Shoulder Knot: Llama braid six inches long, $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch wide, on left shoulder.
 - Rover Squire: Green and yellow
 - Rover Scout : Red, green, and yellow
- 9) Unit Crest/Badge: Indicating the Group or Crew; worn according to the custom of the unit.
- 10) Other Badges: As authorized.
- 11) Thumbstick: Natural wood, to be carried on all appropriate occasions.

75. Gilwell Scarf. Rovers may wear the Gilwell scarf, if entitled to it.

BADGES OF RANK

76. Rover Squire. A Rover Squire wears the following badges in uniform: -

- 1) **R.S.A. Membership Badge.** A cloth badge with an arrowhead and the words “Rover Scouts” below, worn centered on the left-hand pocket of the shirt or in the corresponding position on a jersey. *See Figure 2 below.*
- 2) **Shoulder Knot.** A green and yellow Llama braid, six inches long, $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch wide, worn on the left shoulder. *See Figure 1 below.*



Fig. 1

Fig. 2

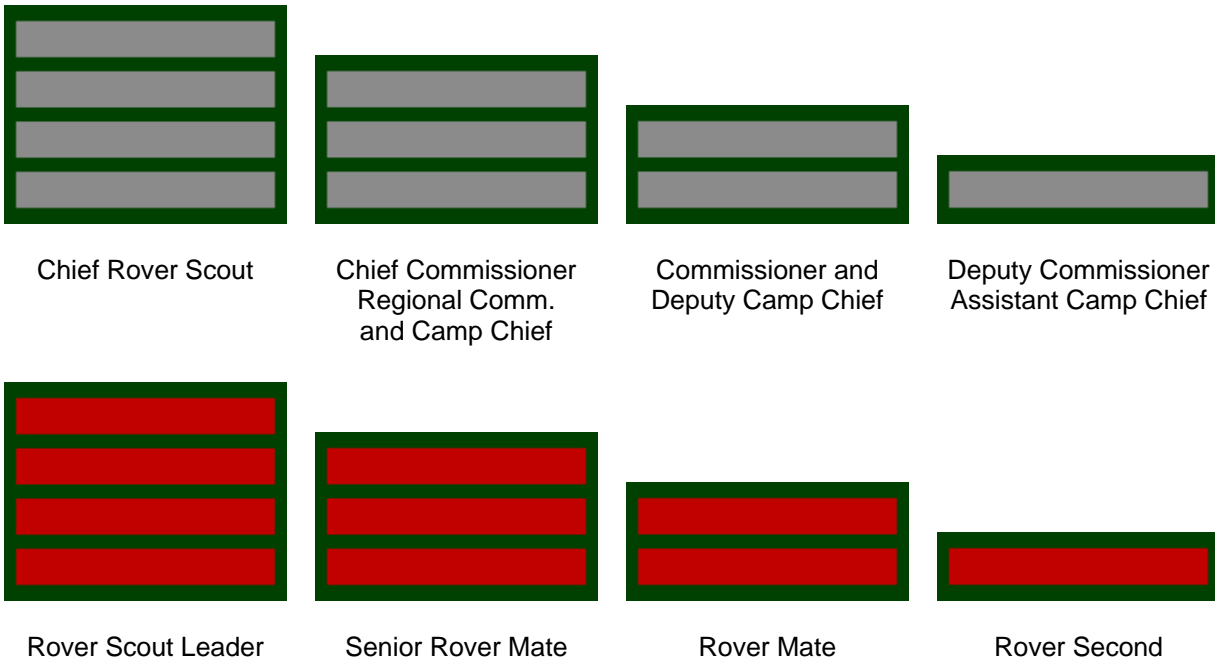
Fig. 3

Fig 4.

77. Rover Scout. A Rover Scout wears the following badges in uniform: -

- 1) **R.S.A. Membership Badge.** A cloth badge with an arrowhead and the words “Rover Scouts” below, worn centered on the left-hand pocket of the shirt or in the corresponding position on a jersey. *See Figure 2 above.*
- 2) **Shoulder Straps.** Green shoulder straps with Rover Scout badge, worn on both shoulders. *See Figure 3 above.*
- 3) **Shoulder Knot.** A red, green, and yellow Llama braid, six inches long, $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch wide, worn on the left shoulder. *See Figure 4 above.*

78. Badges of Office. Badges of Office may be worn between the shoulder and elbow of the left arm. A Rover who holds more than one office will wear the uniform and badges appropriate to the particular occasion, but where this is not practicable, the uniforms and badges of the senior office will be worn.



FLAGS

79. Flags. Rovers may use any of the following flags: -

- 1) **National Flag.** The national flag of the Rovers country.
- 2) **St. George Flag.** The St. George Flag is used in Rover ceremonies.
- 3) **R.S.A. Flag.** – *reserved* –
- 4) **Scout Flags.** Flags of any color and design, bearing the Scout badge and the name of the unit, if desired.
- 5) **Patrol Flags.** Flags of any color and design, bearing the Patrol emblem, Scout badge and

the name of the Patrol, if desired. Baden-Powell's Patrol animal images taken from "Scouting for Boys" may be used as emblems on Patrol Flags.

80. Etiquette. Proper flag etiquette should be observed at all times.

SALUTES

81. Occasions. Salutes are given on the following occasions: -

- 1) As a greeting. Scouts, Rovers, and Scouters meeting for the first time in the day, salute each other. The first to see the other should be the first to salute irrespective of rank.
- 2) As a token of respect. At the hoisting of the National Flag, at the playing of the National Anthem, to un-cased colors, to Scout flags other than Patrol flags, and to funerals.
- 3) During the making or re-affirming of the Scout Promise.

82. Methods. The following are the methods of saluting: -

- 1) Salute as in Figure 1, passing a stick or Thumbstick into the left hand.
- 2) When carrying staves, salute as in Figure 2 and 3.
- 3) If the hands are occupied, the salute is by turning the head and eyes to the right or left, as the case may be.
- 4) The Scout Sign is given by raising the right hand level with the shoulder.
- 5) The above salutes are used irrespective of whether the head is bare or covered.
- 6) In church, the salute is always by standing at the alert.
- 7) On all parades, other than in church, the leader calls Rovers to the alert and he alone salutes.



Fig. 1

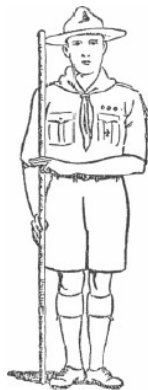


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

DECORATIONS AND AWARDS

83. Decorations Authorized. Medals, ribbons, and knots may be worn for wear in uniform on either the right or left breast pocket above the line of the pocket, according to the traditions of the Crew.

84. Rover Scout Wood Badge. The R.S.A. Rover Scout Wood Badge is awarded to Rovers who satisfactorily complete the respective courses of training outlined in the pamphlet “The Training of Rover Scout Leaders,” in which is contained full particulars as to the conditions governing the issue of the badge. The Wood Badge consists of facsimiles of the beads forming the necklace originally belonging to Chief Dinizulu which was captured by the Founder during the Zulu War.

- 1) One bead is worn in uniform on a leather thong attached to the button of the right shirt pocket, for completion of the practical camp training experience. *See Figure 1.*
- 2) Two beads are worn in uniform on a leather bootlace round the neck, for completion of the ticket. *See Figure 2.*
- 3) Three beads are worn in similar fashion as (2) by Assistant Camp Chiefs (Assistant Course Directors). *See Figure 3.*
- 4) Four beads are worn in similar fashion as (2) by the Camp Chief and Deputy Camp Chiefs (Course Directors). *See Figure 4.*



Fig.1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

Note: R.S.A. Rover Scout Wood Badge is for the training of Rover Scout Leaders, and is delivered from a historical perspective utilizing the original training syllabus.

85. Duty to God Award. Awarded for satisfying the requirements for either the Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.), or the Religion in Life Program.



86. Bronze Cross for Gallantry. The Bronze Cross for Gallantry is the highest possible award for gallantry in action, consisting of special heroism, or risk. Awards for Gallantry are granted at the discretion of the Headquarters Council. Applications must incorporate a full account of the occurrence, with the evidence of eyewitnesses, wherever possible.



87. Silver Wolf. The Silver Wolf is an award for services of the most exceptional character, normally of national or international importance, and is only granted at the discretion of the Chief Rover Scout, but recommendations may be submitted to Headquarters, RSA.



88. Silver Acorn. The Silver Acorn is awarded for especially distinguished services granted at the discretion of the Headquarters Council.



89. Medal of Merit. The Medal of Merit is awarded for meritorious acts, not involving heroism or risk of life; or for especially good works and/or services for the Scout Movement. The application must contain a full statement of the

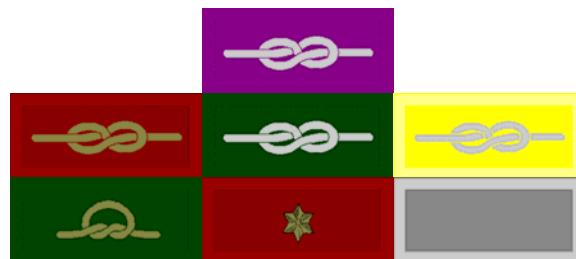


act or work; and must show, unless the case is an exceptional one, service of outstanding character.

90. Service Stars. Service Stars are worn to indicate length of R.S.A. service on a red background, and are awarded for each consecutive year of registered service. *See examples of various lengths of service below.*



91. Order of Precedence. The suggested order of precedence for wear of R.S.A. Decorations and Awards:



From top-to-bottom, left-to-right: Duty to God Award; Bronze Cross for Gallantry; Silver Wolf; Silver Oak; Medal of Merit; R.S.A. Service Stars; other Scout award(s).

92. Certificate of Award. A Certificate of Award is issued to accompany Decorations and Awards.

93. Method of Wear. Cloth emblems, with a design in the appropriate colors are issued for wear in uniform on either the right (traditional wear), or left breast pocket above the line of the pocket.

PROFICIENCY BADGES

94. Qualification. Must be a qualified Rover Scout before becoming eligible for proficiency

badges.

95. Rover Instructor Badge. The Rover Instructor Badge is worn on the right breast above the line of the pocket. Granted on the recommendation of the Rover Scout Leader, the conditions for its award are as follows: -

- 1) Hold the Service Training Star.
- 2) Show that he is acting, with the approval of his R.S.L., as an instructor to a Wolf Cub Pack, Boy Scout Troop, or Venturing Crew to the satisfaction of the Cubmaster, Scoutmaster or Crew Advisor concerned.

96. Rambler's Badge. The Rambler's Badge is worn on the left shoulder strap. Granted on the recommendation of the Rover Scout Leader, the conditions for its award are as follows: -

- 1) Walk, or walk and make passages in a kayak or boat (sailing or rowing) an aggregate of 100 miles, or –
- 2) Go an aggregate of 400 miles by bicycle outside towns, during week-end or holiday hikes.
- 3) Keep a log of your journeys to be handed in on completing the total of 100 miles (or 400 miles); this log should give dates, places, and distances; and should preferably give information that would be of use to other hikers, such as places of interest to be visited en route, good camping places, inns, hints for finding the way at difficult points, together with passage notes of the boat journeys (if taken) with tidal or other useful information and plans of harbors, inland waterways, etc., sketch maps, and nature notes.



97. Rover Project Badge. The Rover Project Badge is worn on the right shoulder strap. Granted on the recommendation of the Rover Scout Leader, the conditions for its award are as follows: -

- 1) The Rover must choose, plan, and devote at least six months to a Project, and must keep a record of his activities. At least three times during the period he must report progress to the R.S.L. and Crew, producing his record, supported by any models, charts, maps or other exhibits which may be needed to explain it.
- 2) A "Project" may be defined as a self-imposed task demanding skill, application and care. The Rover picks the subject of his Project for himself. There is no restriction on his choice of subject (within reason), but it should preferably be something which bears no direct relation to his means of livelihood, and with which he has formerly had little to do, or alternatively a subject in which he is already well versed, with the intention of his reaching a considerably higher standard of achievement in it. The subject chosen for a Rover's Project should be formally approved by the R.S.L. and Crew as suitable and worthwhile.
- 3) When the Rover is himself satisfied that he has completed his selected Project, he must demonstrate the result of his work to the R.S.L. and Crew. The R.S.L. and Crew, after seeking any necessary expert advice, then decide if he has reached a satisfactory standard of attainment.



98. Scoutcraft Star. The Scoutcraft Star is worn on the left shoulder strap, above the Rambler's Badge, if held. Granted on the recommendation of the Rover Scout Leader, the conditions for its award are as follows: -



- 1) A Rover who holds a Warrant as a Pack or Troop Scouter must qualify at the appropriate Preliminary Training Course and must give satisfactory service as a Scouter for a period of at least six months, to qualify for the Star; or
- 2) A Rover who does not hold a Warrant must camp on at least 10 separate occasions aggregating not less than ten nights on three or more different campsites, and must comply with Leave No Trace Principles. Must keep a log of these camps and submit it to the Rover Scout Leader and Crew.

99. Service Training Star. The Service Training Star is worn on the right shoulder strap above the Project Badge, if held. Granted on the recommendation of the Rover Scout Leader, the Rover must give six months service with a Group in the capacity of a Scouter. The service carried out must be to the satisfaction of the Group Leader and the unit concerned.



100. B.-P. Award. The B.-P. Award is worn on the left shoulder strap (or with the R.S. Shoulder Knot). The B.-P. Award is granted by the Group Leader in the recommendation of the Rover Scout Leader. Before being awarded the B.-P. Award a Rover Scout must: -



- 1) Hold the Rambler's Badge, the Project Badge, the Scoutcraft Star, and the Service Training Star.
- 2) In the opinion of the Group Leader, Rover Scout Leader, and Crew be setting a personal example of the Scout way of life, and be carrying out the Rover motto "Service."
- 3) Have an interview with a Commissioner appointed for the purpose.

101. International Award. The Duke of Edinburgh International Award is a self-development program available to all young people worldwide equipping them with life skills to make a difference to themselves, their communities and their world. See pamphlet on the International Award.

102. Other Badges Authorized. If a Rover has earned either the Queen's (*or, King's*) Scout Badge, the St. George Scout Badge, or their equivalents, it may be worn between the shoulder and elbow of the left arm (or, between the shoulder and badge of office, if worn).

BUSINESS

103. Legal Status. The Rover Scouts Association was formed on September 8, 2002. The domicile of the organization is in The Netherlands, and is a not-for-profit association run entirely by volunteers.

104. Business Office. The business office of the organization is located at: -

Rover Scouts Association
Postbus 27
1620 AA HOORN
The Netherlands

105. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the organization is the calendar year.