



The BP story

The material on the following pages can be used to introduce Joey Scouts to the story of Baden Powell and the early history of Scouting. Incorporate it as you wish in your existing programmes. The longer story could be told over several weeks or as an ongoing camp activity, using the activities to illustrate the story and keep the Joeys' interest.



The BP story as a steam game

Give each Joey one of the following four names:

ROBERT BADEN POWELL
BOYS
BOY SCOUTS
GIRL SCOUTS

As the story is read and their part is called out, they jump up and race around the outside of the circle back to their own spot. When FOUNDER'S DAY is called out they all run.

The story

ROBERT BADEN POWELL was a well known soldier. When he came back from fighting in wars in India and South Africa, earlier this century, he thought it would be a good idea to teach BOYS to be BOY SCOUTS. ROBERT BADEN POWELL was convinced his methods of training young BOYS would cut across all social barriers. So in 1907 he ran an experimental camp at Brownsea Island in the south of England.

He introduced BOYS to the pleasures of stalking, tracking, camping and cooking without utensils. ROBERT BADEN POWELL sent out a patrol each evening. These BOYS went out on picket duty and slept under the stars. They did their job well and the patrol system of the BOY SCOUTS was proven. Each night before settling down the BOYS held a campfire. It was a mixture of songs and stories told by ROBERT BADEN POWELL. He had so many exciting stories to tell of army life and about his childhood he kept the youngsters spellbound.

His ideas were such fun that many BOYS who were not in clubs wished to become BOY SCOUTS, and started forming their own patrols. Eventually, in the summer of 1909, some 10,000 BOY SCOUTS gathered at Crystal Palace in a huge rally. ROBERT BADEN POWELL was pleased.

It was then a group of GIRL SCOUTS marched past in khaki skirts and shirts, wearing Scout hats. "Who are you?" he asked. "We are GIRL SCOUTS and we want to join in". So ROBERT BADEN POWELL spoke to his sister Agnes, and in 1910 the GIRL SCOUTS began, calling themselves Guides.

By this time the King had asked ROBERT BADEN POWELL to give up the army and just organise the BOY SCOUTS. Two years later he met and married Olave Soames, who took over the girl movement, working very hard alongside ROBERT BADEN POWELL. Olave later became the World Chief Guide.

ROBERT BADEN POWELL was later made a Lord because of his great work with youngsters. Scouting decided to have a special day each year to remember all the BOY SCOUTS and GIRL SCOUTS around the world. So 22nd February was chosen because this was the joint birthday of both ROBERT BADEN POWELL and Olave Baden Powell. This is called FOUNDER'S DAY.

So now you know, BOY SCOUTS for BOYS began in 1907. GIRL SCOUTS began in 1910. ROBERT BADEN POWELL is the founder of the Scouting Movement, and on 22nd of February we celebrate FOUNDER'S DAY.