

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

TWO PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y.

1938 Series, Bulletin No. 11, December 16, 1938

Subject: "PHILTURN ROCKYMOUNTAIN
SCOUTCAMP"

From: THE CHIEF SCOUT EXECUTIVE

To: ALL SCOUT EXECUTIVES

1. A WILDERNESS CAMP FOR SENIOR SCOUTS

It is with keen pleasure that following the meeting of our National Executive Board held Wednesday, December 7, we announce that the transfer of the 35,857 acres in New Mexico from Mr. and Mrs. Waite Phillips has been completed, and title now rests with the Boy Scouts of America. Plans are being developed for the use of the \$50,000.00, which also came as a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Phillips, for the general headquarters and the necessary physical facilities.

2. OFFICIAL NAME

After thorough consideration of numerous suggestions as to the name, the Executive Board, with the approval of Mr. and Mrs. Phillips, has approved the name:

"PHILTURN ROCKYMOUNTAIN SCOUTCAMP".

"Philtturn" is a combination of Mr. Phillips' name and "Good Turn".

3. DIRECTOR

We are especially happy to announce the appointment of Mr. B. B. Dawson, now Scout Executive at Lincoln, Nebraska, as the Director of this new project. Through the cooperation of the Executive Board of the Cornhusker

Area Council, with headquarters at Lincoln, Mr. Dawson has been released and is now giving leadership to the development of plans for the use of this immense acreage of land so that it may serve the purposes intended, which are primarily for advanced camping for Senior Scouts. Mr. Dawson will devote his entire time to his new duties as soon as a new Executive is installed at Lincoln.

Mr. Dawson will serve as a member of the Division of Operations staff under the leadership of Mr. Arthur A. Schuck and as a member of the Camping and Activities Service of which Dr. Lorne W. Barclay is the Director. The Executive of Region Nine, Mr. James P. Fitch, will be related to this project in the same way as he is related to all other Scout activities in Region Nine.

I invite special attention to the biographical sketch giving facts about Mr. Dawson printed herewith.

4. SELECTION OF MR. DAWSON

It will be of interest to the Scout Field to know the story of Mr. Dawson's selection. From the very outset of our conferences about this very important project it was apparent that the practicability of the enterprise and its success would be dependent largely upon the type of man selected as the Director and, before any of us had definitely crystallized our thinking as to who might be considered, a letter written by Mr. Dawson dated October 17, 1938 showing his enthusiasm for this project, suggested to me as I read it (without having yet looked at the signature) that the writer certainly revealed such a thorough grasp of some of the factors involved as to suggest our considering his availability. I immediately shared his letter with President Walter W. Head, Mr. Phillips and with my associates here and, without a dissenting voice, it was the unanimous judgment that Mr. Dawson would make an ideal man. However, before taking any action, the Personnel Division made a thorough canvass of the whole situation, and a long list of names was developed for consideration. After individual study by various staff members, and then in a group conference, the decision was unanimously reached that Mr. Dawson was just the man to do the job provided his release could be secured from his Council. Negotiations were accordingly entered into and Mr. Dawson was as much surprised as anyone in-

volved because at the time of writing his letter he had not the slightest notion that he might be invited to develop a program along some of the lines suggested in his letter.

5. AVAILABLE SUMMER, 1939

We feel very happy at the outcome of this whole development, and our enthusiasm grows as we go forward with our plans. We are confident that facilities will be available for camping for at least a limited number in the summer of 1939, and that as years go on this PHILTURN ROCKY-MOUNTAIN SCOUTCAMP will prove to be an important factor in the advancement of the Senior Scouting Program and the Camping Program of the Boy Scouts of America.

6. PATROL AND TROOP CAMPING

In this connection I invite your attention to the following extract from a letter that has recently come to my desk from one of the young men to whom I wrote as one of a group of 3,700 who are on our cultivation list. Many Executives have cooperated with us in the development of this list and we have been able to share a number of the replies we have received. Many of the writers have in response to our invitation, made helpful suggestions and observations. This particular letter from the young man, whose name of course we hold in confidence, gives striking evidence as to the soundness of what we have been advocating over the years as to the relative value of mass camping and Patrol and Troop camping.

“I think that the policies and leadership of a Troop should come more from the boys than it probably now does. I feel that the Scoutmaster and other senior leaders, including Junior Assistant Scoutmasters, should be there only for advice, assistance when asked for, and to encourage the boys in their endeavors. For example, I think that it is good policy to have the Senior Patrol Leader, or a Patrol Leader, or even a promising Scout take complete charge of a meeting. To further develop the leadership in the junior officers, it might be well for the senior officers to stay away from a meeting once in a while, in order to put the full responsibility on the boy in charge. Of course, the Scoutmaster must use discretion about using the latter method, and he must know about how the

leader will act, and if he is capable of performing the job placed on his shoulders.

“From my own experience in Scout camping, I think too much is done for the boy from the standpoint of teaching him self reliance, and how to camp and take care of himself. At the same time I realize the necessity of central supervision of some activities, and their advantages. But still, to me the planning and execution, of the details of a camping trip as well as the camp work, is just about three-quarters of the fun of camping. Just off-hand I don't know what solution could be devised for this situation as I have not made a study of the problem. However, I must admit that the seven years I spent in Council Camps have not taught me how to take care of myself in the outdoors. This I have learned from camping trips initiated by myself and other Scout pals and carried out separate from the Scout activities. Of course, we made mistakes at first, but experience soon taught us what we should have done. Naturally we first started under the most favorable conditions possible, but as we got a little older and gained more and more experience (and I am no expert yet) we extended our camping season both earlier and later in the spring and fall until we found ourselves camping out all year round. I might add that through one whole winter of camping in an open lean-to with a buddy each week end, I caught only one cold, which was slight. Furthermore, we were quite comfortable. Since then, he and I have made an annual two or three day camp during the Christmas season. However, since we are both in college and our resistance is weakened we now use a cabin for shelter.

“You might well ask ‘What is the point of this?’ The answer is that through this experience I think I could say without boasting ‘Give me two hours and I'll plan and be ready to leave on a camping trip at any time and be comfortable’. This is assuming of course that I would be at home where my camping equipment is. I know that I am not alone in this ability. Frankly, even though I enjoy camping of all kinds very much, I must admit that I enjoyed the private trips much more than the organized Scout camps.”

While we have a long way to go in developing a definite statement of policy and program for the PHILTURN

ROCKYMOUNTAIN SCOUTCAMP I am confident that the whole Scout Field will applaud the announcement that every effort will be made to keep this camp free from any semblance of mass camping or that kind of camping where we deny the camper the opportunity of doing for himself and thereby enjoying the best possible educational processes of "learning by doing" and developing self reliance.

7. USE OF CAMP

A large number of our men know B. B. Dawson well and undoubtedly many will feel prompted to write him a personal word of greetings. In so doing, please feel free to make suggestions or comments and indicate how you feel as to the probability of one or more Patrols of Senior Scouts desiring to have assigned to them a spot where they can do pioneer and wilderness camping in the PHILTURN ROCKY-MOUNTAIN SCOUTCAMP in the summer of 1939. Mr. Dawson's address until February 1, 1939:

c/o Boy Scouts of America,
318 Sharp Building,
Lincoln, Nebraska.

After February 1 he may be addressed:

c/o Philturn Rockymountain Scoutcamp,
Cimarron, New Mexico.

8. MORE GOOD NEWS

I take pleasure in sharing with you in this Bulletin a copy of my report as presented to the December meeting of the Executive Board. It gives cheering information, and shows that Scouting continues to grow.

9. BOYS' LIFE OBJECTIVE

We here are very much heartened, and I personally am especially pleased, at the enthusiastic and loyal cooperation we are receiving almost without exception from the Executives throughout the country, in meeting our request to them to accept a specific objective in subscriptions, both new and renewal, to be secured for BOYS' LIFE throughout the year ending October 31, 1939, and especially during the remainder of this year, in order that BOYS' LIFE may not only continue to serve the members of the Boy Scouts of America, but expand that service.

10. SEASON'S GREETINGS

I convey to you my personal greetings and best wishes, as we approach the Christmas Season and begin to make up our records for the calendar year. It has been a great year—indeed an outstanding year in the whole history of Scouting. We can all be very, very happy together.

11. JANUARY 3, FINAL DATE

As customary, for our report to Congress, registrations will be received and counted in 1939 business which are postmarked not later than January 3, the first day after the close of the year when it is possible to clear all 1938 business completely. As in previous years we urge for the sake of those who must keep their work up to date that you transmit registrations and BOYS' LIFE receipts daily, thus reducing to a minimum the accumulation of them until the end of the year. Anything you can do to help us in dealing with this problem will be very much appreciated.

Sincerely and cordially yours,

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

James E. West

Chief Scout Executive.

B. B. DAWSON

Biographical Sketch

B. B. Dawson is a native of Missouri, born at Odessa, on May 22nd, 1893. He graduated from Westport High School in Kansas City, Missouri, and attended Missouri University. Since leaving Missouri University, he has taken numerous extension courses in that University and in other middle-western educational institutions.

Mr. Dawson has a delightful Scouting family. Both he and Mrs. Dawson and the three children have participated widely in community activities in Joplin, Missouri; Wichita, Kansas; Kansas City, Kansas, and Lincoln, Nebraska, where Mr. Dawson has served as Scout Executive. Mr. Dawson and his family are members of the Central Christian Church and Mr. Dawson has found time to serve on various church boards and has been a Sunday School Superintendent. Mr. Dawson has also been active in various civic and service clubs in all the cities where he has served as Scout Executive.

He is a twenty-one year Scout veteran beginning his professional service experience in April, 1917, following three years as a Scoutmaster in Kansas City, Missouri. He has now completed approximately six years of most successful experience as Scout Executive of the Cornhusker Area Council with headquarters at Lincoln, Nebraska. Wherever Mr. Dawson has served, he has proven himself an able Scout technician, an unusually well qualified Camp Director, pioneering in many directions in this field and his record has always been regarded as progressive. Mr. Dawson is an Eagle Scout.

The Cornhusker Area Council serves many counties in Nebraska, (some have said one-half the state). There are approximately 4,000 Scouts in the Cornhusker Area Council at the present time and approximately 500 Cubs with a very high proportion of Senior Scouts in the membership. Scouting under Mr. Dawson's leadership has been made available to all the small communities and villages of central and southwestern Nebraska.

Mr. Dawson brings to his new position as Director of the PHILTURN ROCKYMOUNTAIN SCOUTCAMP a wealth of experience which should guarantee an excellent administration on his part and will result in his having a wide support from the entire Scout field.

H. F. POTE
Director of Personnel

Nov. 28, 1938

CORNHUSKER COUNCIL, B.S.A.
Lincoln, Nebraska

October 17, 1938

Dr. James E. West
Chief Scout Executive
Boy Scouts of America
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. West:

The opportunity of seeing you and talking with you in Kansas City afforded me great pleasure. I was much interested in the announcement you made of Mr. Phillips' generous offer of acreage for a National Camp for the Boy Scouts of America. Naturally, with my leaning toward Camping and Camp Development, my imagination and my enthusiasm were fired.

Upon my return to Lincoln, I took the liberty of placing the matter, as a tentative proposition, before a group of Scouters gathered at our Camp for a Scouters' Conference. We had some Executive Board Members, Troop Committeemen, Commissioners, Scoutmasters and Assistants from six of the Districts of the Council. These men eased me down, until, though my head may still be near the clouds, I can at least feel the solid ground by extending my toes.

Thanks so much for the additional material which accompanied your letter of October 11. This has opened new avenues of thought and cleared some of those already explored. I am happy to record the response of this Council, for whatever it may be worth.

The Camp Site Even though South and West of the Center of the United States the location seems a practical one. Any attempt to locate such a project

closer to the center of population or even to the geographic center would be at a sacrifice of great advantages due to the terrain of the site in question.

It is assumed that the site would be fenced or at least have the boundaries unmistakably marked and that drinking water, sanitary facilities and other necessary improvements would be made on the basis of a large number of Trails, Wilderness, Troop, Patrol, and even Buddy Camp Sites. Some of these sites would provide shelter of a pioneer type such as leantos, log cabins, with perhaps a pueblo or two available, but for the most part they would be in the raw and the unit using the camp would provide their own type of shelter and to a very large extent all of their own equipment.

The Camp Headquarters would be just what the name implies, a quarters for the Head or Administrative office. Its function would be to check groups in and out; to supply information as to the location, advantages and hazards of the different Camp Sites; to establish and maintain standards in camping and the use of the Camp; to supply the needs of units that cannot be managed from the home base (have in mind the need that might develop for packhorses to make a certain trip or camp site available or the supplying of perishables through a Trading Post or Commissary); the maintenance of the Camp property and equipment in a creditable manner, etc., etc.

The Camp Director will not have any responsibility for direction of program for the Units that come to the Camp other than to make source material available to the leaders of such units. He would be selected, not alone on the basis of his heart interest in and knowledge of Camping and the out-of-doors; he would need be a man thoroughly grounded in Scouting principles. And I mean organization as well as the ideals of Scouting. He would see that the Camp was operated in such a way as to strengthen the program of the Troops and Councils coming to the Camp. He would be ever on the alert to introduce new ideas and methods thru the *Scoutmaster* or *Leader* of the group. He would edit the accumulated experience involved in the use of the Camp and pass them through the proper channels to the entire Scout Field that those who were too far removed to use the Camp would

benefit in their own Council situations. One of the most valuable of these channels would be periodic Training Courses for Leaders, professional and volunteer, held at the Camp.

**Regulations and Restrictions
Governing the use of the Camp**

Local Councils would be charged with the responsibility of enforcing such regulation and restrictive measures as would be necessary to assure the proper use of the Camp. The most effective method of covering this entire matter would be through the establishment of qualifications to be met in the Local Council before eligibility could be pronounced. These would cover such things as leadership and camping and hiking experience, Scoutlike habits of conduct, and possibly age and a certain degree of Scout advancement. Once a Scout has proven himself and received the 'nod' from his local Leaders, he should be permitted the use of the Camp and its facilities with as few restrictive measures as possible. His conduct at the Camp would be a direct reflection of his preparation in his local situation. This would cause him to feel his responsibility to the local unit and Council and would provide a proper incentive for Local Council pride in the Scouts they sent to the Camp. — Certainly it would be most unfortunate if the Camp were so operated as to cause or allow Scouts to feel that home ties and responsibilities were severed with their arrival, or with their departure from home and travel to the Camp.

**Information to
Local Councils**

The Local Council will expect to be kept informed as to all phases of the Camp and its possible uses. The qualifications referred to in the above paragraph should be kept to a minimum so far as the Camp administration is concerned and Local Councils urged to set their own additional measures. After these have been met the process of getting into and using the facilities should be as simple and free from red tape as is consistent with healthful and safe Camping. The problem of the local unit in getting a group qualified and going to the Camp is going to be complicated enough in any event without additional hurdles. This is so obvious it hardly seems worth while to mention it, and yet — well it's a thought.

Who might use the Camp

Qualifications should cover the use of the Camp by Troops which would imply or require Troop Leadership; by Patrols under an approved and qualified Patrol Leader; or even by small groups of Senior Scouts. Buddy Camps will be quite an experience for a couple of fellows who have followed The Trail through Scouting perhaps to the Eagle together. (Not that the Eagle rank would be a necessary requirement). Even the Lone Scout who has worked along by himself and met the requirements on his own should have his opportunity for the Great Adventure of a real Camp in the Wilderness. Couldn't we say then that the Camp would be available to any registered Scout or Scouter as approved by the Local Council.

All of the above is respectfully submitted in reply to your request for an analysis of the situation. There is no new thought in it. There is a great deal more to be thought through. For an instance, with all the control and regulation possible to exert we are going to have to deal, from time to time, with the outfit that decides almost overnight to go out to the Big Camp. Blankets and a miscellaneous assortment of pots and pans will be gathered together along with a supply of donated food supplies and the School Bus or a truck will be commissioned as a means of transportation and they are off. A forced drive will bring them into the Camp sometime after midnight and they will simply announce to the astonished Camp Director, "Well here we are, where do we go now and what do we do?" A permit? Never heard of it, or they were too busy getting ready to go (for thirty-six hours before they started) and did not have time to get it.

What are you going to do with them? They will be there to give the Camp Director headaches just as sure as the Lord makes little green apples to give boys the bellyache. The Local Council will have to control that? Yes, I know, but at the same time I recall that an entire Council delegation, consisting of several boys and Leaders on their way to a World Jamboree, got within three days of England on the Duchess of York, in 1929, before they knew that they had to have passports.

Will the Cornhusker Council use the Camp?

Yes! In many ways.

This is one of the Councils that is listed as being within 600 miles. That is true, as the crow flies—but, not many of us are crows. Our heaviest Scout population is in the Eastern half of the Council. By automobile, the most direct route from Nebraska City, which is the Administrative Center of the Easternmost District, is 788 miles. Lincoln, which is the Council administrative City, is 724 miles. From McCook in the District in the Southwest corner of the Council it is but 501 miles. Other Districts range between these figures.

This makes the matter of transportation a major but not at all an impossible problem.

This Council has made an honest and I think an heroic effort to establish and maintain Sea Scouting as a program for older Scouts. We have not been able to determine why it has been so difficult except to say that so far the prairies have had their way in the matter. Explorer Scouting on the other hand seems to take natural root and this project will be to the older Scouts of this Council what a Sea Trip would be to a group of Sea Scouts. I think of not one but a number of groups who will start pointing just as soon as the official announcement can be made.

This response was noted from a number of Scoutmasters: "Well, I don't know of any of my Scouts who would be qualified at this time to take it on, but, believe me, I know of some who will start working for it as soon as it becomes known just what they will have to do."

A Scoutmaster who took his Troop on a Roving Tour this summer to the Ozarks of Missouri, through Arkansas, into the oil fields of Oklahoma and back through drab Kansas, would, I am sure, have much rather had a destination all shot through with High Adventure, had such a spot been available. His mileage would have taken him to the Phillips' property and return, with some to spare.

Another who had a trip planned to the Yellowstone National Park but later abandoned it put this question: "Why go to a Camp like that? We planned our trip so that our Scouts would have the opportunity to see a number of great National Monuments and historic spots. We would like to have gone on into Yellowstone where these lads can see the things they have been reading and studying about in their School work. I can't quite see traveling all that distance just to get to a place to Camp."

Just another viewpoint, but one that will have to be reckoned with. Our Council took the largest delegation to the National Jamboree from this Region. I am frank to admit that more of the boys and more particularly their parents, were sold the trip because of the things they would see going and coming than for the sake of the Jamboree. But they were completely captivated by the activities and magnitude of the Jamboree. The Jamboree is the thing they talk about, not the things they saw along the way.

Well, Scouts going from here can go through Denver with the addition of a very few miles and down through Colorado Springs, Pueblo and Trinidad. They just skirt along the Eastern edge of the Rockies. Within easy distance of the site are the Canyons of the Red and Cimarron Rivers, the Art colony of Taos, the Federal Fish Hatchery and Capulin Mountain National Monument. This is about all. But it is enough to provide some justification to the Scoutmaster or parent who holds to a viewpoint given expression by this one Scoutmaster.

Then here is the view of a Scoutmaster who has made a trip into Yellowstone with his Troop; "Boy, a place like that would be like a dream come true. We had great plans for the camping we were going to do when we got to National Parks. If some Troops think they are restricted by regulations in attending their Council Camp, they should try one of the National Parks. Oh, they gave fine accommodations but they also tell you how you can use them. We took our own tents and had to put them on a certain spot and all facing one way. Give me a spot where we can do some of the things the way WE want to do them."

And then, as always, when a discussion of this kind is started there was the matter of the advantage it would give the boy whose parents could and would make it possible for him to go to the Camp. Well, I am not at all sure this is any advantage.

I am convinced that not a single boy who determined in his own mind that he was going to the Jamboree stayed at home. Some of them worked like Trojans. And they were repaid with that which no money on earth can buy. I can see in such a project as this, operating year in and year out, so that if he misses this year he still has a chance to make it next, one of the greatest builders of self-determination it is

possible to imagine. Once a lad says to himself, "I'm going to that Camp" he starts carving his future as a man. And God knows, this Nation and the World today needs men who are not inclined to spare their backbones in favor of their wish-bones.

And then, Chief, I have talked with a number of these parents who were able to send their boy any place he wanted to go. Not in the light of this proposed project, to be sure, but after they had send the lad to one of the many Dude Ranches or Private Camps for what they both thought was going to be a "he man" experience. Too often the Dad has been so very keenly disappointed because of the "pampering" (the word most commonly used) the boy had received. Everything was done for him, nothing for him to do but accept the program, with little incentive to put any great effort into it. The boys don't say too much, except to dwell at length on the little bit of hard work they had to do and to boast of the hardships they experienced.

I believe this project can be established and operated in such a way as to give the parents of America a greater satisfaction and feeling of security in the knowledge that their boys are members of the Boy Scouts of America. That is a great challenge.

What about the Boy? What will he think of all this? You have only to gather one or a dozen about you and point to the possibilities, then read your answer in the sparkle of their eyes.

Most respectfully submitted,

(Signed) B. B. DAWSON,

Scout Executive,

Cornhusker Council, B.S.A.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SCOUT EXECUTIVE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

December 7, 1938

MEMBERSHIP

Membership continues to grow. At the October Meeting of the Board we reported a 12.4% increase for the year over the previous year. Now we report 13.4% increase, that is,

we now have a grand total (net) 1,221,338 as compared with 1,076,768. Attached is a detailed statement of membership.

I invite attention to the fact that in the increase reported there is a total of 108,344 boys, of which 32,662 are Cubs, and the balance, Scouts in various classifications.

Attention is again invited to the fact that this development is not just a "happenstance." Under the procedures followed each Local Council at the beginning of the year sets for itself an objective under the leadership of the Division of Operations through the Regional Staff. Each Region is carefully checked from time to time and where weaknesses are revealed, appropriate action is taken. It is still a fact that our growth comes from about 70% of our Councils. Thirty per cent. of our Councils are still responsible for shrinkage in membership, which must be overcome by the Councils which make progress before there is a gain in national figures. This year I sent a personal letter to the Executives of the Councils in this 30%, very sympathetically analyzing their index in all phases of their work and asked for information as to what factors were responsible for their failure to achieve their objectives. The results of this have been most stimulating. In no single instance have we had a critical or complaining letter. This I record as evidence of the great advance that has been made in our organization procedure and the high development of the spirit of cooperation in all phases of our Movement.

REGION III MEETING

Following the last Board Meeting, I went to Hagerstown to participate in the meetings of Region III, which were very inspiring to all who were there. The Chairman of the Region, Mr. Denney, and the Regional Executive, Paul Love, with marvelous cooperation on the part of all Local Councils, without exception, have brought Region III up from one that was trailing to one of the higher Regions of the country.

The facilities of the hotel were so overtaxed because of the unexpected increase of attendance on the part of laymen from all over the Region, that it was necessary to find a different place for the meetings and the banquet.

There was evidence of determination to go forward in making Scouting available to more boys. Here, as elsewhere, it appears that undoubtedly the world-wide conditions are a

factor in causing men to more earnestly help to train youth for citizenship responsibility and thus increase Scouting's contribution to maintaining our democracy. I am told that what I personally experienced in Region III is typical of what is taking place in all Scout meetings all over the country.

I hope President Head will have a chance to tell from his personal participation in a great number of meetings just what he has found.

GROUP INSURANCE

I feel that I should, on behalf of all the professional staff and career men, express appreciation to the Retirement Plan Committee and to the National Executive Board for having made it possible for us to consummate the action of the Board at the October meeting, a plan whereby from 4:30 P.M., November 23rd; that is, the day before Thanksgiving Day, all men on the professional staff were covered with a group insurance policy. Steps are now under way to extend this same privilege to other employees in accordance with the plans approved.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

General conditions in the field are most encouraging. As never before, there is evidence of appreciation for the services of the Home Office in many directions. The Public Relations Service is making itself vitally felt not only because of the publicity material that is made available for release through Local Councils but because of the extent of the use of our prepared exhibits, samples of which are on display here. Again, the Scout field have been very appreciative of our new literature, especially the book "Adventuring for Senior Scouts."

Other matters will be brought to the attention of the Board through Divisional and Service Reports.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) JAMES E. WEST,
Chief Scout Executive.