

The Clan MacLaren Society in North America has established a special associate (non-voting) membership for any Scouter who has earned his or her Wood Badge. Wood Badge membership in the Clan MacLaren Society of North America (CMSNA) is, therefore, extended to all Wood Badge-trained Scouters who have completed their "ticket" and have received their Wood Badge beads. Membership is \$15.00 USD per year (single or "family" where both husband and wife are Wood Badgers) or \$300.00 USD for a Life membership (single or "family"). Pick up a membership form or complete a membership form at the Clan MacLaren Tent at a Highland Game or, fill out the next panel on this brochure and mail it with your payment to the CMSNA Treasurer:



**Lord Robert Stephenson Smyth
Baden-Powell of Gilwell**

CMSNA Treasurer
c/o Ms. Donna Stalter
20451 Powell Road, Lot 25
Dunnellon FL 34431-6523
(352) 489-6248
treasurer@ClanMacLarenNA.org

Wood Badge Membership Application

Full Name (First, Middle, Last):

Address:

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Wood Badge Course No.: _____

Wood Badge Patrol: _____

Year Ticket Completed: _____

Scout Council where registered when
Course was taken:

Wood Badge Annual Membership (Single/Family) \$15 USD/year
Wood Badge Life Membership (Single/Family) \$300 USD

Make check Payable to:

Clan MacLaren Society of North America, Ltd.

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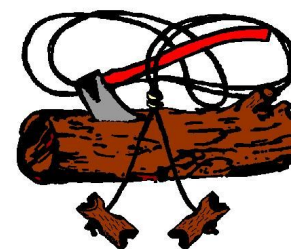


Clan MacLaren

and the

Scouting

Connection



WOOD BADGE

Scouting began in England in 1907 on a small island located near Poole, England, called **BROWNSEA**. The leader was the youngest major general in the British Army and a national war hero for leading the defenders of the nearly yearlong siege of Mafeking during the Boer War in South Africa

This war hero was Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell and his assistant at Brownsea was his long-time friend, Major Kenneth McLaren. In 1908, when the Scout Association was formed, Major McLaren became its first Secretary.

Scouting simply took off and soon was spreading rapidly throughout not only the United Kingdom but also the world. The modest experiment of Brownsea with its 21 boys expanded beyond its founder's dreams. But Baden-Powell felt that there was an area of the Scouting program that needed attention. Scouting needed trained leaders to look after its Scouts. To that end, a search was made for a place to establish a "training centre." A Scout commissioner from Rosneath, Dunbartonshire, Scotland, near Glasgow, came to the rescue. William Frederick de Bois McLaren (no relation to Major Kenneth McLaren) purchased a derelict estate near Epping Forest near the town of Chingford (about an hour from London) and presented **GILWELL PARK** to the Scout Association in July 1919. Scouting now had its training facility.

In September 1919, the first "Scout Officers' Training Course" took place. Adult Scouters spent 11 days camping at Gilwell Park doing things in the same fashion as the

21 boys did at Brownsea 12 years earlier. The participants used the Patrol Method devised by Baden-Powell to accomplish the many varied tasks that this training program presented. When it was over, Baden-Powell was in a quandary over how to recognize these leaders for the completion of his training course. He remembered a long string of curiously carved, small wooden beads that he had recovered as a military souvenir from his South African military days. He decided to present one of these beads to each leader that completed the training course. This training program soon acquired its familiar name from these small, curiously carved wooden beads –

WOOD BADGE

The first Wood Badge beads were worn on the end of a leather thong suspended from the buttonhole of the uniform coat or shirt, then the beads were attached to the ends of the Scouter's hat cords, but then they would only be seen when the Scouter wore his hat! This shortly changed to the beads being attached to a leather thong that could be worn as a necklace with one bead on each end of the thong as pendants.



Wood Badge Beads

At first, in honor of Commissioner McLaren's generous gift of Gilwell Park,

the Gilwell Park staff members wore neckerchiefs of full MacLaren tartan. However, to reduce the high cost of these neckerchiefs, one of dove grey cloth with a warm red lining and a patch of ribbon in MacLaren tartan at the point was adopted. After 1924, this neckerchief was restricted to Wood Badge holders only, a tradition that remains to this day. (The Boy Scouts now have their own tartan, based on the MacLaren tartan.) This neckerchief is held together with a special leather thong Turk's head knot "woggle," or neckerchief slide, originally conceived at Gilwell Park by a young staff member, Bill Shankley, about 1920. These three unique symbols – the carved wooden beads, the neckerchief with a piece of ribbon in MacLaren tartan and the woggle – continue to be used today around the world by Scouters in over 200 countries that have Scouting programs.



Woggle

The seeds of Scouting were planted on a small island with the help of a McLaren. A short time later, another McLaren gave the world the place where Scouting was nurtured and became its worldwide home, Gilwell Park. Today, Gilwell Park, in Essex, is the principal training centre for British Scout leaders.