

VENTURING MAGAZINE

Rovering and Scouting, Thoughts on Scouting for Young Adults May 2015

Craig and I recently received the following note from a good friend and Scouter, Chris Hagerty, who is the spark plug and driver of our upcoming Corps of Discovery Regimental Rendezvous at Fort Clatsop, Lewis & Clark's Winter Quarters in 1805-1806. Chris brings up the subject of Rovering, an old Scouting program for young people aged 18-25 that exists mostly in the former British Empire countries. It existed for decades in the US until it was de-emphasized and finally discontinued during the growth of Explorer Scouts and Exploring in the 1950's.

It is anyone's guess if there is enough interest to bring back this program. It would probably be most successful at community colleges and universities where it could be implemented as a coed outdoor and service club. There is already an opportunity to "do" Rovering within the Baden Powell Service Association, a Scouting organization unaffiliated with BSA.

This discussion of Rovering is occurring in the context of a larger discussion about the role of the Corps of Discovery, the current de-emphasis and loss of membership for Venturing, and the upcoming gathering in Oregon.

Introduction provide by Joe Garrett

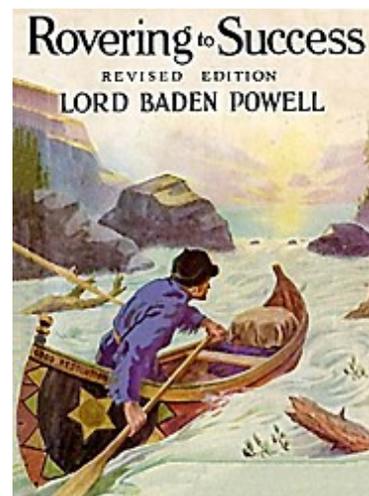
Have you ever read "ROVERING TO SUCCESS"? Me, neither, well not until a couple weeks ago.

It's a book by Baden Powell. Remember him?

I've been active in Scouting for thirty five years, twenty five as an active adult leader. I would have called myself an expert on Old B.P.

I knew the stories, quotes for every occasion, highlights of his life, I even have his picture on the wall. But I had never read any of his books.

So why now? Well, I found myself getting involved with a newish Scouting program, The Baden Powell Service Association (BPSA).



The BPSA is an international Scouting program based on Baden Powell's original texts. That's right, they're working out of SCOUTING FOR BOYS, and his programs for younger and older Scouts too.

Like most Scout programs (outside the US) it's coed, and like BP's original program, there's no upper age. That's right, at eighteen, you become a "Rover".

This is all kind of new to me, but step one, read BP's books. I found reprints on [Amazon](#), all at low cost, so I bought them and started reading. There's good stuff in there!

ROVERING TO SUCCESS is simply BP's advice to a young man starting out on his own, trying to give the benefit of his experience. It's great. Yes there are a few outdated things, and occasionally in his books he says things that aren't currently politically correct, but this was a century ago, and 99.9% is great stuff.

I'm reading these books and Scouting becomes this new, amazing thing. This program is amazing to, once you look into it.

Coed, ages 5 and up, no Employees or Professionals, fewer policies, almost no paperwork, just Scouting.

Also, they are "Inclusive", no one is turned away for who they are. Baden Powell intended Scouting to be available to everyone, this program is doing that.

I'm now a Registered Rover. A Rover is simply an adult. All leaders are Rovers, but not all Rovers are leaders. It's actually part of the program to have a Patrol(s) of Rovers that can go and do their own activities and program.

There are uniforms (simpler), and knots and fires and camping and hiking, biking, making friends. It's Scouting, they've just taken out the middlemen.

I've done every branch of Scouting The Boy Scouts of America has to offer, and for the first time in doing pure, original, old School Scouting.

I'd like to encourage you all to go out, get the books Baden Powell wrote, and read them. He has a lot to say about Scouting.

If you want info on BPSA, look up their webpage bpsa-us.com.

Article provided by: Chris Hagerty