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THE STARS OF SCOUTING



One of the most gorgeous sights on Earth isn't even on our planet - it's what you see when you gaze at a sky spangled with stars. In camp, your backyard, and on a mountaintop or beach, summer nights are great for appreciating the brilliant worlds overhead.

Stars are also a big part of Scouting. Two stars shine on the Scout emblem. Star is a rank on the trail to Eagle. The heroes of Scouting are stars, too, and one of them is you.

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TWO STARS, ONE GOAL

Check out the Scout emblem and you'll see a couple of stars beneath the eagle's wings. One stands for Truth, the other for Knowledge - great principles to lift every member of the BSA.



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LIFE, STAR, EAGLE?

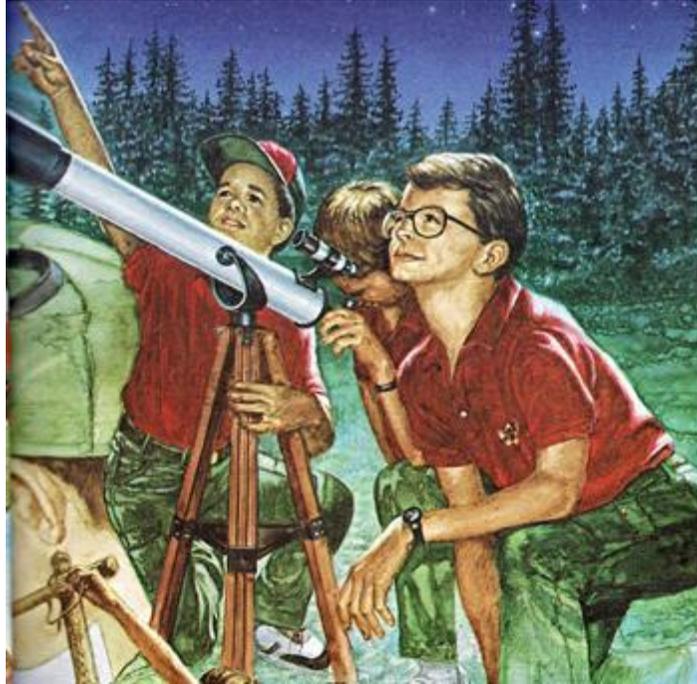
When Scouting began, boys could earn the ranks above First Class simply by completing certain numbers of merit badges. Five badges led to the Life award. It took 10 badges to become a Star Scout and 21 for Eagle. The order was changed in 1924 to Star, Life, and Eagle, perhaps so that the five points of the star would match the five merit badges needed to earn that rank.



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SEEING STARS

A star-filled sky is stunning to see with the naked eye. Peer through a telescope and you can magnify your explorations of space. Check out the craters of the Moon, the rings of Saturn, and the nebula of Earth's home galaxy, the Milky Way. Every direction you aim the lens will reveal magnificent visions of light, color, and depth.

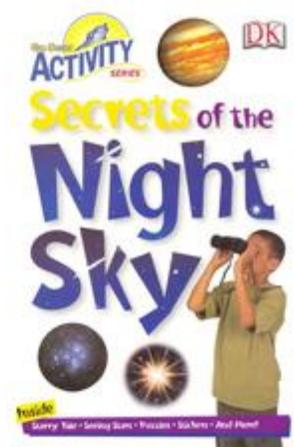
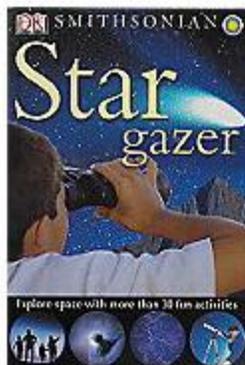


The Smithsonian® 50X Power Telescope is a terrific instrument for beginning astronomers. Find it at www.scoutstuff.org along with star charts and even a Star Finder Bandana to help you navigate across the heavens.





Constellations are patterns of stars forming recognizable shapes. People watching the night skies centuries ago named these collections of stars for creatures of legend and myth. Astronomy books can explain the constellations to you, and much more about the night sky.

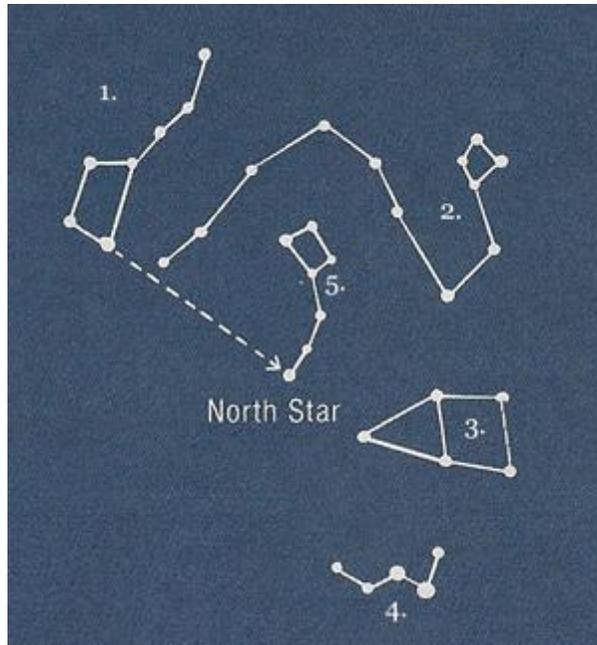


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CONSTELLATION QUIZ

Five great constellations circle close around the North Star. Spotting the Big Dipper, Draco the Dragon, the Little Dipper, Cassiopeia ("The Queen's Chair"), and Cepheus ("The King") will help you locate the North Star and show which way to travel, even on the darkest night.

Can you identify these constellations of the northern sky? (The answers are below.)



1. Big Dipper
2. Draco the Dragon
3. Cepheus
4. Cassiopeia
5. Little Dipper

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HAVE A BLAST BLASTING OFF!

Rocket kits might not carry you to the stars, but they offer plenty of learning opportunities and a first step for getting off planet Earth. Perhaps the hobby of rocketry will grow into a career that one day carries you out of this world!

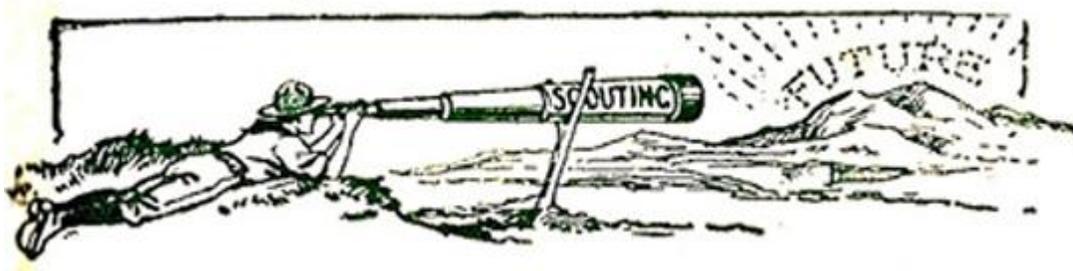


An Energy Blast Off Pack can supply the engines for launching a fleet of rockets during events organized by Cub Scout packs and Boy Scout troops.



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AIMING HIGH



A sketch in the 1927 Boy Scout Handbook illustrates what is still true today. Scouting can help you focus on future goals and figure out the steps to succeed.

Eagle Scout Neil Armstrong certainly knew that. Through hard work based on Scouting's values, he turned his interest in flying and exploration into a career as a test pilot and astronaut. Commander of

NASA's Apollo 11 mission, he became the first person to walk on the moon.



In the eyes of the BSA, every Scout is a star. Your future is bright with possibilities, and so is today. Guide your route through life by Scout Oath and Law and the stars of Truth and Knowledge, and you can be sure you are always following the right way.

