

Camp Reflections 2013

Famous former scouts

'Once a scout always a scout'

Since scouting began in 1907 a large number of successful and influential people, the movers and shakers of society, people who have made and continue to make a difference have been scouts. Many credit scouting as an important part of their success. In these camp reflections we will look at a few of these people.

Day 1 - Guy Gibson VC—RAF

Input

Talking to a group of scouts, Guy Gibson told them that when he was a scout, apart from cooking he learnt the decent things in life, resourcefulness, courage, devotion to duty, things that stand you in good stead for the future. Wing Commander Guy Penrose Gibson VC (Victoria Cross) DSO (bar) (Distinguished Service Order) DFC (bar) (Distinguished Flying Cross), RAF (Born 12 August 1918 - Died 19 September 1944), was the first) of the Royal Air Force's 617 Squadron, which he led in the "Dam Busters" raid (Operation Chastise) in 1943, (this year is the 70th Anniversary of that famous raid) resulting in the destruction of two large dams in the Ruhr area. He was awarded the Victoria Cross and died later in the war. He had completed over 170 operations at the age of 24.

Prayer

Loving God, We thanks for the courage and bravery shown by people like Guy Gibson, and the courage shown each and every day by so many people who face danger and hardship, sickness and disability. **Amen**

Action - A scout has courage in all difficulties. Do something courageous and selfless today.



Day 2 - Nelson Mandela

Input

Former Scout, Political Prisoner & Former President of South Africa. During his years in prison, Nelson Mandela's reputation grew steadily. He was widely accepted as the most significant black leader in South Africa and became a potent symbol of resistance as the anti-apartheid movement gathered strength. He consistently refused to compromise his political position to obtain his freedom.

Nelson Mandela has this to say about Scouting

Former President **Nelson Mandela** is the Patron of SCOUTS South Africa.

"The international Scout movement is a world leader in youth education, and has particular relevance to the needs of youth in Africa and the emerging democracies around the globe.

I am pleased with the progress of Scouting in South Africa, and in the steps which are now being taken to make the programme accessible to more young people. The importance of a high moral code, which is at the foundation of the Scout movement, cannot be stressed too highly."

N. Mandela

Nelson R. Mandela

Patron of SCOUTS South Africa

Prayer

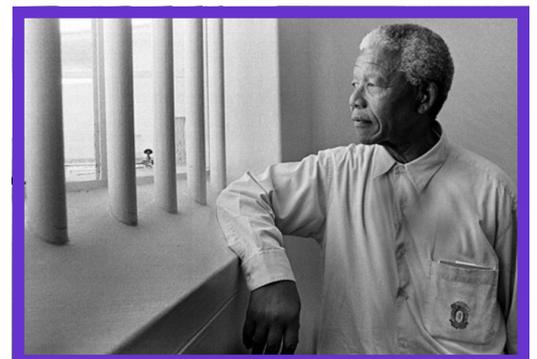
Loving God you ask us to act justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with you. Help us to follow the example of Nelson Mandela as we try to live good and worthwhile lives and seek to make a difference for the good in our world. **Amen.**

Action

Learn something new today and share it with others in your patrol.



Nelson Mandela being presented with the Africa Elephant, Africa's highest scouting award.



Day 3 - Barack Obama

Input

Barack Obama, the President of the USA was a scout in Jakarta. He was born to a white American mother, Ann Dunham, and a black Kenyan father, Barack Obama Sr. Barack and his mother moved to Jakarta when Barack was six. He later recounted Indonesia as simultaneously lush and a harrowing exposure to tropical poverty. In 2004 Obama was elected to the U.S. Senate as a Democrat. In 2008 he ran for President, and despite having only four years of national political experience, he won. In January 2009, he was sworn in as the 44th President of the United States, and the first African-American ever elected to that position. Obama was re-elected to a second term in November 2012. President Barack Obama praised Scouting for its first 100 years of service during a video address to attendees at the 2010 National Scout Jamboree. "...For a century, Scouts just like you have served your communities and your nation in ways both large and small. During World War II, Scouts played a vital role in supporting the war effort at home by running messages and selling war bonds....Today, Scouts across the country continue in the tradition of collecting food for those in need, improving our neighbourhoods, and reaching out to those less fortunate....Congratulations on your first hundred years. I'm sure the next hundred will be even better."

Prayer

Loving God, we pray for all those in positions of leadership, from Presidents and Prime Ministers, Church Leaders and Business and Community Leaders, to Scout Leaders and Patrol Leaders. That they may be guided by the values and principles enshrined in the scout promise and Law and the Holy books of all religions.

Action

Put into action in all you do today the values contained in our promise and law.



Day 4 - Steven Spielberg

Input Steven Allan Spielberg born December 18, 1946 is an American film director, screenwriter, producer, and studio entrepreneur. In 1958, he became a Boy Scout, and fulfilled a requirement for the photography merit badge by making a nine-minute 8 mm film entitled *The Last Gunfight*.

Spielberg recalled years later to a magazine interviewer, "My dad's still-camera was broken, so I asked the scoutmaster if I could tell a story with my father's movie camera. He said yes, and I got an idea to do a Western. I made it and got my merit badge. That was how it all started."

Steven Spielberg gained his Eagle Scout the USA equivalent of our Queen's Scout Award. Spielberg believes in the values that scouting teaches, and he sees earning badges as a way to learn how to set goals and achieve them.

Prayer

Loving God, we thank you for all the gifts you have given us, for the fact that each of us is unique and special. We pray that we may use these gifts to better ourselves and to enrich the lives of others.

Action

Endeavour to use one of your gifts or talents to help others today.



Day 5 - Billy Connolly

Input

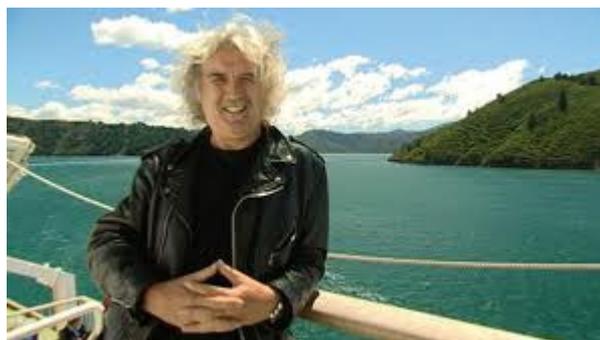
William "Billy" Connolly, Jr., CBE (born 24 November 1942) is a Scottish comedian, musician, presenter and actor. He is sometimes known, especially in his native Scotland, by the nickname 'The Big Yin' ('The Big One'). His first trade, in the early 1960s, was as a welder (specifically a boilermaker) in the Glasgow shipyards, but he gave it up towards the end of the decade to pursue a career as a folk singer in the Humblebums and subsequently as a soloist. In the early 1970s, he made the transition from folk-singer with a comedic persona to full-fledged comedian. Billy particularly enjoyed adventure stories because they would bring him into an alternative reality, in which he could truly be happy and satisfied. In addition, he also joined the cub scouts, which kick-started his enjoyment for the outdoors. This appreciation is still with him today, doing several "World Tour" tours which are a mixture of a nature/travel show and his comedy routine. Billy tried to seek out male role models. One of the early places he found these figures was in the scouts. Here, Billy found at least one man that was generous and kind.

Prayer

Loving God, help us to know how much you love and care for us. For we need your love every waking hour to sustain us and give us life. May we know your love through prayer, the wonders of your creation and the love of our brothers and sisters. Help us in our turn to be true brothers and sisters to those around us, especially those most in need.

Action

Today, go out of your way to see the beauty of God's creation in all that surrounds you.



Day 6 - Sir David Attenborough

Input

Sir David Attenborough is Britain's best-known natural history film-maker. His career as a naturalist and broadcaster has spanned nearly five decades and there are very few places on the globe that he has not visited. Over the last 25 years he has established himself as the world's leading natural history programme maker with several landmark BBC series. Sir David Attenborough, like his brother Lord Richard Attenborough (Actor) are former Scouts. Sir David speaks fondly of his time in the cubs and the scouts, he thought that his scout group in Leicester was the best group. When he was about 8 years of age and a cub, he was given the privilege of escorting Lord Baden-Powell onto a stage during an International event in Leicester. He said, "I only wish I had a photograph of the great day". He loved scouting and camping, listening to the sounds of the night in his tent and well remembers listening to owls hooting.



Sir David Attenborough being presented with a Naturalist badge by The Scout Association.

Prayer

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of scouting and how, through scouting we can all learn how to make this world a better place. We thank you for those who work to protect our environment from harm.

Action

Today try to spot and identify a species of bird or animal you've not seen before.



Day 7 - American Astronauts Input

What follows I find to be an amazing statistic. Did you know that of the 294 men and women selected to be astronauts since 1959 to 2005, more than 180 have been Scouts and of the 27 men to travel to the moon on the Apollo 9 to the Apollo 17 missions, 24



were Scouts, including 11 of the 12 men who physically walked on the moon's surface, and all three members of the crew of Apollo 13 mission, that had it's oxygen tank explode meaning the landing mission had to be aborted. On a sadder note all three of the astronauts who died in the Apollo 1 fire, four of the seven who died in the Challenger launch explosion, and five of the seven who died in the Columbia re-entry explosion were Scouts. In interviews these astronauts have talked about the part scouting played in their lives. Just think, this could be you one day.

Prayer

Loving God, we thank you for the spirit of adventure and exploration that scouting generates. We thank you for the bravery of the men and women who have risked their lives to explore outer space. May we always be willing to reach for the stars and never settle for the merely mediocre.

Action

Look up at the sky and simply wonder at the immensity of the Universe.

