



Scouting Around the World

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National Capital Area Council International Committee

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The International Committee meets the third Thursday, every other month at the Marriott Scout Service Center , 7:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

Upcoming meeting date: May 20, 2010

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BP Bits:



Baden-Powell chats with a Scout at Pax Hill

“There are three things you must try to get for yourself if you are going to prepare yourself to be a real handy *man*; 1. A *body* that is healthy and strong. 2. A *mind* that is quick to see what is wanted and clever enough to do it. 3. A *spirit* that is keen to do the right thing at all costs.”

“Try to do things that will make your mother feel proud that you are her son, and never do anything that would cause her to feel grieved or ashamed. She has done much for you; do this for her.

“You lead entirely by your own personal example; don’t forget that; that is what tells, and that is the easy way to gain success; not only the easy way, but it is the only way.

Collectors’ Corner: A favorite tourist pastime is collecting a spoon from every place they have visited on their trip. Of course Scouting has commemorated many events with Scout spoons too. A standard spoon rack can make a nice display of your collection.



Scouting’s Founders – Russia:

Oleg Pantyukhov



Oleg Pantyukhov was born in Kiev to a family of a military physician and an anthropologist. From 1892 to 1899 he studied at Tiflis cadet school. During his studies he became a member of the group named *Pushkin club*. The group was similar to the modern Boy Scouts, e.g. every weekend they were having a hiking trip with camping in the mountains. From 1899 to 1901, Pantyukhov studied in Pavlovsk Military School. After graduation he became an officer of the Leib Guard 1st infantry battalion stationed in Tsarskoye Selo. In 1908 he married Nina Mikhaylovna Dobrovolskaya, who later became one of pioneers of the Guiding movement in Russia. In 1910 their son Oleg Olegovich Pantyukhov, who served during World War II as General Eisenhower’s official Russian interpreter, was born in Pavlovsk.

In 1908-1909 Pantyukhov became acquainted with the works of Baden-Powell and decided to try these ideas on Russian soil. He organized the first Russian Scout troop *Beaver* (Бобр, *Bobr*) in Pavlovsk, a town near Tsarskoye Selo, on 30 April 1909. In the winter of 1910-1911 Pantyukhov met Baden-Powell in Saint Petersburg and then visited Scout organisations in England, the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark.

On the return he wrote the first Russian Scouting books "Памятка Юного Разведчика" (Handbook of a Young Scout) and "В гостях у Бой-скаутов" (Visiting Boy Scouts) (both 1912). In 1913 he wrote a book named "Спутник Бойскаута" (a companion of boy scout). Pantyukhov met Nicholas II and gifted a Scouting badge for Tsarevich Alexei, who formally became a Scout. In 1914, Pantyukhov established a society called *Russian Scout* (Русский Скаут, *Russkiy Skaut*). The first Russian Scout campfire was lit in the woods of Pavlovsk Park. A Russian Scout song exists to remember this event. Scouting spread rapidly across Russia and into Siberia, and by 1916 there were about 50,000 Scouts in Russia.

During World War I Pantyukhov received a Cross of St. George, was treated in Crimea and became the commander of the "Third Moscow School of Praporshchiks". During the October Revolution he was the leader of the cadets who unsuccessfully defended the Kremlin from Bolsheviks. In 1919 in Novocherkassk (controlled at the time by the White Army), Pantyukhov was unanimously elected the Chief Scout of Russia.

With the advent of communism after the October Revolution of 1917, and during the Russian Civil War from 1918 to 1920, most of the Scoutmasters and many Scouts fought in the ranks of the White Army and interventionists against the Red Army. In Soviet Russia the Scouting system started to be replaced by ideologically-altered Scoutlike organizations, such as "ЮК" ("Юные Коммунисты", or *young communists*; pronounced as *yuk*), that were created since 1918. There was a purge of the Scout leaders, many of whom perished under the Bolsheviks. Those Scouts who did not wish to accept the new Soviet system either left Russia for good, like Pantyukhov and others, or went underground. However, clandestine Scouting did not last long. On May 19, 1922, all of those newly created organizations were united into the Young Pioneer organization of the Soviet Union (it existed until 1990). Since that year, Scouting in the Soviet Union was banned.^[6]

The organization **Русский Скаут** then went into exile, and continued in many countries where fleeing White Russian émigrés settled, establishing groups in France, Serbia, Bulgaria, Argentina, Chile, and Paraguay. A much larger mass of Russian Scouts moved through Vladivostok to the east into Manchuria and south into China. Pantyukhov, his wife Nina and their son Oleg Jr. went to Constantinople. There were a Russian Scout Bureau in Constantinople and Russian Scout groups were founded in Turkey. On March 22, 1921 a General Russian Scoutleaders congress took place in Constantinople under the leadership of Pantyukhov. As a result the *The Council of Russian Scouts* was founded as an umbrella associations for Russian Scout groups working all around the world, that most troops joined. This Scout association was recognized as a Member of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, in exile, from 1922 to 1945.

As Chief Scout of this association, which later changed its name to National Organization of Russian Scouts, served the Founder of Russian Scouting Pantyukhov. His wife Nina and later his son Oleg Jr. were also heavily involved in Russian Scouting in Exile. Oleg Pantyukhov Sr. and Nina were personal friends of Robert Baden-Powell and Olave Baden-Powell.

In 1922 Pantyukhov and his family to moved to the United States., where large troops of Russian Scouts were established in such California cities as San Francisco, Burlingame, Los Angeles, etc. Pantyukhov is credited with creation of the first Russian Scout group abroad on March 25, 1920. He worked for the Scouting movement up to his death. Oleg Pantyukhov was appointed to the Chief Scout of the Organization of Russian Young Pathfinders in November, 1945 and so he was at this time the Chief Scout of both Russian Scouts-in-exile associations. He tried to unite the associations, but it failed and so he resigned as Chief Scout from ORYuR in 1957. After World War II Pantyukhov went to Nice, France where he died in 1973.



Guidelines on Spiritual and Religious Development

World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) is happy to announce the launch of its latest publication, *Guidelines on Spiritual and Religious Development*.

These guidelines have been prepared to support Scout Associations in the development of the spiritual aspect of their members. It provides principles and guidance to support program design rather more than a detailed discussion of the nature of spiritual development. It will take as the norm, the understanding of Spiritual Development articulated and reaffirmed by the World Scout Conference in its various Conference resolutions and documents.

Haiti Update: Two Personal stories of Scouts in action



You might expect to see Wilner Ulysse helping a little old lady cross the street. That's the classic image of a dutiful Scout. But Wilner, age 23, has a much more important good deed for today.

He is one of the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides of Léogane, a hard-hit town near the epicenter of last week's deadly earthquake. Their town was all but destroyed -- most people here have lost homes or family members, and funerals have become a tragically frequent occurrence. But despite their own trauma and loss, the young people of Léogane are rallying to the aid of their fellow citizens.

Wilner and his fellow Scouts have joined the CARE team delivering urgent help near the center of Léogane. The telecommunications office, idle since phone service was knocked out by the quake, is serving as a temporary town hall and humanitarian aid center. Here, the CARE staff set up operations to deliver vital aid to the traumatized survivors, above all women.

The job of the Scouts is to provide security and comfort. The boys, tall and brave, stand guard at the entrance of the compound. The girls walk side-by-side with the women, softly touching the occasional arm or shoulder, as they walk to the distribution point. The women look exhausted, but a few smiles break out as they receive a precious gift -- hygiene kits including soap, toothpaste, towels, and sanitary napkins, all packed in a five-gallon bucket that can be used to collect and purify water. Still, the faces at the CARE truck are tired, lined, and sweaty.

The bright young Scouts look serious -- most have suffered grievous losses of their own -- but their faces are full of compassion for the mothers and grandmothers they gently guide.

"We can only imagine how traumatized and heartbroken these women feel," said Sophie Perez, CARE Haiti country director. "As much as material aid, they need to know that the world cares about them, and that they are not alone. To have these lovely young people literally standing by their side is a great comfort at this terrible time."

Many of the women at Wednesday's distribution have lost their homes and are living in the open, in tents makeshift shelters. Even those whose houses were left standing are often afraid to go inside, because of a series of terrifying aftershocks.

"To lose one's home, loved ones, and then still to feel constantly afraid -- it's more than anyone should have to bear," says Sophie. "We are committed to work very hard so that they do not continue to suffer needlessly."

And so is Wilner. In seven years as a Scout, it's certainly the most important thing he's accomplished.

Scout takes comfort in Haiti relief work

By **Moni Basu**, CNN

February 4, 2010 1:05 p.m. EST



"I love the way we work together," says Joanie Yestin of her efforts with her fellow Girl Scouts in the Léogâne, Haiti, area.

Léogâne, Haiti (CNN) -- Joanie Yestin walks through a small alleyway to what used to be home, now a pile of concrete and crushed belongings. A plastic flower arrangement still hangs on an exterior wall that didn't collapse in the earthquake. One wooden bathroom cabinet survived.

Standing amid the rubble, Yestin, 23, recalls that horrific day: She had just returned home from her job as a secretary at Léogâne's Cool FM radio station and was preparing to take a bath when the earth started rumbling. She rushed out in time, stood with her mother and watched showers of concrete.

When the ground became still, she went back in to search for her father. A block had fallen on him. He died almost instantly.

After she buried him, after she found a small plot of land outside a local school to set up temporary shelter, Yestin thought about what she might do to mend her broken soul, her broken nation.

She put on her salvaged Girl Scout uniform -- a tan cotton blouse and skirt and a green scarf twisted around her neck. Yestin, like many of Haiti's almost 10,000 Boys and Girls Scouts, decided to contribute her share to the earthquake relief effort.

"It's important to have Haitians involved in the recovery," said Georges Clement, the Scout leader in Léogâne. "We want to help."

Since the fall of the Duvalier dictatorship in the 1980s, Haiti has created many civil society organizations and groups, but none has been particularly strong in the midst of political and economic turmoil, said Sophie Perez, the country director for the humanitarian agency CARE, which has worked in Haiti since 1954.

It was vital to involve grass-roots groups in the earthquake recovery process, she said, because local people are the ones who have the biggest stake in the future. The Scouts have one other advantage: They are young.

"It is important to involve young people right from the start," Perez said. "They can learn values of solidarity and good governance."

But as determined as Yestin is to help, this particular community chore is hardly easy for her Scout troop. In Baussan, a village near Léogâne, about 30 miles west of Port-au-Prince, the Scouts lined up to distribute essential hygiene items trucked in by CARE.

Yestin and her friends broke out in a song about being together; it was the only way to get through life's tribulations.

She smiled and laughed with the others. And yet not one among them had been unscathed by the terrible tragedy that befell Haiti on January 12. Many had lost a family member or a home. By day, few are in school. By night, they sleep under the stars. No one's lives are the way they were anymore.

Yestin handed out red, green and blue buckets filled with soap, toothpaste, towels. She tore open the plastic-on-foam mattresses and blankets to hand out to the needy. She tried not to think about her own loss at that moment.

"It was God's will" that her father died, she had said earlier. "I will do my very best to help others because that is what I have been trained to do," she said about her five years in the Scouts. "Up until now, I haven't really had the opportunity to help others."

Yestin passed along one CARE bucket after another. She did not cry like she did when the earth shook. Or worry that her education was in peril. She had wanted to attend university, study communications.

But it was her father who made a living as a mason. Who will pay her tuition now? Who will support her 5-year-old nephew? His unemployed parents depended on her for a few extra dollars.

She often feels scared these days when she is alone.

"I love the way we work together," she said of the Scouts. So on this blazing afternoon, amid the despair of the needy, she simply took comfort.