



Boy Scouts: Learning How to Live

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY LAURENCE E. KEEFE

Boy Scouting has become synonymous with a simple, practical idealism. Like the compact and handy Boy Scout knife, the Scout Oath contains a simple and adaptable ethic which applies in both the woods and the city.

With its emphasis on "duty to God and my country," the movement lends itself well to character formation among young Catholics, and this year marks the 25th anniversary of the program of Catholic Scouting initiated in the Rochester diocese by Bishop James E. Kearney in March 1947.

The diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting now serves seven Boy Scout Councils with volunteer chaplains in addition to the many troops sponsored by parishes and Catholic schools.

The Camporee, a weekend when all the troops of a Council come together to pitch camp, cook over open fires, and match Scout skills, dominates the scout year. The pictures on this page were taken at the Otetiana

Council Camporee May 20 at Oatka Creek Park. Bishop Joseph L. Hogan attended to say Mass for the Catholic Scouts and to celebrate 25 years of Catholic Scouting.

Thousands of Boy Scouts and Explorers poured into the area on Friday night, arriving in everything from station wagons to school buses. Working quickly to beat nightfall, they erected tents and built fireplaces in their assigned campsites.

When dawn broke Saturday morning, the park had become a tent city, and exhibits, obstacle courses and tests of skill were drawing crowds.

The key to the success of a Scout Troop is the scoutmaster, who is a curious breed of man. He must be enough of a recluse to love the woods and nature, enough of a stoic to eat bugs and ashes in his soup, enough of entertainer to amuse 30 boys, and as alert to possible dangers as a woodchuck living on a target range. In addition, he has to have a sense of humor about all of it.

Ugh! Potatoes! Assistant Scoutmaster Robert Lashway of St. Boniface's Troop 200 and Scout Tom Mykins work on dinner preparations, obeying an unwritten part of the Scout Law, "A Scout is (always) hungry." At far right, Otetiana Council chaplain, Father Robert J. Winterkorn, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan at Mass to celebrate 25 years of Catholic Scouting.

