



Girl Scouts®

When people today see the word "Scouting they will usually think of Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts. But the word actually originates in military or frontier settings, as a person who scouts conditions ahead of the main group. In 1899 during the Boer War in South Africa, Robert Baden Powell observed boys helping the war effort, and upon his return to Britain rewrote his military scouting book for a book for a youth audience. Soon boys began to organize "Boy Scout" groups. As the movement grew, a Rally was held in 1909 at the Crystal Palace in London. In days when girls were not suppose to run, swim, ride, a bike, or even raise her arms above her head, Baden-Powell was probably quite shocked to find a group of girls who asked him to let girls be Scouts. He prevailed his sister to help, and in 1910 the Girl Guides were founded with Agnes Baden- Powell as President ("Guides" because Scouting was a "man's job.") The Girl Scouts of the USA were founded in 1912 by Juliette Gordon Low, who had befriended the Baden-Powells, but rejected the view that girls couldn't do everything the boys could.

Last year was the 100th anniversary of Girl Guides and Girl Scouting. Oneonta Montessori's Girl Scout Troop 353 was proudly chosen as one of the only two troops representing the entire United States at the Centenary Encampment which was held near Leeds, in the Mid-North of England. Troop 353 meets at Oneonta Montessori School. Currently there are 17 girls: 5 Juniors (4th/5th grade) 8 Cadettes (6th/7th/8th grade) plus 4 Seniors who have been with the troop since Kindergarten. The girls are complemented by an active group of parents and even grandparents who in troop activities. Past activities have included Rose Parade float decorating, camping on the beach and in Joshua Tree National Park, folk dancing, and sled dog mushing at a winter cabin campout. The troop often runs wildlife education programs for younger girls in other Troops. Recently the girls backpacked overnight 3 miles and 1500 vertical feet into the local mountains, and planted 56 trees for the Fire Department's nursery. Way to go Girl Scout Troop 353!!!