

Leader Notes

Guess the badge: 1940s Scout Badges

Each participant should have an activity sheet and pencil

They should work their way through the sheet guessing the names of the badges and what their 2019 equivalents are. They can look at the current Scout badge book or website if they get stuck on the modern versions.

Once they've all completed the sheet look at the answers below.

Discuss why these skills would have been useful on the Home Front during the Second World War. Notes below.

A - Air Spotter modern version Air Spotter activity badge

1. Recognise correctly from photographs or silhouettes shown for ten seconds each
2. Be able to recognise and name from a list submitted by the Scout, national aircraft markings both service and civil of at least six countries, including Great Britain.
3. Produce a log kept by himself for a period of not less than one month, reporting aircraft seen, giving identity or salient feature.
4. Describe the recognition features of six aircraft selected by the Examiner, in terms commonly used in aircraft identification.

Use on Home Front:

To be able to report plane sightings to the authorities particularly if reporting crashed planes or they had spotted parachutes jumping from the plane.

B- First Aid modern version Emergency Aid staged activity badge

1. Demonstrate his knowledge of Tenderfoot and Second Class First Aid OR
2. Know the position of the main arteries and how to stop external bleeding from veins and arteries.
3. Make an improvised stretcher.
4. Know how to apply the triangular bandage to scalp, hand, foot, knee and elbow; and the roller bandage to all limbs.
5. Demonstrate the Schifer method of artificial respiration.
6. Demonstrate how to send a correct message, oral, written and by telephone.
7. Take part as a member of a team of three or four Scouts and deal with an incident staged by the Examiner. Such incident to be based on the above items and to be conducted in as realistic a manner as possible.

Use on Home Front:

Scouts supported the ambulance service during the Blitz and also volunteered in hospitals as stretcher bearers. Scouts may have been able to look after minor injuries whilst ambulance crews helped those who were more seriously injured.

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C- Civil defence modern versions community impact communicator, emergency aid and local knowledge activity badges

1. Be able to carry verbal messages and to write them down correctly, and to report either verbally or in writing on any important occurrence which he has witnessed.
2. Be able to use the telephone competently, and understand the instructions contained in the Telephone Directory.
3. Have a special knowledge of the locality in which he is likely to serve, with particular reference to local service, e.g., Air Raid Precaution. Stations, Casualty Clearing, Stations, Gasproof Shelters, Evacuation and other Rallying Posts, Wardens' and Observers' Posts,
4. Have a practical knowledge of the fitting and care of civilian gas masks.
5. Know the dangers of panic in the case of an emergency, and how to preserve discipline and good order among nervous people, and particularly children.
6. Be enrolled by his Local Scout Authorities as willing to undertake some definite National Service, either under Scout Authority or under some recognised Public Authority.

Use on Home Front:

Scouts with bicycles were recruited as messengers so being able to communicate a message

Not all Scouts would have had access to a telephone so learning how to use one would have been important

The authorities were worried about the risk of gas attacks, everyone in the country was issued with a gas mask. It was important to maintain your mask in case of emergency.

D - Handyman modern version DIY activity badge

Be able to do 10 of the following, at least five of which must be demonstrated:

- Paint a door or gate
- Whitewash or distemper a wall
- Adjust an electric bell, replace electric light bulbs, shades and fuses
- Replace a tap washer.
- Take up, beat and relay a carpet.
- Sharpen knives.
- Know what immediate steps to take in the cases of burst water pipes or gas leak.
- Attend to stopped gutters or waste pipes.
- Repair a gate or fence.
- Sew on a button neatly.
- Darn a small hole in a sock.
- Oil and adjust a lawn-mower.

Use on Home Front:

There would have been a shortage of tradesmen such as plumbers, electricians etc. as they would have been called up to serve in the armed forces. Being able to do basic tasks around the house would have saved money and time rather than relying on a professional.

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Clothes were rationed so being able to mend your clothes to make them last longer was important. Scouts also supported people in their community by helping them to build air raid shelters so handyman skills would help them do this.

E - Firefighter modern version Fire Safety activity badge

1. Know and explain the possibilities of danger in: (a) oil lamps, spirit stoves, flannelette, Christmas decorations, cotton wool, celluloid (b) the focusing of the sun's rays; (c) faulty electrical insulation.
2. Explain what to do on the outbreak of fire. Know how to call the Fire Brigade and the position of the nearest alarms to home and HQ.
3. Demonstrate how to trace an escape of gas; and how to use a stirrup pump. Take part in a bucket chain; and know how to use two common forms of fire extinguisher.
4. Demonstrate how to deal with the following types of fire.
5. Demonstrate the following:—use of scrum to keep back crowds, improvising ropes, chair knot and crawling through smoke.

Use on Home Front:

The Blitz caused massive fires and Scouts helped support the fire service. They were also stationed in high buildings so they could keep a look out for fires and send information to the emergency services.

F – Interpreter modern version International or communicator activity badges

Carry out the following tests in any language other than his own

1. Carry on a simple conversation for three minutes.
2. Write a simple letter of at least 100 Words
3. Translate in his own time and with the help of a dictionary an easy passage from a book or periodical.

Use on Home Front:

During the War Britain offered a home to refugees from lots of countries, many of these were children. Even being able to speak a few words in another language might help the refugees feel welcome.

G- Guide or pathfinder modern version Local Knowledge activity badge

1. Demonstrate that he has knowledge, gained by his own exploring and investigation, of the locality round his H.Q. or his home.
2. Demonstrate that he can guide strangers within a five-mile radius, and give them general directions to get to the principal suburbs, districts or towns within a 25-mile radius.
3. Have some knowledge of the history of the place and any buildings of historical interest.

Use on Home Front:

During the War, in case of invasion, road signs were removed so it was important to know

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your way around your local area and be able to give instructions based on landmarks.

H - Wirelesman *modern version Communicator activity badge*

1. Be able to connect a wireless receiving set, using either batteries or mains (to include aerial, earth and loud speaker connections) and to tune it for the clearest possible reception.
2. Prepare a log showing transmitting stations it is possible to receive on the set, to include dial readings, wavelengths and station signals, with times of identification.
3. Discuss with the Examiner programmes to which he has listened during the previous month
4. Describe three causes of bad reception.

Use on Home Front:

Amateur radio was very popular before the War. During the War amateur radio users were asked to listen out for messages from the enemy and report them to the authorities. Some of these messages even ended up at Bletchley Park, home of the code breakers.

I - Rabbit Farmer *modern version Farming activity badge*

1. Must have kept and reared rabbits
2. Distinguish and explain the best breeds for fur and flesh production.
3. Know up-to-date marketing requirements in flesh and fur.
4. Be able to kill and skin a rabbit and dress it in current style for market.
5. Be able to recognise six non-cultivated rabbit food plants.
6. Be able to discuss intelligently values of various grain and other foods for rabbits.
7. Be able to explain the symptoms of the elementary rabbit diseases.
8. Have a working knowledge of requirements for housing rabbits in good health, etc.
9. Be able to construct a simple but useful hutch.

Use on Home Front:

During the War food was rationed and meat was in short supply. Many people kept their own animals to be used for food including chickens, rabbits and pigs. Being able to look after them well might mean your family wasn't so hungry.