

**The MANIBOBAR Baden-Powell
Scout Award Guidebook**

2nd Draft

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Introduction

This book has been developed by the MANIBOBAR Exec to guide individuals and crews through the process of getting the BP Award. It is intended to be used in conjunction with the Rover Record Book (the red book) and not to replace it. It should also be used in conjunction with advice given from other Rovers, Rover Advisers, The Region Exec and in particular the Vice Chair, who is responsible for overseeing the BP Award in the Region.

Before You Begin

A quick note that before you begin any award you must have been invested and received the Rover Skills Badge. The Badge is granted by the Crew and should normally be earned as part of the Squire Training Process. The individual should decide which method (A or B) that they will do. The badges from only one method will count to the BP.

Overview of the Process

An individual decides on the badge that they wish to undertake and submit it to the crew. The crew then submit the proposal to region. When the badge is complete, the individual presents it to the crew as a whole. When the crew is satisfied they present the badge to region for general approval. When all four badges are approved by region the Vice Chair will set up an interview to determine whether the individual is living the scouting way of life. Finally, the recommendation is voted on at the Branch Rover Council.

Proposing the Badge

Proposal to the Crew

This is by far the hardest part of the BP. You have to decide what you want to do for the badge. You also have to decide how to do it and make your crew, the ones who will be assessing you directly, understand and agree to your proposal.

You should discuss the proposal with just about anyone you can think of. You should have some good advice by the time you're ready to present it to the crew. The proposal is normally presented at a Business Meeting but the crew should have time to think about it in advance. Don't keep it a secret - others may benefit from your good idea and be able to help you get started.

The crew should be confident in the following details:

- The badge (and method) that you plan to do.
- How long the badge is expected to take.
- What goals you are focusing on for this badge.
- How and where you will learn any new skills (e.g. a class or from a fellow Rover).
- Who will be assessing the badge. (If you have trouble finding an assessor then ask for help.)
- How the crew will be able to measure the success of each goal.
- The intended reporting structure.
- The link between the badge and your employment. (How much do you already know?)

Each of these should be included in the proposal.

The crew may chose to impose extra requirements on an individual but should remember that the BP Award is intended to challenge the individual and to help them to grow in an area of their choice. There is no one standard that will cover every individual. The BP should be attainable by any Rover who chooses to try. In particular, the crew should NOT be considering the proposal as a challenge to themselves but as a challenge to the individual involved. This is not to say that the badge should be easy.

Where a badge may be considered to relate to current employment, the individual should be setting the goals above and beyond those required by the employer. A badge may be used as a stepping-stone to gain employment, as it is specifically designed to develop new skills and understanding.

Proposal to Region

The crew, having accepted the proposal should then pass on the details as soon as possible. A cheerful e-mail to vice_chair@manibobar.com as soon as possible will be tremendously helpful. This should give the Vice Chair plenty of time to consider and discuss the proposal so that most potential problems can be sorted out before the Region meeting. The Vice Chair may discuss the proposal with the individual, the Exec, the Region RA or others who are knowledgeable in the area of the award. This should include a full discussion at the Region Exec.

At the following Region meeting the crew will present the proposal to the Region for comments. The Region must approve of the proposal. This is a good place for sharing ideas, resources, contacts and elephants. It is preferable for the individual to present the proposal but another member of the crew may do so or the Vice Chair in exceptional circumstances.

Once the individual, crew and Region agree, Region consent by vote, the individual may begin work on their badge, as per details of the proposal. The (Vice) Chair will then sign the proposal and keep a copy for the Region's records.

The Baden-Powell Award

Method A or B?

There are two choices for the BP. You only get one so choose carefully¹. Method A is based on a more traditional approach to Scouting requiring skills in camping, a journey, usually a hike, service and a project. Method B is based on the fundamentals of Scouting requiring personal physical, emotional & intellectual, social and spiritual development. Each badge requires about 6 months work minimum and each method has its own benefits and challenges.

It should be noted that many different badges have overlap in possibilities but may not overlap in content. For example, managing a local basketball team could be considered for any of service, project, physical, social badges or even emotional or spiritual badges depending on the people involved and the focus of the badge. However, it can only be used for one of these.

¹ This is not true. You are permitted to do bits and pieces of both and get the badges for both. You are encouraged to do personal development but you must complete all badges of a method to obtain the BP.

The Service Badge

The individual MAY NOT receive payment for the service.

If payment is to be received, as is the case for Military Service, the full amount of the payment must go to a charity, or charities, approved in advance by the Region and documentation must be presented in proof. If it's what you really want to do then discuss it with us before you get involved because these things get complicated.

The service need not be to another section of the Scout Movement. Any community service recognised by the Region will do. It's preferable for an individual to gain new skills in doing service.

The Project Badge

There is no limit to the possibilities for this badge. Just about anything will do. Try thinking about something you've been meaning to do for a while and never got around to or something you enjoy and would like to do more seriously.

The Scoutcraft Badge

While a crew may choose to accept camps such as Surfmoor or Mudbash, in general it should be avoided as they are very difficult camps to maintain a high standard of camping. It should be attempted to have many different events and locations to reflect the wide range of activities that Rovers do. Ideas include sand, snow, mountains, plains, hikes, standing camps, investitures, boots and anywhere else Rovers choose to set foot.

The proposal for this badge need not be specific and list the camps that will be assessed. However, the individual should show signs of improvement over the course of the badge. In the case of a controversial event being assessed, the Region should be consulted in advance and consent noted on the proposal form.

The assessors for each camp should be members of the crew. The camp should be logged and discussed, the discussion minuted, shortly after the camp to ensure that all assessors are present and recall the specific camp. This badge may take many years and consequently should not be left to the final camp for a full discussion. Previous camps should also be discussed to demonstrate that the individual is improving. Very few camps could ever be considered perfect. However, if an individual is already at a high standard of organisation and camping then the individual may decide to increase the challenge of the camp, rather than aim for impossible levels of excellence.

The Rambler's Badge

The Rambler's is a journey. It need not be a hike. It could be by canoes, cars or anything else. The challenge on the journey may include any of endurance, self-reliance, initiative, determination and leadership. It is also strongly recommended to make contingency plans in the event of bad weather or other circumstances out of the individual's control. Note that you may walk a little faster than you expect. Plan on a trip that's a little longer than the minimum so that it's still meets the requirements if you do better than you thought.

It's often difficult to find members of your own crew to go on a journey to meet your challenges. Ask around the region. You'll probably find more volunteers than you expect.

This is NOT a 4 day badge. There should be preparation of both First Aid and the skills required for the journey as well as ensuring that all members of the team are able to safely attend.

The Spiritual Development Badge

Spiritual can refer to many things including religion, philosophy and self-discovery. It could be how you do something, what various Rovers believe or how we got to be how we are.

The Intellectual & Emotional Development Badge

You may wish to learn something - you may wish to explore something on your own. You may wish to teach on a topic you know a lot about. You might look into an emotional event in your life or someone close to you. Do not experiment on people unless they have your prior consent. Such things are not part of the Scouting way of life.

The Social Development Badge

It's quite common to treat this badge as the Service badge but it's so much more than that. It can be absolutely anything to do with people. Use your imagination! Just don't go too far...

The Physical Development Badge

Just as it says - anything physical. It can be used just as the Rambler's if you're short on ideas but can be very different too.

General Notes

There are some things general to all badges that you should consider doing.

- Keep a log. When you do some work, write down what you did. Take photos or keep objects or whatever is appropriate. Then we'll all know exactly what you've done.
- Share. If people know what troubles you're having then they may guide and support you.
- Be creative. The traditional approach is fine but there may be something more interesting to do.
- Think about how what you're doing looks to the region. "Yes... my umm... err... mother is my assessor..."

Approval of the Badge

Crew Approval

When the badge is complete the individual takes all documentation and other evidence of the badge and presents it to the crew for assessment. At this stage the crew should be attempting to answer the following questions and be able to speak to them at region:

- Does the work presented match the proposal?
- Have the goals set out in the proposal been attained?
- Has the badge presented a significant challenge to the individual?

- Where goals have not been met, has the individual put in a serious attempt to attain the goals?
- Where appropriate, has the individual improvised on plans in an attempt to develop sufficiently in the direction of the goal to still attain a good result?
- Are there any additional tasks that will improve the work already presented?
- Does the individual feel that they have done their best work?

The crew should be fairly brutal at this stage to make sure that these questions are answered satisfactorily because the region are required to be brutal.

The crew should be aware of the possibilities of change and the extra, unexpected skills that can be gained by improvisation on original plans. A spatula is not a good reason to prevent a badge from being passed, especially if its function can be replaced by something else.

Region Approval

Once the badge has been passed by the crew, the documentation is passed on to the Vice Chair who will examine it thoroughly and present it to the Exec and to Region. Sometimes parts of the badge will not be available to pass on to the exec, such a large part of a boat, made for the project badge. These need to be referred to, preferably with pictures and explanations. The Vice Chair may discuss various aspects with members of the Exec or the crew, or either RA and will often discuss aspects with the individual.

Region may request that the individual does extra tasks. If the conditions outlined in the proposal have been met then Region will not enforce the request but leave it up to the discretion of the individual and the crew. We can't force you but we leave it up to your sense of self. Think about whether you are satisfied that this represents your best work. If the conditions have not been met then the Region may deny the badge by vote. If the Region votes in favour of the badge then it is granted.

After the 4th Badge

The Interview

When all 4 badges of one method are complete, if the crew believe the individual is setting a good example of the scouting way of life they will fill in the Red Form (Nomination for the Baden-Powell Award) and submit it to the Vice Chair. Don't forget that the final badge work MUST be given to a member of the Exec not in the crew before the individual's 26th birthday so aim to get everything finished a few months in advance.

The Vice Chair will set up a panel of Rovers, including a past BP recipient, the Chairman, the Region RA and possibly others depending on circumstances. The interview will not consider the validity of any of the badges but may consider them to gain insight into the actions of the individual. The panel will ask questions to determine whether the individual is living the scouting way of life. As with each individual, each interview is different so the only way to prepare for this is to be yourself. Just relax and be honest. It's also good to familiarise yourself with your efforts so that you can answer questions about them. If you're confident that you've

done your best work and that you set a good example and live by the Scout Promise and Law then there is nothing to worry about.

Taking it back to Region

The Vice Chair will report back to Region on the recommendation of the panel. The Region will then vote on the nomination, which will then be taken to Branch Rover Council. If anyone has an objection to the individual receiving the BP Award then it should be discussed before this point.

Once the Region approves the nomination it is passed on to the Branch Rover Council. The Branch Commissioner will pass the nomination on to the appropriate people and a little while later the person who is to present the epaulettes will know that it's time to get on with it.

Resources

The main resource is, of course, the Red Book. Next, other crew members, crew or Region RA, the Vice Chair or any other Exec member, anyone in the Region undertaking the BP and other people who have been around a while.

Two excellent books to consult for ideas and possible guidelines to set are:

The Murray Midlands Region Rover Baden-Powell Award Guidelines, written by Rod Abson and Cheryl Perkins.

The Baden-Powell Scout Award, written by Ben Eriksson, Hatfield RC, RYVER.

