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Opening extract from

The Scouting Adventure Annual 2012

Written by

Amanda Li

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scouts
be prepared . . .
THE
SCOUTING
ADVENTURE
ANNUAL
2012

Stick in a photo of yourself here – or draw a self-portrait!

This annual belongs to:

.....

.....

I am ..... years old

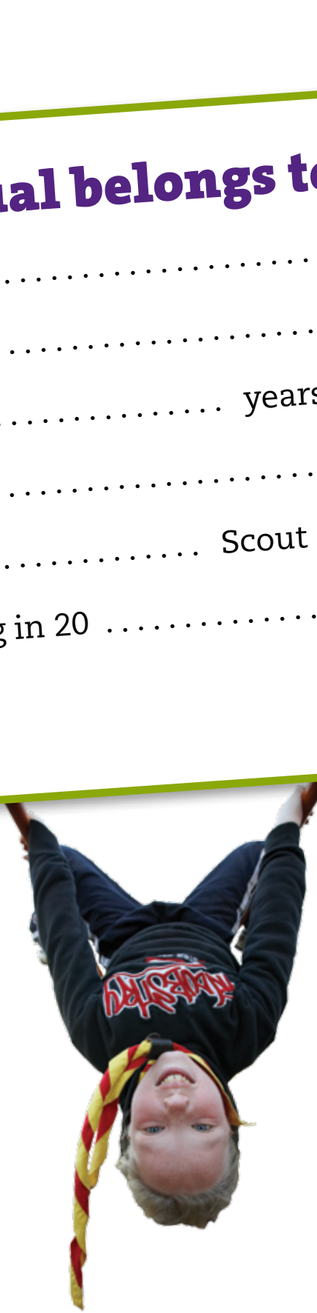
I belong to the .....

..... Scout Group

I joined Scouting in 20 .....

'THIS YEAR WE WENT TO SEE A COASTGUARD HELICOPTER. ALL THE BEAVERS GOT TO GO INSIDE AND WE ALL HAD GREAT FUN. I WANTED TO FLY IT, BUT THEY WOULDN'T LET ME – NOT YET!'

Philip, 7, Beaver Scout



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WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT THE OUTDOORS?

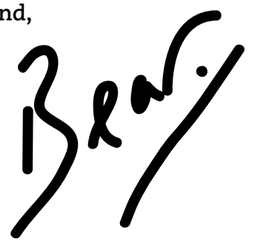
Exploring woods and forests, watching foxes and squirrels, playing games, going on nature trails . . . there's a lot to choose from. When I was your age the thing I loved most was camping. Guess what? This hasn't changed.

There's nothing quite like setting up your tent (even in the rain) getting a fire going and most importantly of all – cooking. It's scientifically proven that sausages taste better when cooked outside, and don't get me started on marshmallows!

If this is your first Scouting annual then you're in for a treat. You'll find out how to cook an egg in a potato, learn the names of stars and find your way using a compass. You'll also find stories about adventurers like Ernest Shackleton, whose ship was crushed by the ice, and even animals like Dylan the dog who rescued four walkers lost in the mountains.

As well as lots of useful stuff, this book is full of jokes and fun. Remember to keep smiling, even if it starts to rain. Look after your friends and stay safe in the great outdoors!

Your friend,



Bear Grylls
Chief Scout

CONTENTS

Under the stars	5
Campfire's burning	8
Star gazing	10
Have you ever tried...?	14
Things you didn't know about the Olympics	16
It's magic!	18
Wildlife on your doorstep	20
Silly jokes	24
Clever camp cookery	26
Have you tried...?	30
Super Scout quiz challenge	32
Who was Rudyard Kipling?	34
Tricky sticks	37
Left or right?	38
Survival in the ice	40
Race to the pole	42
Which Chinese animal are you?	44
Dragons dancing	47
Three cheers for Ollie! (a story)	50
Grow your own lunch	52
A right royal party!	54
Animal funnies	57
Animal heroes	58
Join in Jamboree!	60
Brainbusters	63
Slippery, slithery, super slime	64
Find your way	66
Have you ever tried...?	68
Scouting around the world	70
Old MacDonald around the world	72
Let's play!	73
Competition	75
Scouting – come and join the adventure!	76
Answers	78

CAN YOU FIND...

...these pictures in your annual? Tick the boxes when you do.

A walrus ☐

A Union Jack ☐

A Chinese dragon ☐

REMEMBER

If you see this sign, it means that a grown-up needs to help you

AND BOXES LIKE THIS...

...are for you to fill in yourself!

Want to find out how to join Scouting? Go to page 76.

UNDER THE STARS

Your first night under canvas will be one you'll remember forever!

You can camp in lots of different places, inside halls or outdoors in gardens and campsites. Some museums even hold special sleepover nights where you can snuggle down among all the exhibits (just make sure it's not somewhere too spooky, like a room full of Egyptian mummies!).

To make your camping trip extra-fun, why not suggest a theme? Pirates, wizards and sports are just a few ideas. Everyone can get dressed up and play games such as pirate treasure hunts, 'gruesome spell' competitions or simply play your favourite sport.

'CAMPING'S GREAT! YOU SLEEP IN A TENT, DO LOADS OF ACTIVITIES AND RUN AROUND A FOREST. WE COOKED CHOCOLATE BANANAS, TOO.'

Theo, 9, Cub Scout

Making **crafts** is always fun. Why not try the dragon on page 48? You can take your handiwork home with you the next day as a souvenir of your sleepover.

Singing is a must – what's your favourite song? Why not bring along some musical instruments to accompany yourself or make some quick drums and maracas out of yogurt cartons and rice. Then you can shake along to the song!

Get giggling and tell some **jokes**! There are some funny ones on pages 24 and 25. Or bring a joke book along and take turns choosing a joke to tell all your friends.

If you feel like burning off some energy, try this fun **game** of Mousetrap. Two players make a 'mousetrap' by joining hands. The other players go through the trap. When the leader calls out 'Mousetrap', anyone caught inside the trap has to become part of the trap. Eventually, you will have a large circle of players being a mousetrap, and only one winner!

CLEVER CAMPING

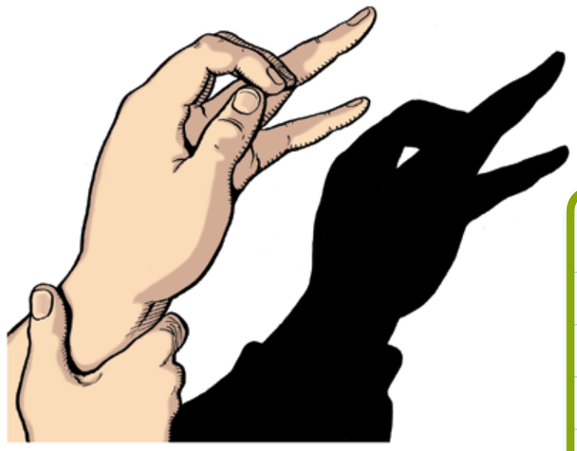
Top tips for happy campers!

- Take a couple of spare plastic bags with you. Not only do they make useful 'seats' on damp ground, you can take your muddy, wet clothes home in them too.
- If you are putting up a tent for the first time, have a practice before you go – maybe in your back garden.
- A wind-up torch will help you find your way around in darkness and you won't have to worry about the battery running out. Wind-ups are also much better for the environment.
- Always take waterproof clothing along – rain is a common feature of most campsites!

Tent Know-how

Shadow Play

Torches are not only useful, they can be used to play some good games. Have you ever tried to make hand shadow animals? You simply shine your torch against a wall or the inside of a tent and use your hands to create shadow shapes. Why not try these? Or create some shadow animals of your own.



GET THAT BADGE!

Going on camp and learning outdoor skills – such as building a fire, pitching a tent and tidying away a campsite – can help you gain several brilliant badges. Among them are the **Cub Scout Camper Activity Badge** and the **Staged Nights Away Badges**. So what are you waiting for?

WHAT USEFUL ITEMS WOULD YOU TAKE ON A CAMPING TRIP?

CAMPFIRE'S BURNING

Being a Beaver Scout or Cub Scout is great because you get to spend so much time outside. You also learn lots of useful outdoor skills.

If you haven't been camping before, 'indoor camping' is a good chance to try out some camping skills and see what it's like to spend the night away from home for the first time. It's really good fun to snuggle up in your sleeping bag surrounded by all your friends. And at least you know you won't get wet!

As you become more experienced, you will start camping outside – and that's where the challenge really starts. Being outdoors is fantastic, but it also brings with it a whole host of challenges – from dealing with wild weather to how to cook yourself a tasty meal. One of the essential things that any Scout needs to know is how to safely light a fire.

Around the Campfire

Every camp needs a fire. It's the warm, cosy centre of the camp, your 'cooker' and a light on a dark night. And there's nothing to beat sitting round the flickering flames and telling stories, jokes and singing campfire songs.

Here's a good one – sing it to the tune of 'London's Burning' and then you can try it in a round.

Campfire's burning, campfire's burning,
Draw nearer, draw nearer,
In the glowing, in the glowing,
Come sing and be merry.
Come sing and be merry.

IMPORTANT: *Always make sure your fire is completely out when you are finished. You can put water on the embers to put the fire out, but be careful of smoke getting in your eyes. Bury the ashes when they are cold and always leave your campsite as you found it.*

How to Light a Fire

Always ask permission and always make sure that there is an adult with you before lighting a fire. Find a place where there's plenty of wood nearby to fetch, or make sure you have a decent supply of wood before you start. And matches, of course!

1 Choose the spot where you plan to build your fire carefully. Many campsites have special fire pits, but you may have to find your own place. If so, check there are no overhanging branches that could catch fire. Clear the ground of anything flammable like dry grass or leaves. Then, dig a shallow hole or make a circular 'wall' out of rocks and stones to keep your fire under control.

2 Put a log on each side of the fire if you want to cook on it – these will support a metal grid for pans.

You will need kindling – small dry pieces of wood, dead twigs (no thicker than a pencil) and dry leaves to get the fire started. Make a tight screw of paper and cover with dry leaves. Now build a pyramid of thin, dry twigs over the top, leaving plenty of space for the air to circulate.

3 Light your fire with a match and as the thin twigs burn, slowly add thicker pieces of wood. Watch the fire carefully and be ready to add more wood as the pyramid burns through.

TIP: ***The bark of a silver birch and fir cones make good fire starters.***

4 Building a fire is a skill and plenty of practice is needed. Don't give up if your first attempt doesn't go as well as you expected! Once the fire is well on its way, enjoy the warmth and perhaps cook yourself a hot meal. See our recipe ideas on page 26.

WHAT THREE THINGS DO YOU NEED TO MAKE A FIRE?

1)

2)

3)

Answers on page 78

STAR GAZING

Have you ever gazed up at the stars twinkling in the night sky and wondered about them? You're not alone – people have been asking questions about the heavens since the beginning of time.

When the ancient Greeks saw the stars, they thought that the skies were filled with images of their gods and goddesses. They imagined shapes around different groups of stars (constellations) and gave them names, which we still use today. They also told stories about the constellations. The Great Bear, for example, was the story of a beautiful lady called Callisto. Hera, the wife of the great god Zeus, was so jealous of Callisto that Zeus turned Callisto into a bear to protect her. But Callisto's son, Arcas, was out hunting and spotted the bear. He was just about to shoot her when Zeus saw what was happening and quickly turned Arcas into a bear cub. He then put both the Great Bear (Ursa Major) and the Little Bear (Ursa Minor) into the sky forever.

The Bear Necessities

- The Great Bear can only be seen if you live in the Northern hemisphere – the half of the planet that lies north of the Equator.
- The body and tail of the Great Bear make up what is also known as the Big Dipper (or the Plough). This shape guides the way to Polaris.
- Polaris, or the North Star, is in the Little Bear constellation (part of which is called the Little Dipper). Travellers have used the North Star to help guide them for well over 2,000 years.

Navigate by the Stars

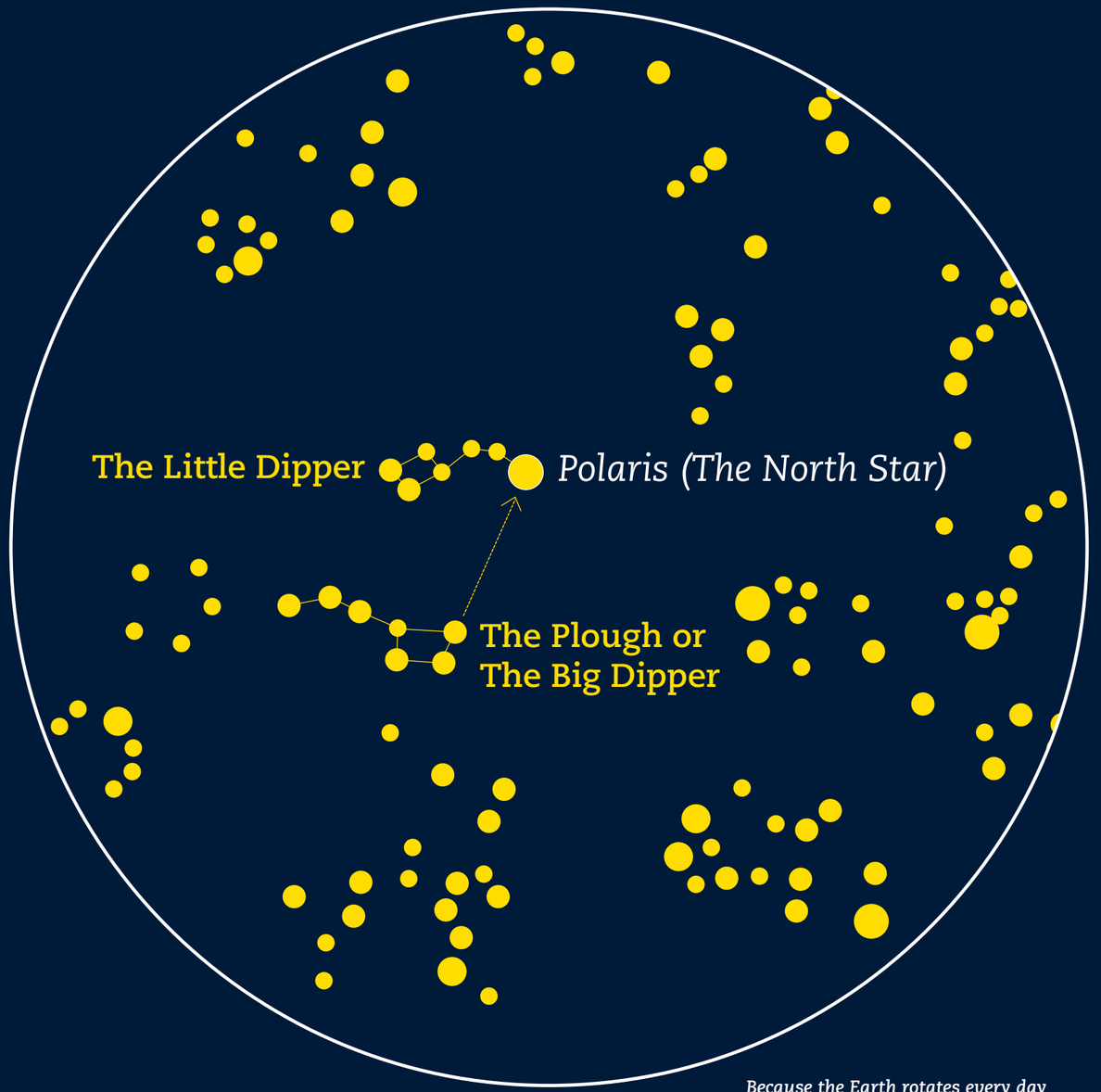
In the days before compasses, travellers found their bearings by looking at the skies. Polaris – the North Star – is located right over the earth's North Pole. If you can identify it, you will know you are facing north and can work out which direction you are travelling in. Give it a try – but you will need a very clear night to see the stars properly.

Finding Polaris

1. Once it is dark, look straight up at the sky.
2. Look all around to identify what is the Big Dipper (or Plough), part of Ursa Major. That's the group of stars that looks a bit like a large spoon.
3. If you look at our star map you will see that the two stars at the end of the 'spoon' form a line that always points to Polaris, the North Star.

Get Out of Town

Living in a city makes it difficult to see the stars because of the glare caused by the street lighting. So next time you are away at camp, look up into the sky. Hopefully you will be able to spot The Plough. Happy star gazing!



Because the Earth rotates every day and moves round the sun every year, our view of the constellations changes through the night and from season to season.

GET THAT BADGE!

Identifying constellations can help you gain your **Cub Scout Astronomer Activity Badge**. So get star spotting!