

Secret Orders--Outpost Hike

To Be Read by the Patrol Leader at the Patrol Campfire

Read this aloud slowly and clearly. (Use a flashlight if needed)

From the White Stag Staff to the members of the patrol:

**As your evening draws to a close,
You are together as a Scout patrol around the warmth of your campfire.**

**Look into the coals of the fire;
See the magic light that humankind has seen for thousands of years.**

See the same light that reflected in the eyes of the first Scouts more than 80 years ago on that small island off the English coast.

Feel the same warmth that has drawn millions of us together in the brotherhood of Scouting ever since the early days.

Look into the coals of the fire, and reflect on our days together at White Stag.

**Think of the fun,
And the long hours.**

**Think of the things we've learned together,
Of the things we've learned about each other,
And the things we've learned about ourselves.**

Look into the coals of the fire, and pause, each of you, silently.

**Reflect on what we have experienced here,
And on what each of us has learned.**

**Reflect on the commitment each of us has made,
To carry what we have learned back home to our own troop.**

(Pause for a minute or two and let each Scout reflect)

Now you are to elect a permanent patrol leader and a permanent assistant patrol leader. They will serve from tonight's campfire to the end of the conference on Saturday.

These two Scouts should represent the best qualities of leadership in your patrol. They should be Scouts you trust and respect. They should carry your honor high.

Hold elections now. Elect a permanent patrol leader and assistant patrol leader.

When the election is completed, give this letter to the permanent patrol leader to conclude your campfire.

To be Read by the Newly Elected Permanent Patrol Leader.

Read this aloud slowly and clearly. (Use a flashlight if needed)

Please stand, give the Scout sign, and join me in the Scout Oath.

Please remain standing while I read these words from the staff:

**“May you think long thoughts,
Savor the aroma of the fire,
Hearken to the small night-sounds of nature,
Feel the wind on your face,
And respect all humanity.
For only in the wilderness
Can God’s handiwork be seen so clearly.”**

Let’s join hands now and close with Scout Vespers:

**“Softly falls the light of days, as our campfire fades away.
Silently each Scout should ask, have I done my daily task?
Have I kept my honor bright? Can I guiltless sleep tonight?
Have I done and have I dared, everything to be prepared?”**

Good night and may God look after each of us until we wake.

From the 1998 White Stag Staff