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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

NATIONAL COUNCIL OFFICES

2 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

1928 Series, No. 11, June 8, 1928

Subject: SCOUT TO GO WITH COMMANDER BYRD.

From: CHIEF SCOUT EXECUTIVE.

To: SCOUT EXECUTIVES.

SCOUTMASTERS, NOT UNDER COUNCIL.

Copies to: REGIONAL EXECUTIVES.

BYRD ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

As has been informally announced, Commander Richard E. Byrd some time ago very graciously expressed his willingness to have included in the group of fifty or more men who are to compose his party on the trip to the South Pole, a young man who has come up through the Scout Movement and who would, in a real sense, be a representative of the training and ideals of the Boy Scout Movement.

As you probably know this expedition will leave about August 15th and it may last for a year and a half or more. On the other hand, it may be possible for Commander Byrd and his entire party to return within a shorter period, but certainly not less than six months.

Is there a young man in your territory, who has come up through the Scout Movement, preferably one who has had a continuous record as a Scout, and who you would recommend for consideration as a member of Commander Byrd's Expedition?

In the June issue of the *Country Gentleman*, Commander Byrd said:

"I expect to take a Boy Scout to the Antarctic with me. This boy will be chosen by the huge Scout organization this summer. Why do I want a Boy Scout? Because health, loyalty, youth and ambition mean more to exploration than science and training. I look for great things from my Boy Scout."

MUST BE A SERVICE TO EXPEDITION

Our interest in availing ourselves of the opportunity should be on the basis of recommending as a member of this party someone who, because of his Scout training, character and ability would make a vital contribution to the happiness and success of the Byrd Expedition. He might be an expert in radio, an accomplished musician or scientifically inclined and in a position to serve as a special aide to Commander Byrd in making and keeping records, or might possess other special qualities which would add to the resources of the group.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE JULY 15th

There is enclosed herewith an outline of certain fundamental requirements which will apply to all whose names are presented. In addition to this, the opportunity is given for the presentation of other facts which would tend to show that the person recommended would be a useful member of the Byrd Expedition. There are no application forms. Please present evidence, as far as possible, in the order named in the requirements.

Applications on behalf of any young man should be received *here not later than July 15th.*

Please indicate on the enclosed postal card whether you are interested and intend to submit recommendations for one or more Scouts from your territory.

Sincerely and cordially yours,

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA,

James E. West

Chief Scout Executive.

BYRD EXPEDITION TO THE ANTARCTIC

The following provisions constitute a basis upon which the candidate will be selected.

1. The candidate must have had a minimum of two years membership in the Scout Movement attaining First Class or Able Sea Scout rank.

2. He must present a certificate from his Scoutmaster or the Chairman of the Troop Committee showing his record as a Scout, rank, length of service, and such reasons as can be presented for recommending him for selection. The statement should certify that the Scout has actually put into practice in his daily life the ideals and principles of the Scout Oath and Law, and the Motto "Be Prepared," and the Daily Good Turn; maintained an active service relationship to Scouting during the period of his membership, and made an effort to develop and demonstrate leadership ability.

3. Preference will be given to the Scouts who hold Merit Badges in Physical Development, Astronomy, Aviation, Electricity, Handicraft, Hiking, Pathfinding, Photography, Pioneering, Signaling, Stalking, Radio, Seamanship, Blacksmithing, Carpentry, Conservation, Interpreting, Journalism, Leather Work, Machinery, Painting, Plumbing, Surveying and Taxidermy.

4. The candidate must present a certificate from his Camp Director or Skipper, Scoutmaster, or other qualified authority showing that he has had camping or cruising experience of at least one week during each of three summer camp sessions, and in winter camping. Special emphasis should be placed on his ability to stand cold weather. He must also present a statement of over-night and short term camps in which he has participated during the past three years, giving location, duration of camp, approximate number in the party and the camping conditions, and his own service relation to the camp. The committee will give consideration to outdoor experience in making its final decision.