

August 23, 1933

[FDR Speech File - River Camp of Boy Scouts
Ten mile River, Tenn.]

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FDR Speech File

INFORMAL EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TEN MILE RIVER CAMP OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
TEN MILE RIVER, NEW YORK

August 23, 1933, 12.45 P.M.

Fellow Members of the Boy Scouts of America:

I have not been here for two years and all sorts of things have happened up here in that time. Among other things I see that you have all joined the cavalry and you have also gone in for a navy on one of the lakes. I do not know what will happen next but I suppose that we will turn you all into farmers before we get through.

Every year that does go by here brings us a little bit closer to an ideal that a lot of us had in the Boy Scouts Foundation years ago when we wanted our own place in the sun and we wanted a big enough place to take care of the Boy Scouts of the City of New York and the neighboring territory for a couple of generations to come. Well, we got the place and now we are developing it. This is one of the finest monuments to scouting that there is anywhere in the country. When I think that at this particular moment on this particular day there are probably somewhere around 250,000 or 300,000 boy scouts out in camp in the United States, it makes me realize that it is a National movement, particularly when I think of the fact that we are nearly a million strong in the country. We have about 100,000 scout masters and scout leaders. All that means

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicates words extemporaneously added to the previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

Fellow Members of the Boy Scouts of America:

I have not been here for two years and all sorts of things have happened up here in that time. Among other things I see that you have all joined the cavalry and you have also gone in for a navy on one of the lakes. I do not know what will happen next but I suppose that we will turn you all into farmers before we get through.

Every year that does go by here brings us a little bit closer to an ideal that a lot of us had in the Boy Scouts Foundation years ago when we wanted our own place in the city and we wanted a big enough place to take care of the Boy Scouts of the City of New York and the neighboring territory for a couple of generations to come. Well, we got the place and now we are developing it. This is one of the finest moments in our country. I think according to what there is anywhere in the country. When I think that at this particular moment on this particular day there are probably somewhere around 250,000 or 300,000 Boy Scouts out in camp in the United States, it makes me realize that it is a National movement, particularly when I think of the fact that we are nearly a million strong in the country. We have about 100,000 scout masters and scout leaders. All that means

that we are getting somewhere.

This Spring, because of my scout training, I took a leaf out of the notebook of scouting in order to take care of a lot of boys who are a bit older than you are. They were boys who had graduated from high school and some of them from college who had not been able to get work for a year or two or three years. So we started the CCC in this country, modeling it to a large extent after scouting and today there are 200,000 or 300,000 of these older boys in various parts of the country in these CCC camps. They are taking care of forests, preventing fires, stopping soil erosion and doing a thousand other tasks that the country needs. Of course, when you get a camp of 200 boys together, some of them naturally develop into leaders and I am told that the boys who have had scout training are coming forward more rapidly than any others and are becoming the leaders of a great many of those CCC camps. It is a pretty fine tribute to what scouting has done throughout the country.

We here are developing somewhat along the lines of conservation. Some day, before you boys pass on, this whole 10,000 acre tract is going to be a demonstration plot for the entire country as to what can be done on forestry, not only the planting of trees but also the care of trees. That is one of our objectives. We are not only learning ourselves but, in learning, we are providing an object lesson for a lot of

other people.

I am glad too, to see that you have adopted the NRA insignia. We are going to enroll about 130 million people before we get through. (Applause) When you come right down to it, the NRA is based on the same fundamentals that scouting is based on, in other words, trying to do something for the other fellow and not trying to do somebody. (Laughter) It is based on cooperation -- you know what that means. It is based on the spirit of service and it is going to work just like scouting is working.

I am very grateful for these tokens that have been given to me by the different councils. I am going to take them back home and place them alongside some other tokens I got here two years ago on my last trip.

I wish that I could take a couple of weeks off and stay with you. There are lots of things that you could teach me. But I suppose that I will have to be getting along on my way and all I can tell you is that I am mighty glad to have been here and to have seen you all today.

I wish I could see all the boys that are up here at all of these camps. To those who are not here I hope you will give my very warm regards and tell them that I hope to come back again next year.