

LINCOLN LORE

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BOY SCOUT PILGRIMAGES

The Boy Scouts of America have always placed much emphasis, and rightfully so, on the importance of hikes and the participation in such outdoor activities as will make them acquainted with natural history. Possibly excepting the camps and jamborees, the periodical hikes have come in for most attention and it is not strange that some of them would evolve into the formal activities of a pilgrimage where the inspirational phases of history would be featured.

The Lincoln tradition has always found a welcome place in the scout program and its books, calendars, and printed material have often been embellished with the likeness of the sixteenth President of the United States. It is not strange that one of the established significant items in the scouts yearly program is the proper observation of Lincoln's birthday which has done much to create an interest among scouts and scouters in the life of this best loved American.

LINCOLN SHRINE BOY SCOUT PILGRIMAGE

In keeping with the emphasis which has been placed on the Lincoln story the Lincoln National Life Foundation inaugurated several years ago what has become known as the annual "Lincoln Shrine Boy Scout Pilgrimage." Its purpose is to make the boys acquainted with the Lincoln shrines within reasonable distances of their homes and thereby receiving some inspiration by visiting the historical sites and monuments.

The incentives which may have been directly responsible for the inauguration of these pilgrimages was the creation at Fort Wayne of an Heroic Bronze Statue of Abraham Lincoln as a Hoosier Youth and a picture of this statue as an attendance award was presented to each Boy Scout who visited a Lincoln Shrine on Feb. 12, 1934. The following year the picture of a statue showing Lincoln as a rail splitter was used, and so on through the years following a chronological order there has been portrayed by certain studies in bronze the story of Lincoln's life.

This year on Feb. 12 the fifteenth annual pilgrimage will take place and anywhere from five to eight thousand scouts will participate, the number depending largely on weather conditions. The picture of the statue used this year for a reward is a likeness of the famous Borglum statue at Newark, New Jersey, called "The Friendly Lincoln." This issue of Lincoln Lore gives a summary of the various awards used. All are pictures of heroic statues and the location and name of sculptor are noted along with the title given by the foundation to the particular study.

- '34 Hoosier Youth—Fort Wayne, Ind.....Paul Manship
- '35 Railsplitter—Chicago, Ill.....Charles J. Mulligan
- '36 Soldier—Dixon, Ill.....Leonard Crunelle
- '37 Lawyer—Urbana, Ill.....Lorado Taft
- '38 Debater—Freeport, Ill.....Leonard Crunelle
- '39 President Elect—Springfield, Ill.....Andrew O'Connor
- '40 Sixteenth President—Chicago, Ill.....
.....Augustus St. Gaudens
- '41 First Inaugural—Yonkers, N. Y.....Isidore Konti
- '42 Commander-in-Chief—Spokane, Wash. Alonzo Lewis
- '43 Grief Stricken President—Jersey City, N. J.....
.....James Earle Fraser
- '44 Emancipator—Washington, D. C.....Thomas Ball

- '45 Soldiers Tribute—Edinburg, Scotland.....
.....George E. Bissell
- '46 Orator—Gettysburg, Pa.....J. Otto Schweizer
- '47 Thanksgiving Proclamation—Hingham, Mass.....
.....Charles Keck
- '48 The Friendly Lincoln—Newark, N. J.....
.....Gutzon Borglum

LINCOLN TRAIL HIKE (Illinois)

Two other pilgrimages for Boy Scouts have been promoted at Springfield, Ill., in the interest of Lincoln history which have been very worth while. Probably the better known one of the two is the Lincoln Trail Hike sponsored by the Abraham Lincoln Council at Springfield, Illinois. Approximately 700 scouts each year walk over the route from New Salem, Illinois, to Springfield and receive a medal in recognition of this effort.

The other pilgrimage is an annual visit to the Lincoln Tomb in which the boys of the Springfield area participate. It is growing in interest and will eventually draw visiting scouts from a much wider area.

LINCOLN TRAIL HIKE (Kentucky)

The success of the Lincoln hike in Illinois encouraged the Louisville Area Council Boy Scouts of America to plan a Kentucky Pilgrimage which has also been successfully promoted. The two terminals of this hike are somewhat closer together than the Illinois segment located at Elizabethtown, where Lincoln's parents first went to keeping house, and Hodgenville, Lincoln's birthplace, a distance of about 12 miles.

LINCOLN TRAIL HIKE (Indiana)

There should be a Boy Scout pilgrimage arranged over some trail familiar to Abraham Lincoln during his Indiana years. He reached Indiana when he was seven and remained in the state until he was twenty-one. The years given over to all phases of scouting were spent by Lincoln in Indiana.

The Southern Indiana Council with headquarters at Evansville is attempting to develop the trail project and it should become definitely associated with the Kentucky and Illinois segments. There has been some agitation about confining the Indiana pilgrimage within the area close to the Lincoln home but a recent trip over the proposed route by the editor of Lincoln Lore leaves the impression that most of the scouts would get lost without a skilled guide.

There are really three different pilgrimages which could be worked with some degree of success. Possibly the most popular one would be from Lincoln City to Troy via Santa Claus and the mouth of Anderson River where Lincoln worked when he was of scout age. Another would be from Lincoln City to Rockport which trip Lincoln often made and where there is a pioneer Lincoln village of interest. Both Troy and Rockport are on the Ohio River, itself of some importance in the Lincoln story.

Another alternative might be from Lincoln City to Boonville another county seat town Lincoln often attended as a young man. There seems to be no lack of familiar trails in Indiana and apparently one of the four trails suggested will be adopted.