

Rovers 104

WC Rover Sponsors

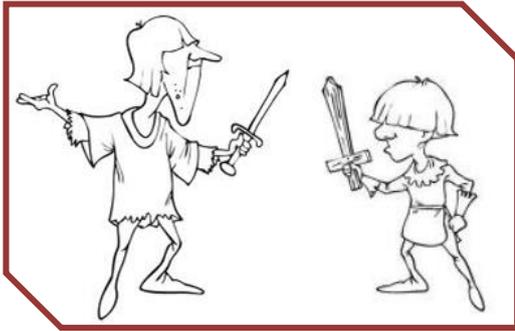
2011/12

“Knights of the Future”

Prepared by Elizabeth M Britz (1st Strand Rover) 2011

A Sponsors Boots

You have been tasked with one of the most difficult but most rewarding tasks anybody in the Scouting Movement is tasked with. You have been tasked to shape a young person into a Rover and all a Rover stands for. No two young people are the same; therefore every time you are a sponsor, you need to start this journey afresh.



Sponsor:

The Sponsor acts as a mentor for the Squire to help them through their induction training. Sponsors are invested Rovers appointed to assist the Squire to progress through the different facets of their training. They should be selected for their experience and skill in Roving. Ideally they should have at least two years Rover experience and should also set a personal example of the Rover way of life.

Every Crew will have their own policy for handling new Squires. This policy should be covered in the Crews' Constitution. The topics covered in this document and the other Rover booklets in this series are only a guideline for crews to operate effectively. So before you advise the new Squire, please consult with your Crew Chairperson or Crew Head Sponsor to confirm how these matters are handled in-house. You don't want to give the Squire the wrong information or guidance as their confidence and trust in you will be lost, if you are not sure of what is required of them.

It is important that you have read all the literature and understand the full squireship process that your Crew follows. You will need to guide the Squire along his path of discovery, in no way should you spoon feed the Rover or encourage regurgitated answers. The Squire's expectations of the Crew and other Rovers will be directly dependent upon the expectations that you instil in them. If you encourage laziness and taking the easy road out, then that's the kind of Rover your Squire will grow to become. If you instil honour and integrity as a key ideal for joining your Rover Crew, your Squire will become an honourable Rover.

A Squire is not a slave or a drinks boy or a maid or the scum of the earth. A Squire is someone that learns the way of the Knight. If you are not prepared to do an activity for the Squire, then you should not ask them to do it for you. As a prospective new member of your Crew, you need to treat them with respect and dignity, as if they were a member already. Treating your Squires badly will result in very few young people knocking at your Rover Den door asking to join your Crew.



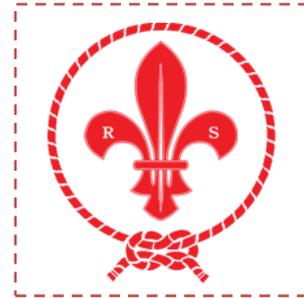
Squireship Today

BP defines Rovering as

“Rover Scouting is a Brotherhood of the Open Air and Service”

and goes on to say

“If a man(women) has the sense to do two things in life he can enjoy it. The first is: not to take himself(herself) too seriously, but to make the best of what you have got, and to look on life as a game, and the world as a playground. The second is: to let your thoughts and actions be directed by love”.



It is your role to introduce the Squire to this Brotherhood that is not bound by Class, Creed or Colour but by the Open Air and Service. A Brotherhood - that aspires to live by the Scout Promise and Law. A Brotherhood - where all young people can depend upon each other and hold them accountable to their Scout Promise and Law. A Brotherhood – that encourages young people to stretch themselves and to go after their dreams.

Nobody wants to find out the Crew had a social on Facebook. Nobody wants to see pictures of a Crew hike they were never invited to. Nobody wants to rock up at the Rover Den for a meeting only to find it locked and no one else there. And ‘I assumed you knew...’ or ‘Sorry I forgot to tell you...’ are the kinds of sentences that break a Squire’s enthusiasm. Squire’s are seeking to belong to the Crew but don’t know the Crew norms and how you operate. It is vitally important for you to make sure the Squire is kept in the loop. 2 sms’ are better than none. A phone call or two, to make sure that the Squire is really sick after missing two or three meetings is better than none. If you go the extra mile to make sure your Squire feels part of the crew, your Squire will want to go the extra mile for the Crew in all that they do.



You might be thinking that you are never going to be able to swim this race. That the requirements of being a Sponsor is too overwhelming. But BP asks us to do two things, not to take ourselves too seriously and to be guided by love. A Squire won’t expect you to be perfect but real. A Squire doesn’t want a new best friend but an older brother or sister who has their back.

Squire Training

It is important for the Squire to know exactly what is required of them. No one wants to be a Squire forever; the goal is to become a Rover. Therefore the period of squireship should be as short as possible without taking away from the meaning. It will depend upon the circumstances that the Squire finds themselves in, to how long they will need to complete the tasks. 3 months is the suggested period of time to complete these tasks. Therefore a recruit should only be invested as a Squire when they are ready to complete their Squireship. You don't want their Squireship to be in conflict with Matric Exams or other social pressures.



Below is a sample of Training Card. Using something along these lines will allow the Squire to plan their own squireship and come to a realistic date for all the tasks. It is also a tool that you can monitor the progress that the Squire is making and therefore knows when to encourage the Squire when they fall behind or to prepare the Crew Council when they are running ahead.

Example of a Squire Training Card

Squire Training and Sponsorship for Example Crew
Sample Rover Card
Squire Training Requirements

Squires Name: _____ Date of Induction: _____
 Address: _____ Cellphone: _____

 Email: _____
 Sponsors Name: _____ Sponsors Cellphone: _____

Task	Planned Date	Obtained
1. Attend at least 5 crew activities (1 Formal Meeting, 1 Social Activity, 1 Major Outdoor Activity , 1 Service Activity)		
2. Participated in a Group/District/Provincial Activity		
3. Read, understood and accepted the Crew Constitution		
4. Understand the History of Roving and its relevance to Roving today.		
5. Discuss with your sponsor the following ceremonies: Going-up, Opening, Closing and Investiture.		
6. Explain the three areas of service – self, movement, community		
7. Demonstrate an adult understanding of the Promise, Law and Rover Prayer		
8. Make a report to your Troop on Roving		
9. Complete your Special Task		
10. Complete your Rover Vigil		

The Squires' Special Task

A Squires Task can often determine the kind of Rover the Squire will become. A Squire's task should be designed to prepare the Squire for the future tasks they will perform. A Squire should perform a task that they are passionate about, but that is also appropriate to the Squire. A task for a Springbok Scout and a new member to the movement should not be on the same level. Remember our mottos and principle of learning by doing.

"Do Your Best"
to
"Be Prepared"
for
"Service"

"By Rovering I don't mean aimless wandering.

I mean finding your way by pleasant paths with a definite object in view, and having an idea of the difficulties and dangers you are likely to meet by the way."

Baden Powell ~ Rovering to Success 1922



Rover Vigil or Self-Examination:

One of the hardest tasks a Squire needs to perform is their Rover Vigil. It has a very deep meaning and value for young people if it is treated correctly. It should be the last task the Squire performs as all the other tasks are preparing them for this point. The Rovers 103 booklet is a suggested guide for Squires to use. Whatever resource you give the Squire, make sure that you are very familiar with it. If the Squire has any questions, you should be prepared to answer them or know where to find the answer.

The Squire does not have to give you a report of his Vigil or share anything that happened afterwards. You will trust him on his/her honour to carry out this task. Therefore it is important that you prepare the Squire for the Vigil before they embark on the task. The point of the Rover Vigil is not to pass or fail a test. It is for the Squire to examine their lives and understand where they are. It is for them to see where they want to be in the future and how they can get from where they are to their end goal. It is important to reinforce the notion that we are not perfect but through God's help we can strive towards it.

Your Squire

Each Squire is different and shouldn't be shoved into the same mould. Some will need a lot of guidance and some will complete the tasks in a blink of an eye. Some will have wild and wonderful ideas and some will feel lost. It is your job to make sure your Squire does their best in completing these tasks. Making yourself available to the Squire will allow you to get to know them and thereby effectively help them. This can be done over a cup of coffee, phone call or after a Crew Meeting. If you are interested in your Squires training they will also be interested in doing the tasks. If you keep putting it off, they will also keep posting things and might lose interest along the way. If you need any additional help in carrying out this task, please speak to your Crew Chairperson.

