

History of the Movement Relay

From Guiding in Australia, February 1987, Vol 8 No 1, p26.

Give each member of the patrol a name: Robert Baden-Powell, Agnes Baden-Powell, Olave Baden-Powell, boy scouts, girl scouts and girl guides.

As each name is mentioned in the story the girl runs down the room, round a chair and back to her place, first back scoring for patrol. On the words Thinking Day the whole patrol join hands and run together.

The Story – to be read aloud, pausing when girls are running.

In 1907, **Robert Baden-Powell**, who had returned from the Boer War with ideas for the training of boys, ran an experimental camp on Brownsea Island. The following year, he published “Scouting for Boys” in fortnightly parts, and all over the country boys began meeting together and calling themselves “**Boy Scouts**”. In September 1909, scouts attended the rally at Crystal Palace. As they marched past, **Robert Baden-Powell** noticed at the back a group of girls. “Who are you?” he asked. “We are **girl scouts**,” they replied. “But there aren’t any **girl scouts**,” he said. “Yes, there are, for here we are,” was the rejoinder.

Robert Baden-Powell realised that something would have to be done for the girls, so he asked his sister, **Agnes Baden-Powell**, to organise them as **girl guides**; in 1910 the first companies were registered, the very first being the 1st Pinkney’s Green (**Miss Agnes Baden-Powell’s** own).

In 1912 **Robert Baden-Powell** began an eight-month tour, visiting **boy scouts** in the West Indies, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. On board ship, he met Olave St Clair Soames, and by the end of the journey they were engaged. They married on 30 October 1912, and their wedding gift from the **boy scouts** was a motor car, for which each scout gave one penny.

Olave Baden-Powell quickly became involved in her husband’s scouting activities and in 1916 she became County Commissioner for the **Girl Guides** of Sussex.

By this time, the country was at war, and **Robert Baden-Powell** had offered his services, although he was nearly 60. But the King told him that his work with the **boy scouts** was more important. In 1920 he was proclaimed Chief Scout of the World. **Olave Baden-Powell** was proclaimed World Chief Guide in 1930. In 1926 a French Guider made a suggestion that since **Robert Baden-Powell** and **Olave Baden-Powell** shared the same birthday, 22 February, this day was a special day to all **girl guides** and **girl scouts** around the world and so **Thinking Day** began to be celebrated. Following an idea of a Belgian Guider in 1932, everyone was encouraged to give one penny on that day, towards the **Thinking Day** fund to help **girl guides** and **girl scouts** in difficulties.

So now you know that guiding began in 1910, founded by **Robert Baden-Powell**, and **Agnes Baden-Powell**, and that every year **girl guides** and **girl scouts** throughout the world celebrate the joint birthday of **Robert Baden-Powell** and his wife, **Olave Baden-Powell** on 22 February, **Thinking Day**.