**THE CAMPFIRE ASHES**

Legend has it that Lord Baden-Powell would always take a small amount of ashes from the campfire and spread these ashes into the next campfire.

The main purpose of these ashes is to bring to all Scouts and Scouters the international aspect of the world brotherhood of Scouting.

Ashes taken from a campfire are sprinkled into the flames of the next campfire. The next morning, when the ashes are cold, they are stirred, and each Scout takes some along to mix with his next campfire. If more than one Scout brings ashes to the same campfire, the lists are pooled, with the dates and places of all campfires recorded and passed on.

It is traditional that only those present at the ceremony carry ashes from that ceremony.

Through one pedigree alone, these ashes were first taken in ­­­­­Brownsea, England in 1907 and have traveled around the world to campfires in over 53 countries, 35 U.S. States, 4 Canadian Provinces, 7 World Jamborees, and the list goes on including a Canadian campfire with Lady Baden-Powell and soil from the grave of Lord Baden-Powell. They have been to 14 Wood Badge Reunions, more than 180 Wood Badge Courses, 25 OA Ceremony fires (incl. Germany & Switzerland) and more.

I received my first ashes at Camp Harrison H. Child Scout Reservation in Plymouth, MA in 1985. Since then they have been blended and stirred with BSA ashes many summer camp, at campfires with my home troop, and my 2009 Wood Badge course. They have become an important addition to my Scouting activities.

\*The Charge of the Ashes\*

“We carry our friendship with us in these ashes from other campfires with comrades in other lands. May the joining of the dead fires with the leaping flames symbolize once more the unbroken chain that binds Scouts and Guides around the world. With greetings from Scouts of all nations, everywhere.”