

## BOY SCOUT BADGES

**GOSSIP** The Boy Scout Movement is to have two badges for ringers—'Bell Ringer' for Scouts, and 'Senior Bell Ringer' for Senior Scouts. The new badges will not come into force until September 1st, and details of tests are expected to be published in August.

*'The Ringing World' 12.vi.1959 p384*



450. (Corresponding badge for over 15—Senior Bellringer.)  
(This is a requirement for the Senior Bellringer badge.)

(1) Have a knowledge of the parts of a bell and its fittings.

(2) Demonstrate maintenance and rope splicing.

(3) Be proficient in "handling" a bell up to say 6-7 cwt., to keep it in full control, and be able to "set" it as required by the Examiner.

(4) Be able to ring a bell in "rounds" in proper time and to "stand" when ordered.

**Alternative for Hand Bells.**

(1) Have a knowledge of the construction of handbells and their tuning.

(2) Demonstrate as a member of a team that he is capable of giving a performance of simple tunes in harmony.

(3) Be able to ring a pair of handbells in "rounds".

*Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Movement 1959 and 1964*

The announcement of the first Bellringer Proficiency Badge was made in May 1959. The two round badges were introduced and were available until 1967. At the same time the Senior Bellringer Proficiency Badge was introduced for Senior Scouts or Scouts over 15. This was the square maroon badge with the words 'Boy Scouts' from 1959 - 1964. It was then replaced with the square maroon badge with the words 'Senior Scouts'. This was available until 1967.

## BOY SCOUT BADGES (continued)



### Senior Bellringer



544. (Corresponding badge for under 15—Bellringer.)

- (1) Pass or have passed the Bellringer Badge.
- (2) Be able to give the name by which methods are identified on different numbers of bells.
- (3) Be able to write out the changes of two simple methods, one on an odd number and one on an even number of bells, and to describe the working of any one bell in these methods.
- (4) Be able to ring a plain course in the methods in No. 3.

### Alternative for Hand Bells.

- (1) Pass or have passed the Bellringer Badge.
- (2) Be able to give the names by which methods are identified on different numbers of bells.
- (3) Understand what is meant by the "Position" of a pair of bells in "plain hunting" on six bells.
- (4) Be able to ring a pair of bells in either the plain course of Bob Minor *or* the plain course of Grandsire Triples.

*Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Movement 1959 and 1964*

As Scouting celebrated its 60th anniversary in 1967 major changes were made to the uniform and badges. New green diamond shaped proficiency badges were introduced, and the requirements for earning them were revised.

## BOY SCOUT BADGES (continued)



1967-1971



1971 - 1981

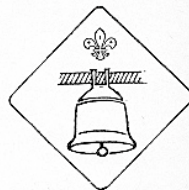


1981 - 1991



Another version of unknown date with different fleur de lys

### BELLRINGER (Interest)



1. Know the names and functions of various parts of a Church bell and its mounting, as hung for ringing changes.

2. Ring with others, i.e. rounds on an 'inside' as well as on a 'leading' bell, and change to a new position in "call changes" whilst maintaining a good striking performance. Be able to raise and lower a bell unaided.

3. Ring Plain Hunt on the Treble and ring an inside bell to a plain course of at least one 'standard' method other than that used in 4 following.

4. Ring an 'inside' bell for a touch of at least 120 changes of a 'standard' method.

5. Explain, in general terms, how a Church bell is made and tuned.

6. Know how to adjust, splice and maintain bell ropes.

7. Write out in full a plain course in a standard method on six or more bells and answer questions thereon.

8. Attend regularly at your own tower for Service ringing and practice for at least three months.

*Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Movement  
1968, 1971 and 1973*



### Bellringer

(Pursuit)

#### Requirements

1. Know the names and functions of various parts of a church bell and its mounting, as hung for ringing changes.

2. Ring with others, i.e. rounds on an 'inside' as well as on a 'leading' bell, and change to a new position in 'call changes' whilst maintaining a good striking performance. Be able to raise and lower a bell unaided.

3. Ring Plain Hunt on the Treble and ring an 'inside bell' to a plain course of at least one 'standard' method other than that used in 4 following.

4. Ring an 'inside' bell for a touch of at least 120 changes of a 'standard' method.

5. Explain, in general terms, how a church bell is made and tuned.

6. Know how to adjust, splice and maintain bell ropes.

7. Write out in full a plain course in a standard method on six or more bells and answer questions thereon.

8. Attend regularly at your own tower for Service ringing and practice for at least three months.

*Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Movement  
1974, 1976, 1980, 1982 and 1984*


In 1974 the badge was reclassified from 'Interest' to 'Pursuit' and the possibility of handbell ringing was re-introduced:

*Note: Headquarters will provide on request, conditions for this badge for a Scout who wishes to be examined in handbell ringing.*



## BOY SCOUT BADGES (continued)

In 1985 the requirements for the award of the Bellringer badge were rewritten, with handbell ringing a more prominent option.



# Bellringer

**Pursuit**

To gain the badge you must complete all the requirements in one of the following alternatives:

**A**

1. Ring rounds correctly, treble and inside bell.
2. Raise and lower a bell.
3. Ring one standard method on an inside bell or ring not less than 30 call changes without fault.
4. Explain the technical terms used in ringing in your own tower.
5. Describe the parts of a bell and how it is rung, and show that you understand the importance of rope maintenance.
6. Explain, in general terms, how a church bell is made and tuned.
7. Attend regularly at your own tower for Service ringing and practise for at least three months.

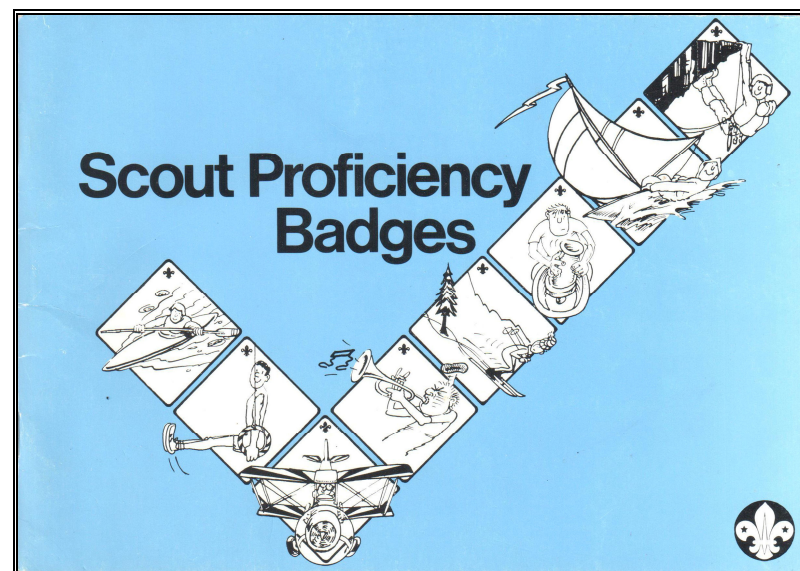
**B**

1. Be a regular member of a handbell team, either at school, in your Scout Group or other organisation for a period of at least three months.
2. Take part in a stage presentation.
3. Know how to care for a set of handbells.
4. Be able to read music appropriate for handbell ringing and translate this through a good striking technique.

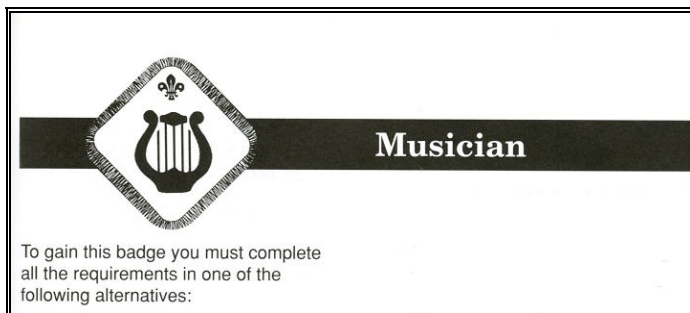
**C**

1. Know the names and functions of various parts of a handbell.

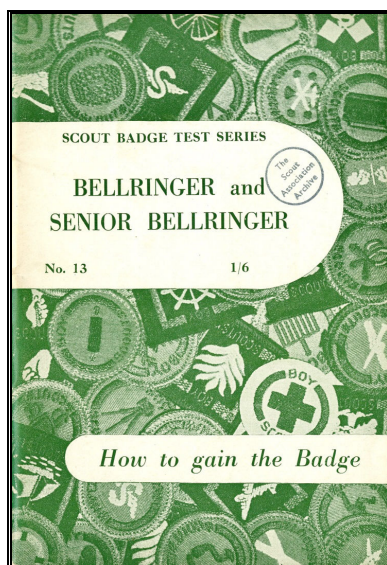
2. Be capable of ringing any two handbells in both 'rounds' and 'call changes', maintaining a good striking performance.
3. Ring the trebles for a Plain Hunt to a maximum of eight bells.
4. *Either:*  
Ring the trebles for a touch of 120 with No. 2 as an inside bell working in a standard method.  
*Or:*  
Ring the tenors for a touch of 120 of a standard method with the leading tenor (such as 5 or 7), working as an inside bell.  
*Or:*  
Ring two inside bells for a plain course in a standard method of more than five bells - minor, triples or major.
5. Explain in general terms how a handbell is made and tuned.
6. Write out plain courses of at least two standard methods or show a knowledge of these methods.



## BOY SCOUT BADGES (continued)



In 1999 the Bellringer Badge was withdrawn as a separate badge. Instead bell ringing could be offered as one way of earning the Musician Activity Badge, with options available for ringing on tower bells, handbells and even on a carillon.



### G BELLRINGING

1. Ring rounds correctly, treble and inside bell.
2. Raise and lower a bell.
3. Ring one standard method on an inside bell or ring not less than 30 call changes without fault.
4. Explain the technical terms used in ringing in your own tower.
5. Describe the parts of a bell and how it is rung, and show that you understand the importance of rope maintenance.
6. Explain, in general terms, how a church bell is made and tuned.
7. Attend regularly at your own tower for service ringing and practise for at least three months.

- H** 1. Be a regular member of a handbell team, either at school, in your Scout Group or other organisation for a period of at least three months.
2. Take part in a stage presentation.
  3. Know how to care for a set of handbells.
  4. Be able to read music appropriate for handbell ringing and translate this through a good striking technique.

- I** 1. Know the names and functions of various parts of a handbell.
2. Be capable of ringing any two handbells in both 'rounds' and 'call changes', maintaining a good striking performance.
  3. Ring the trebles for a Plain Hunt to a maximum of eight bells.

#### 4. *Either:*

Ring the trebles for a touch of 120 with No. 2 as an inside bell working in a standard method.

*Or:*

Ring the tenors for a touch of 120 of a standard method with the leading tenor (such as 5 or 7), working as an inside bell.

*Or:*

Ring two inside bells for a plain course in a standard method of more than five bells - minor, triples or major.

5. Explain in general terms how a handbell is made and tuned.
6. Write out plain courses of at least two standard methods or show a knowledge of these methods.

*Note:*

*Examiners may make appropriate amendments to G in respect of carillon bells.*

## BOY SCOUT BADGES (continued)



Two other badges are known other than the mainstream ones above:



Left is the Bell Ringer Merit Badge awarded by the Catholic Boy Scouts of Ireland and right is the Bell Ringer badge awarded by the Baden-Powell Scouts Association, which split from the Scout Association in 1970



Bells feature on a number of the badges issued by the Boy Scouts of America. Some examples are shown below, but none of these has any connection with bell ringing.

