



St. Thomas More – Đức Mẹ La Vang (STM-La Vang or STM-LV)

Troop 2778

SCOUTING AMERICA MISSION

To prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetime by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

OUR PASSION

We are passionate about and strongly committed to ensuring that STM-LV Scouts strengthen their relationship with God and family, celebrate the Vietnamese culture, while having fun on the scouting journey.

OUR MISSION

With a focus on faith, family, and community, inspire confidence and a strong work ethic in our scouts to pursue their dreams.

OUR CULTURE

A person is not defined by titles, nor material possessions. We believe that our culture should not only be visible in our actions as a scout, but also in our daily lives.

The Story of St. Thomas More

St. Thomas More was born in London on February 7, 1478. He was a lawyer but was inspired to follow the faith practice and simple piety of the Carthusian monastery monks. He became Lord Chancellor and a loyal servant to King Henry VIII. However, he was convicted of treason when making the ultimate decision to follow his faith and moral principles by not condoning King Henry VIII's actions. He died on July 6, 1535 by execution. Before his death, he made a final statement, proclaiming that he was "the king's good servant, but God's first." St. Thomas More was canonized on May 19, 1935.

NOTE: We selected 2778 (St. Thomas More's date of birth) as our registered troop number with Scouting America.

The Story of Đức Mẹ La Vang (Our Lady of La Vang)

In the late 18th century, the Nguyễn Dynasty, ruled by Emperor Cảnh Thịnh, ordered the persecution of all Catholics, who were seen as a threat to the traditional Vietnamese way of life. A group of Catholics sought refuge in the rainforest of La Vang in Quảng Trị Province, Vietnam. They gathered every night to pray the rosary. One night, an apparition of a beautiful woman appeared before them wearing the traditional Vietnamese dress, áo dài, while holding a baby in her arms with two angels beside her. She offered them comfort, healed the sick, and encouraged them to trust in God and pray. The group of Catholics recognized her as the Virgin Mary and venerated her as Our Lady of La Vang.

What is Scouting America?

Sir Robert Baden-Powell, aka Lord Baden-Powell, is a British Army Lieutenant General, born on February 22nd, 1857. He founded the Scout Movement in 1907. The main theme of Scouting is taken from The Jungle Book story (by Rudyard Kipling).

William Boyce, an American business man, learned about Scouting while passing through London during his first expedition to Africa in 1909. When Boyce became lost in the dense London fog, he was guided back to his destination by a young boy, who told him that he was merely doing his duty as a Boy Scout. Boyce met Lord Baden-Powell and was so impressed with what he learned that he decided to bring Scouting home with him. On February 8, 1910, Boyce and a group of outstanding leaders founded the Boy Scouts of America. From that day forth, Scouts have celebrated February 8th as the birthday of Scouting in the United States.

“The Jungle Book” Story

A young boy got lost inside the deep Seonee Jungle, when he was chased by the tiger **Shere Khan** and the hyena **Tabaqui**. As he was crying, a family of wolves from a nearby den decided to protect him from the brutal animals, and let him live with them in the den. The mother wolf **Raksha** named the boy, Mowgli. Because he was still a stranger to the pack, the boy must be introduced to **Akela**, the elder wolf, for acceptance.

Upon the next full moon night, the wolf family brought the boy to the Wolf pack meeting at the Council Rock. Akela would allow the boy to remain in the pack, only if at least two other animals of the jungle agree to help raising him. **Baloo**, the bear offered to raise Mowgli by

teaching him the law of the jungle and the law of the pack. **Bagheera**, the panther committed to teach Mowgli how to hunt for food. Since then, Mowgli lives like a wolf in the jungle. Other animals, such as the elephant Hathi and the snake **Kaa**, also teach Mowgli how to live in the jungle. Meanwhile, Shere Khan keeps chasing after Mowgli, and persuades the bad monkeys **Bandar-log** to distract Mowgli. They hope that the boy would eventually break the laws, and be expelled from the pack. However, the wise boy Mowgli kept obeying the laws and lived up to his promises.

Main Characters:

Akela: Eldest wolf, leader of the Pack.

Baloo: Bear teaching Mowgli the Law of the Jungle and the Pack.

Bagheera: Black panther teaching Mowgli hunting skills.

Hathi: Elephant entertaining the wolves and teaching Mowgli discipline

Raksha: Den's mother wolf.

Kaa: Snake who rescues Mowgli from the Bandar-log

Bandar-log: Naughty and trouble-making monkeys.

Shere Khan: Tiger who loves to hunt for children.

Tabaqui: Hyena, the lazy scavenger.

Meaning of Scouting America First Class badge



The badge is shaped like the north point on an old compass. The design resembles an arrowhead or a trefoil-- a flower with three leaves. It is also known by the French name fleur-de-lis, which means lily or iris flower. It is the basic shape of the badges used by Scout organizations in other countries, too.

The three points of the trefoil stand for the three parts of the Scout Oath.

The two stars on the badge. They symbolize truth and knowledge.

The shape of the scout badge means that a Scout can point the right way in life as truly as does a compass in the field.

The knot at the bottom of the scroll represents the Scout slogan,
Do a Good Turn Daily.

The eagle and shield stand for freedom and a Scout's readiness to
defend that freedom.

The scroll bearing the scout motto is turned up at the ends as a
reminder that a Scout smiles as he does his duty.

Meaning of Hướng Đạo Việt Nam badge



The design resembles the red lotus, the Vietnamese national
flower. The top part of the lotus is shaped like a compass needle,
indicating that the Scout must choose the right direction.

The 3 petals symbolize the 3 Scout Promises.

The “Sắp Sẵn” ribbon symbolizes the Scout smile. “Sắp Sẵn”
which means “Be Prepared” is also the Scout motto.

The knot at the bottom of the scroll represents the Scout slogan,
Do a Good Turn Daily.