

As most Ceremonies mark progress and give recognition to the participants, their importance is obvious. The founder himself pointed out that Investitures in all Sections are private ceremonies to the particular Section concerned. It must not be thought, however, that ceremonies are something secret in Scouting. All we do, we do openly. A Joey Scout is welcomed in front of the Mob and his/her parents or guardian, a Cub Scout is invested in front of the Pack and a Venturer Scout is usually presented with a Queen's Scout Award in the presence of a large number of people.

When *Scouts* make their Promise, it is important they recognise the fact that it governs, not only their conduct, but that the act was witnessed by their peers.

In spite of the openness of our ceremonies, it is undesirable that any Investiture should be carried out as a public function. If it is desired to demonstrate such a ceremony, then the demonstration should be carried out by persons already invested and who are selected because they can carry out the ceremony with accuracy and dignity.

The question is often asked if parents should be present, particularly at Investitures. The answer is simple. If *Scouts* would like their parents to be present, they may certainly be invited. However, they should not be present without the *Scout's* approval. They should be advised that such ceremonies are important family occasions. The preparation for a ceremony is most important. It involves rehearsal with the candidate concerned and the planning of the program. The atmosphere of the meeting just prior to the ceremony must be right. Rehearsal simply requires the Leader to go over the details with the *Scout* involved. Too much rehearsal can ruin the effectiveness of the ceremony.

It is equally important that all Assistants, and any other invited Leaders, should be fully briefed in the procedure for the ceremony.

Most ceremonies have more significance if they are conducted in the open, on an outing, or in camp. Wherever it takes place, those participating must speak loudly enough for all present to hear quite clearly what is being said.

Throughout the ceremonies book you will find many references to an adult leaders role in ceremonies and the presenting of badges/awards. We encourage you to consider how you could involve the youth leaders of your section into ceremonies and presentations

SMARTNESS

Rightly or wrongly, the quality of the goods is apt to be assessed by the wrapper on the package. What is true of a selling line is equally true of Scouting.