

communications, as first aiders, and in actual rescue work. Units could work to achieve the skill level needed and the ability to mobilize quickly. Once this is achieved, practice is needed to maintain ready status.

### **Lost-Person Searches and Mountain Rescues**

Some troops and posts have become experts at finding lost persons and participating in mountain rescues. Excellent training in related skills is a must. Only units prepared for such emergencies should be assigned, since untrained groups tend to create rather than solve problems.

### **Get-Out-the-Vote Campaign**

A natural follow-up to a registration campaign is an effort to get every eligible voter to the polling place. This calls for an educational and promotional campaign aimed at reminding citizens of their right and duty to vote. The campaign must be nonpartisan. Before the election, distribute get-out-the-vote materials. On election day, Scouts may be stationed outside polling places to "babysit" young children, hold packages, assist elderly or handicapped people, and provide "I have voted" badges to voters, leaving them as a reminder to others.

### **Help Start Scouting Units for the Handicapped**

Mentally and physically handicapped boys get at least as much benefit and fun from Scouting as other young people. Scout executives and the chartered organization and extension committees should be urged to have units assist in the formation of new units for the handicapped. A regular unit can "adopt" a new pack or troop for the handicapped and help it get started.

### **Mark Invalids' Homes**

In cooperation with fire departments, install amber reflectors (or other distinctive devices) over the front doors of homes where handicapped persons live. Then if a fire breaks out, the firefighters will know immediately that a handicapped person lives there. A similar device can be placed on the

door of the person's bedroom to help firefighters find it in an emergency.

Fire departments generally provide large "I" insignia, usually placed on the downstairs front window near the door or on the glass of the front door. A similar device is placed on the window of the invalid's room. Caution: Be sure you have the approval of everyone living in that home before placing markers.

### **Aid Shut-Ins**

Many partially handicapped persons live alone and have difficulty in dealing with the day-to-day task of living. Units can "adopt" one or more of these people and visit them regularly to run errands, read, help write letters, shop, or just visit.

### **Restore Historic Sites**

Often a place of importance in local or national history falls into disrepair and is gradually forgotten. Older Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, or Explorers can research the site to find out all they can about it, and then reconstruct it. A reconstructed historic site can become a tourist attraction and source of pride to the community. It is important in a project like this that thorough research be done and an adult consultant be secured before construction starts.

### **Refurbish Monuments**

Honor rolls of soldiers from a community who served in the nation's wars are sometimes neglected and become eyesores rather than effective memorials. Other monuments may also suffer from inattention. Older Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, or Explorers can tackle the job of cleaning them up or of conducting a campaign to replace them. Troops should be urged to accept the job of maintaining the monuments for a year after refurbishing.

### **Collect Christmas Toys**

In many communities, new and used toys are collected for distribution to needy children at Christmas. Units can assist by making pickups of toys, making posters to advertise the campaign, helping to stockpile toys, cleaning and repairing used toys, and delivering toys to the agencies that