

The following is a summary of the badges in Series 1 dating pre 1968. More detailed information on the Badges of the Boys Brigade can be found in the book: **Badges of the Brigade - A history of badges in the BB by Robin Bolton** available to purchase from BB Supplies online at <https://shop.boys-brigade.org.uk>

The boys can do their own research on the badges and either draw the relevant badge in the boxes below or paste images in from online research. There are lots of images of BB badges on sites such as ebay, google images and specialist collector's sites for example.



Ambulance Badge/First Aid Badge

Obtained by completing The Boys' Brigade course followed by a three part examination: written; oral; and practical. Subsequent advanced certificates were introduced for higher standards, denoted by coloured felt cloths behind the badge. It was discontinued in 1968.



Sergeants' / NCO's

Proficiency Star: 1902 - 1968

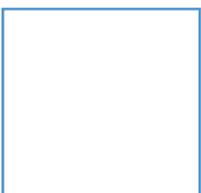
The design was changed to the post union crest in 1927. This design was used as a medal prior to this, certainly as early as 1895. Lance Corporals and Corporals could gain the NCO's certificate, the Star Badge restricted for Sergeants, hence the name. After gaining the NCO's certificate a Sergeant took a practical examination for the Star. Based on instruction within "The Boys' Brigade Drill & Rifle Exercises" the exam would be conducted by an Army or TA Officer or Sergeant other than the candidate's own local Boys' Brigade Officers. In 1947 the title was changed to NCO's Star and could be gained and worn by Lance Corporals and Corporals.



Buglers' Badge:

1909 - 1968

It was awarded after attainment of a satisfactory standard of proficiency on the Bugle.



Scouts' Badge: 1909 - 1968

Major General RSS Baden-Powell was a great friend of William Smith and was made an Honorary Vice-President of the Brigade in 1903. By 1904 he suggested that some sort of Scout Training would be popular with the boys and in 1906 Baden-Powell gave the BB the

manuscript of "Scouting for Boys". An experimental Scout Camp was held in 1907 with a group of 10 boys from BB Companies in Bournemouth and Poole and 10 boys from public schools. Scouting was originally intended for use within existing organisations, but by 1908 the 'Boy Scouts' had become an organisation in its own right. Scouting still existed as part of the programme in other organisations for some thirty years. A BB 'Scouts badge' was introduced in 1909, silver coloured and at first holding no class but in 1911 a new Gold Scout's Badge, 1st Class, was introduced, making the silver a 2nd Class award (gained prior to the gold). In 1917 the gold was discontinued and the silver reverted to first class status. The test to gain the badge included:

- Write from memory the Object.
- Know the composition of the Union Flag.
- Tie four out of five specified knots.
- Swim 25 yards.
- Name 15 out of 20 objects viewed for 30 seconds
- Semaphore signal the alphabet / numbers.

Scouting within the BB was discontinued in 1927 on the union with the BLB. Most of the activities being included in the Signallers' and Wayfarers' Badges.



Signallers' Badge: 1911 - 1968

This was an activity many companies ran from the early years probably awarding brass army badges for it. Signalling was also one of the qualifications for the BB Scouts' Badge. It required the minimum of two sessions plus the Semaphore and Morse certificates and various tests:

- Read either Semaphore or Morse messages, each of ten groups of figures or letters.
- Send two similar messages as above.
- Correct use of "Procedures and Miscellaneous Signals" in section 42 of the Boys'

Signallers' Badge
continued...

Brigade Signalling Manual. Requirements changed over the years and from 1964 an advanced award existed.



The Band Badge:

1914 - 1968

The first official BB Band badge, originally awarded to players of instruments other than Bugles, Pipes or Drums.



The Life Saving Badge:

1914 - 1968

The BB became affiliated to the Royal Life Saving Society in 1913. In 1964 the test became more rigorous; the qualifying age was raised to 15 years of age and an Advanced Certificate introduced, denoted by a red circular felt behind the badge. This badge was discontinued in 1968.



The Gymnastic / Physical Training Badge:

1917 - 1946

Gymnastics is a long established activity in the BB. Some companies had gymnastic teams as early as the 1890's. As part of the award restructuring after the Second World War physical activities were reviewed.



The Drummers' Badge:

1921 - 1968

Like many of the BB proficiency badges BB Boys had worn a drummer's badge long before the official badge was introduced in 1921 to complement the existing band and buglers badges. Boys had to have attendance for two sessions of band work with 90% attendance at a minimum of 25 practices. Drumming Patterns to be successfully played were: Long Roll; Seven Stroke Roll; Eleven Stroke Roll; Four Flams and Four Drags. In 1964, advanced certificates at two levels were introduced until the badge was discontinued in 1968.



The Pipers' Badge: 1921 - 1968

Along with drumming it was one of the last musical proficiency badges to be introduced. As with the other three music badges two sessions of band work with 90% attendance at a minimum of 25 practices were needed. Other requirements included the ability to play correctly a Slow March, Quick March, Strathspey and a Reel of the Pipers own selection. From 1964 two advanced awards were available, involving knowledge of the theory of music and ability to re-tune bass and tenor drones. This badge was discontinued in 1968.



The Arts and Crafts Badge:

1927 - 1968

With origins from 1912 in BLB. Topics for this badge included singing, drawing, carpentry, metalwork, fencing, photography, etc.



Athletics Badge: 1946 - 1968

It was awarded for reaching the required standards in Running, Jumping and Throwing and replaced the Gymnastics Badge which was then renamed the Physical Training Badge.



The Campers' Badge: 1927 - 1968

Awarded for attendance at camp and knowledge of Campcraft.



The Education/Citizenship Badge: 1927 - 1968

The title changed to Citizenship in 1959/60, with the introduction of the Scripture Knowledge Badge. Certificates in three out of five topics were required for the Education Badge one gained each session. Topics were International Relations; Temperance; Gambling Evil, Scripture Knowledge and Citizenship. With the change in title the topics became Local Government, National Government, Judicial System, Social Responsibility, Church Organisation and Government. An advanced certificate was also introduced.



The Fireman's' Badge:

1927 - 1968

This was one of the few badges not to be preceded with a certificate. Boys had to be a minimum of 16 years of age and had to take a course of at least ten lessons with 90% attendance and then pass a practical examination, preferably conducted by a Fire Services Officer. Aspects of the course included: methods of rescue; artificial resuscitation; treatment of burns; burning clothing and use of fire appliances. In 1964 a certificate was introduced involving, where possible, a fire station visit.



The Swimming Badge:

1927 - 1968

To gain this badge the boys had to have the ability to swim certain distances and to dive. Discontinued in 1968



The Wayfarers' Badge:

1927 - 1968

Boys had to be a minimum of 13 years of age and hold the Wayfarer's Certificate. Tests involved: Knowledge of Knots and their Uses; Use of Compass and Protractors; Working knowledge of a 1" OS map with reference to signs and contours and the ability to identify various trees, flowers and birds. Finally the Boy had in one day to either walk a distance equal to his age, cycle 50 miles or climb a mountain to at least 2,000 feet. Several changes of badge style occurred over the years, one being the garments of the walker, knee breeches, long trousers or shorts. This Badge was discontinued in 1968.



The Seamanship Badge:

1946 - 1968

Run in conjunction with the Signallers, as the Morse Certificate was needed. A substantial oral examination involved knowledge of Nautical Terms, Rules of the Sea, Chart Abbreviation and aspects such as Knot Tying and Rope Splicing were included. A practical test, on the water, to demonstrate the correct practices for getting underway, manning and mooring a boat was also needed. In



reality few companies had facilities for such courses and the badge was rarely awarded, making it extremely difficult to find today.



The Scripture Knowledge Badge:

1959 - 1968

BB was built on the twin pillars of faith and drill but the first Scripture Knowledge Badge was not introduced until 1959. The BLB had a Scripture Knowledge Badge but with the union in 1926 no badge was in the list of awards. Scripture Knowledge was included in the syllabus of the Education Badge but this element was withdrawn from the Education Badge when it was renamed Citizenship. Boys were required to gain, in three successive sessions via written tests, three certificates. Three advanced awards could then be gained denoted by a red, blue or white felt cloth worn behind the badge.

The Expedition Badge:

1964 - 1968

This was the last of the nickel series of badges and was introduced in 1964. It was designed to cover the regulations for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, within the BB programme. Therefore, a boy going for his DofE could gain this badge when the expedition element was completed. To gain this badge boys had to have a knowledge of map reading and Campcraft combined with an Expedition of at least 30 miles with two nights' camping.

