

## **The Country Code**

An understanding of the spirit and content of the Country Code and practical observance of its terms is an important part of an Award Venture. Assessors will be as careful to watch for infringements of the code as they will be able to watch for faulty route finding and poor tent pitching.

### **1. Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work**

The public is on trust in the countryside. Respect the property and the livelihood of the countryman. If the opportunity occurs, try to explain your purpose to the local farmer and thank him for his co-operation. Permission to camp must always be obtained from the landowner or appropriate person.

### **2. Guard against all risk of fire**

If a party discovers a fire, efforts should be made to stamp it out or, if the blaze is too large for the group to deal with, help should be obtained from the Police, Fire Brigade or Forestry Commission Officers.

### **3. Fasten all gates**

A gate should be walked through and not climbed over and the last person in the group should carefully re-fasten the gate.

### **4. Keep your dogs under close control**

### **5. Keep to public paths across farmland**

In the more cultivated areas of the country, footpaths must be followed carefully. In the mountains, effort must be made to find the proper path from the road to open hillside. On narrow paths keep in single file.

### **6. Use of gates and stiles to cross fences, hedges and walls**

There is seldom any excuse for crossing a wall or fence by any other way than by the stile or gate provided. Being on an award scheme venture is a reason for making a detour to avoid damaged walls, etc not a reason to take shortcuts.

### **7. Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone**

### **8. Take your litter home**

All camp litter must be removed from the site and deposited in a way-side litter bin when next possible. It should not be buried.

### **9. Help to keep all water clean**

Many rural communities use stream water direct. Washing-up should be done away from the stream and grease and fat poured into the earth.

### **10. Protect wildlife, plants and trees**

Remember that there should be little or no evidence of the fact that an expedition has passed through or camped in an area.

### **11. Take special care on country roads**

These are usually narrow and winding and should be avoided wherever possible. If it is necessary to use them for short distances, keep to the right and walk in single file.

### **12. Make no unnecessary noise**