Since the dawn of time, people have gathered around a campfire for safety, nourishment, and fellowship. A campfire creates comfort from the cold, transforms darkness into light, and protects family and friends.

There have always been connections at a campfire. It brings people together, lights our world, and colors our memories. It provides heat for cooking, a beacon when needed, and a safe place to gather. Around a campfire, there are no strangers. A campfire calls us to gather, connects us to one another, and leads us to build and share our community. It may be the one experience every human has in common.

As a campfire reaches its intense peak, with its heat and sparks rising upward into the nighttime, mixing with a starlit sky above, it is easy to ponder the wonder of the natural world, the universe beyond, and the meaning of life itself. All of that, and more, is part of the magic of a campfire.

Today, a Scout campfire continues to be a place where friendships form, songs are sung, laughter is shared, and lessons are learned. Stories and skits are told and retold, as they have been by generations of America’s young people.

The new symbol chosen by the Alumni Association of the Boy Scouts of America is: a campfire. It welcomes you to rekindle your relationship with Scouting. Twelve rocks form our fire ring to remind us of our duty to live by the Scout Law, and the circle itself symbolizes the inclusiveness of Scouting. The sticks that burn brightly together remind us of our duty to one other; and like Scouting, the flames are eternal, bringing warmth and light to the world.