



Memorial Concept

National Memorial Arboretum

The simple campfire concept reflects the outdoor nature of Scouting as well as allowing people to remember the friendship, bonds and memories formed around campfires. Although a simple design it is symbolic of Scouting and contains a number of elements that Scouts, and anyone connected with the Movement, will immediately identify with. The figures, the fire and the lone neckerchief provide symbols of remembrance and contemplation that will make this a memorable and thought provoking memorial for all visitors to the National Memorial Arboretum.

Taking inspiration from the “Gone home” tracking symbol, an internationally recognised circle of stones left by Scouts at the end of their journey, the layout recreates a campfire environment using a series of carved stones and a central kinetic fire sculpture. Some of the stones will contain figures of youth members with different ages, genders and backgrounds reflecting the diversity of Scouting. The fact that they are in sleeping bags and resting after a tiring day indicates the active nature of Scouting. Watching over these young people will be an adult leader, recognising the constant care and nurturing that adult service within Scouting brings.

The focal point of the stone circle will be a kinetic fire sculpture. This absorbing and therapeutic sculpture will create an eternal flame, moving and flickering constantly with a breeze or with interaction adding colour and movement to the memorial, whilst also reflecting on the never ending warmth and friendship Scouting offers. The other stones around the campfire also play a very important part in the design. Onto one of them will be carved a single neckerchief in remembrance of scouts who are no longer with us, this stone will provide the focal point for remembrance within the design. Onto the other stones will be carved the “Scouting for boys” book, the 1st book on the Scout movement by its founder Robert Baden Powell in 1908, there will also be a carved flag with the Scout “fleur de lis” symbol as well as other objects relevant to the Scout movement and indicative of its history and background. To engage younger visitors there will be the chance to take rubbings of a number of objects around the memorial.

Around the diameter of the 8m circular memorial will be carved the names of over 200 countries where Scouting is active, creating a feeling that members of these countries are also invited around the campfire. Finally, reading around the sides of the carved stones will be an inscription which is taken from Robert Baden-Powell’s final message to Scouts – *“Try and leave this world a little better than you found it and when your turn comes to die, you can die happy in feeling that at any rate you have not wasted your time but have done your best.”*

The memorial will provide people with an opportunity to quietly sit and reflect whilst the figures ensure that they are never alone in their remembrance, as you are never alone in Scouting. It also provides the opportunity to take a Colony, Pack, Troop or Unit engage those young people at the memorial by completing the campfire circle and in doing so captures their time at the Arboretum.



Carved stone figures will accompany visitors in their Remembrance. A few sleep while a leader watches over them celebrating the active and caring nature of the worldwide family of Scouts.



The layout of the memorial is inspired by the 'Gone Home' tracking symbol used to represent Remembrance in Scouting.



The empty spaces on the stone seats will allow visitors to complete the circle around the campfire.

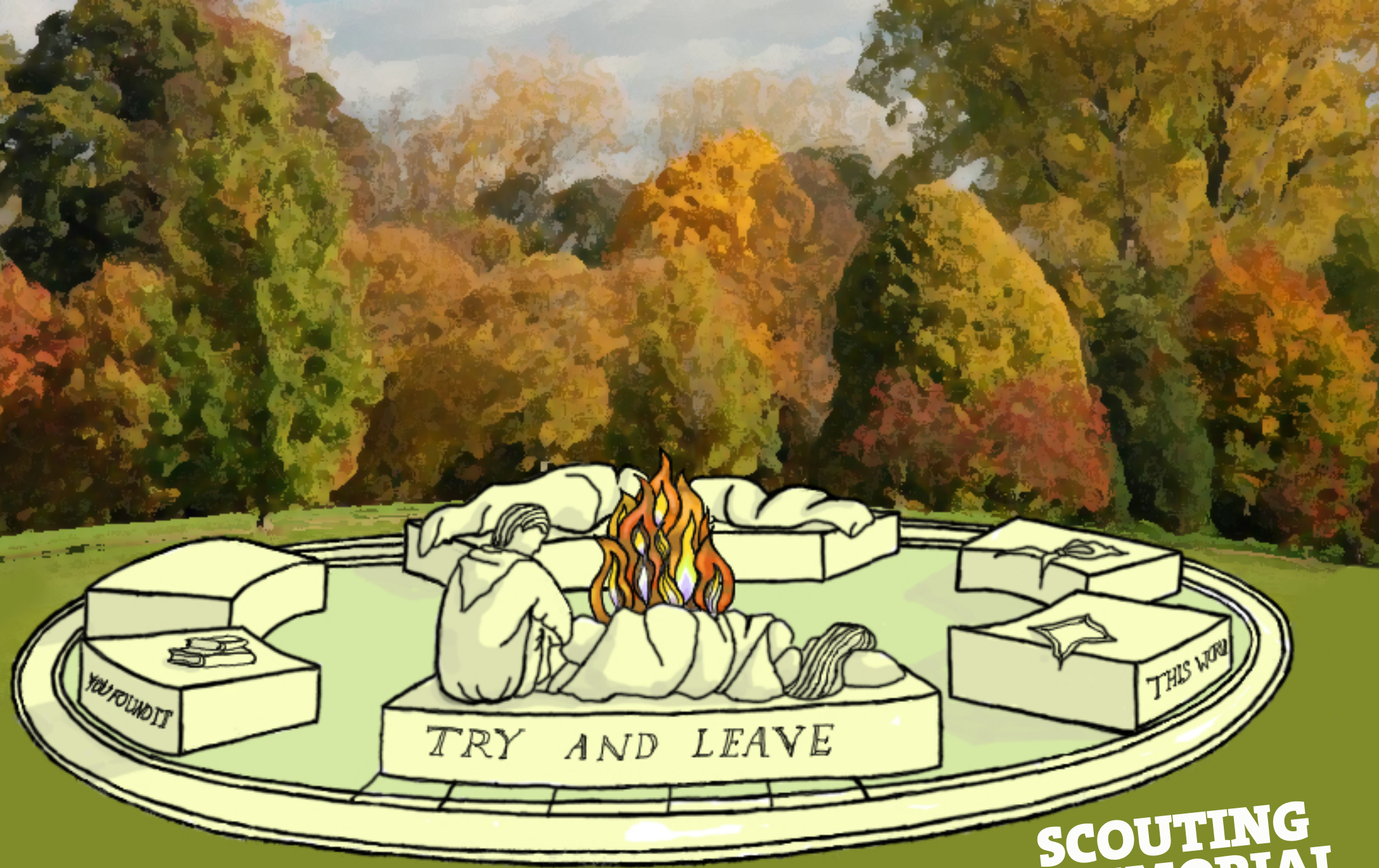
The memorial is a campfire scene symbolising the outdoor nature of Scouting. The focal point is a kinetic fire sculpture creating an eternal flame that moves in the wind showing the never ending warmth of Scouting.

A solitary stone Neckerchief sits beside the fire, remembering the Scouts that are no longer with us.



On the edges of the memorial will be the names of all the countries that have Scouting reflecting the worldwide family of Scouting. Around the stone blocks will be carved:
"Try and leave this world a little better than you found it and when your turn comes to die, you can die happy in feeling that at any rate you have not wasted your time but have done your best" Lord Baden-Powell

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