

## Introduction

For some time, The Scout Association has been aware of the need for a book that would help the leader who is new to running camp fires and folk events and which might also help the more experienced leader to add a little polish to his performance. There is a great deal that could be written on the subject; after all, camp fires have been going strong ever since the Founder's experimental camp on Brownsea Island in 1907 and there is a wealth of experience within the Scout Association as a stemingly endless repertoire of songs.

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On the other hand, camp fires and folk singing is nothing if not a practical business and no amount of theoretical knowledge can make up for the lack of organizing and seeing through your own successful evening. We have included a few pages on the preparation of the evening and the things they have given with the preparation of the evening.

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Remember, too, that your audience has its own taste and repertoire. Most camp fire songs are well known all around the country, although there will be local favourites and sometimes peculiarly local songs. Folk music is quite often localised and more popular folk songs may not be known to your audience that does not engage in singing very often. Make up your programme therefore, with the audience's taste and knowledge in mind, and include one or two songs that will be new; your evening is not going to be a music class but a relaxed and enjoyable occasion and people relax best with material that is largely familiar to them.