



44th Gloucester Venture Scout Unit

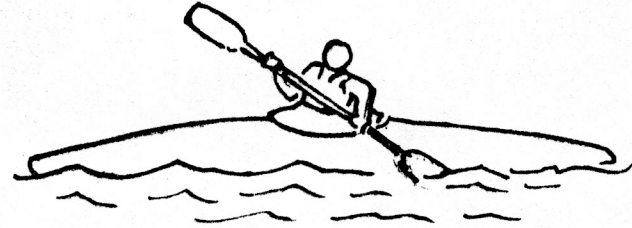
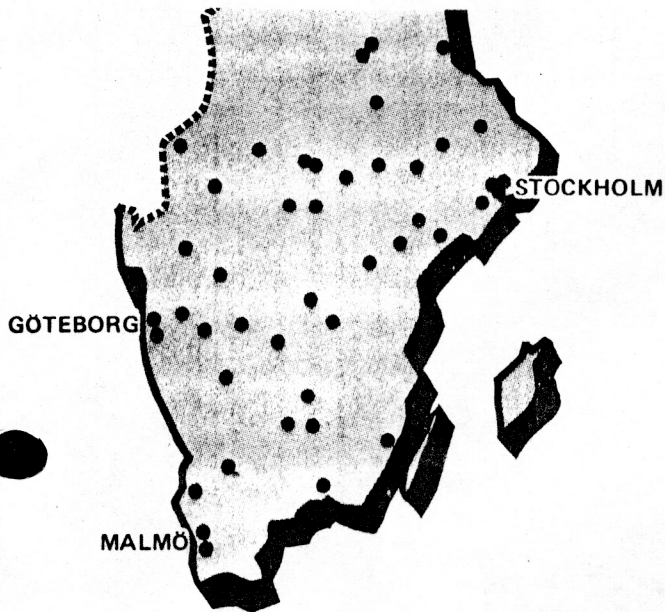
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PADDLE '81

Last summer a party of Venture Scouts from the 44th Gloucester (Sir Thomas Rich's School) Venture Scout Unit spent 10 days working at the Nansen International Children's Centre in Norway. This year director of the centre has invited a small group from the Unit to participate in a major fund raising project - PADDLE '81.

The project as a whole is an adventurous undertaking involving a group of canoes being paddled across the Baltic from Helsinki in Finland to Stockholm in Sweden, then through the inland waterways of Sweden to Gothenburg, and finally up the coast to Oslo, the capital of Norway. The whole expedition will take six weeks, but the Venture Scouts will be involved in the middle section, the 250 miles across the lakes and canals of Sweden.

The party is likely to consist of six senior members of the Unit, at present in their last year at school, together with two leaders. Two fibreglass canoes will be made in the near future, one for the expedition and a spare, and during the actual expedition two venture scouts will be canoeing whilst the others are acting as a support group, and helping out with the general running of the project as a whole.

The aim of the project is to raise funds in this, the International Year of the Disabled, to help finance an N.I.C.C. international interchange scheme for disabled children in 1982. We are therefore looking for sponsorships for the canoe and hope that local businesses may be interested in supporting us. The expedition will be accompanied by a P.R. team, and sponsors will be able to make available advertising material to the public through the travelling information centre.

The Unit is also hoping to gain some financial assistance from any interested bodies to help defray the costs of venture scouts on this adventurous and worthwhile project.

Frank Henderson V.S.I.

FEBRUARY 1981