



## Plast: Ukrainian Scouting Organization

<http://www.plastscouting.org/>

March 16, 2020



- 
- Where is Ukraine?
  - Quick History of Plast - Ukrainian Scouting Organization
  - How Does Plast Look?
  - My Experience
  - Questions?



**Ukraine is the second largest country in Europe**

**Area: 603,700 km**

**Population: 46,299,862**



**Ukraine was part of Kievan Rus, the first significant East Slavic state, which succumbed to the Mongol invasions of the 13th century. Ukraine was for centuries ruled by a succession of foreign powers, including Poland, the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union. Ukraine declared its independence in 1991.**



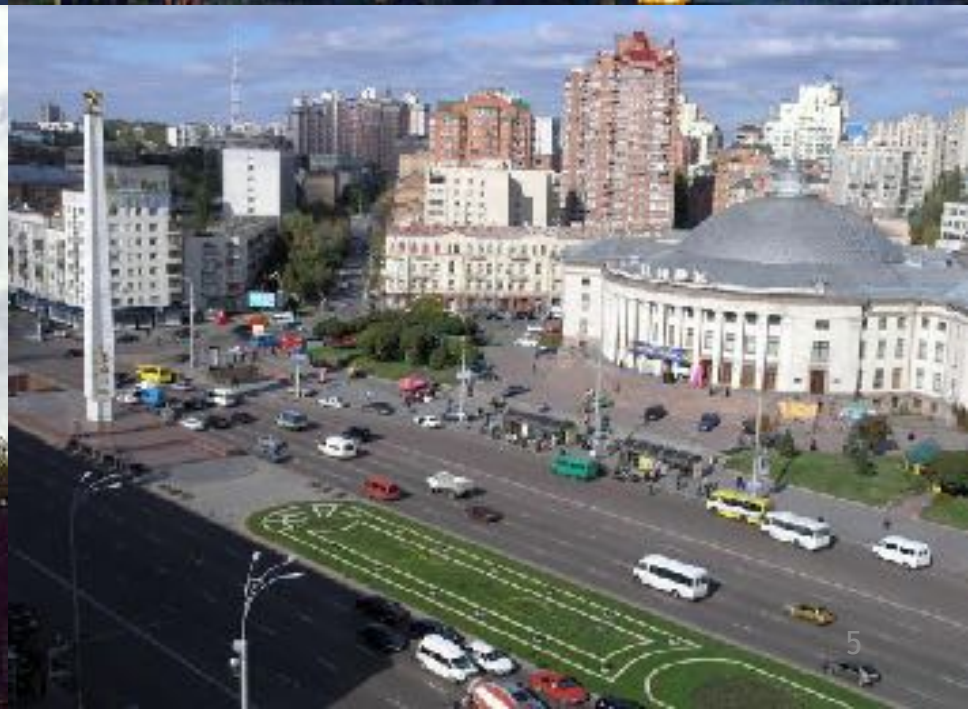
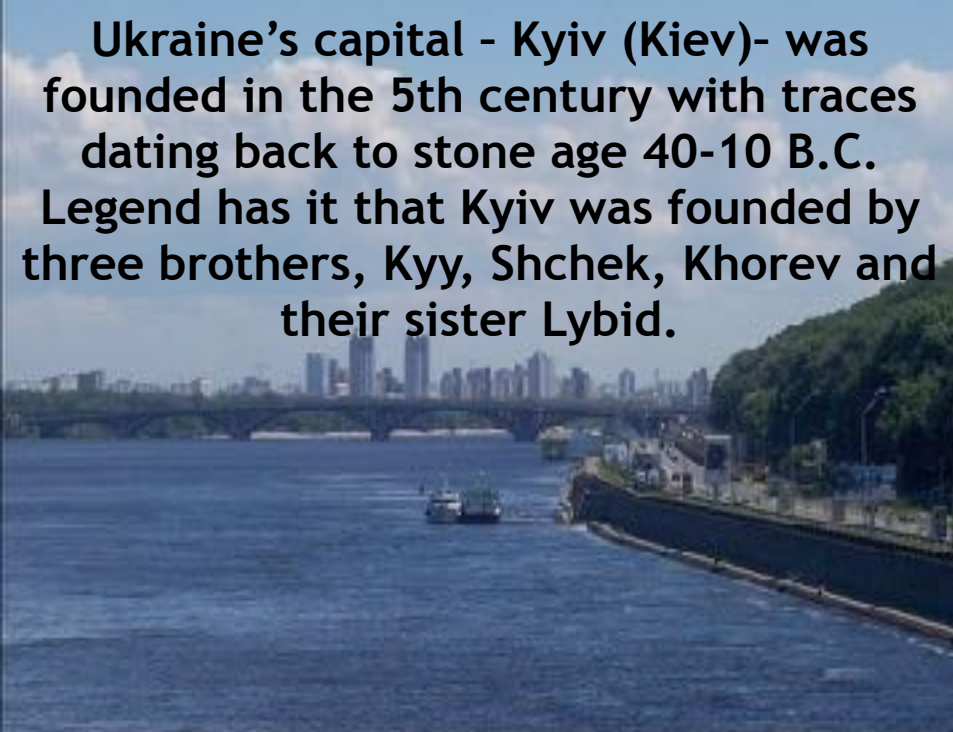


Ukraine's landscape is varied - fertile plains rich in natural resources and developed agriculture - lush Carpathian mountains to the West and the Crimean Mountains to the Southeast - and the Black Sea to the South





Ukraine's capital - Kyiv (Kiev)- was founded in the 5th century with traces dating back to stone age 40-10 B.C. Legend has it that Kyiv was founded by three brothers, Kyy, Shchek, Khorev and their sister Lybid.





**Lviv - the capital of western Ukraine - was founded in the 13<sup>th</sup> century.  
Population 800,000+.**





The Ukrainian Cossacks - dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century - were accomplished horsemen who built fortresses and fought to protect their lands from neighboring invaders. They are recognizable by their distinctive dress, including wide comfortable trousers and shaved heads with ponytails.

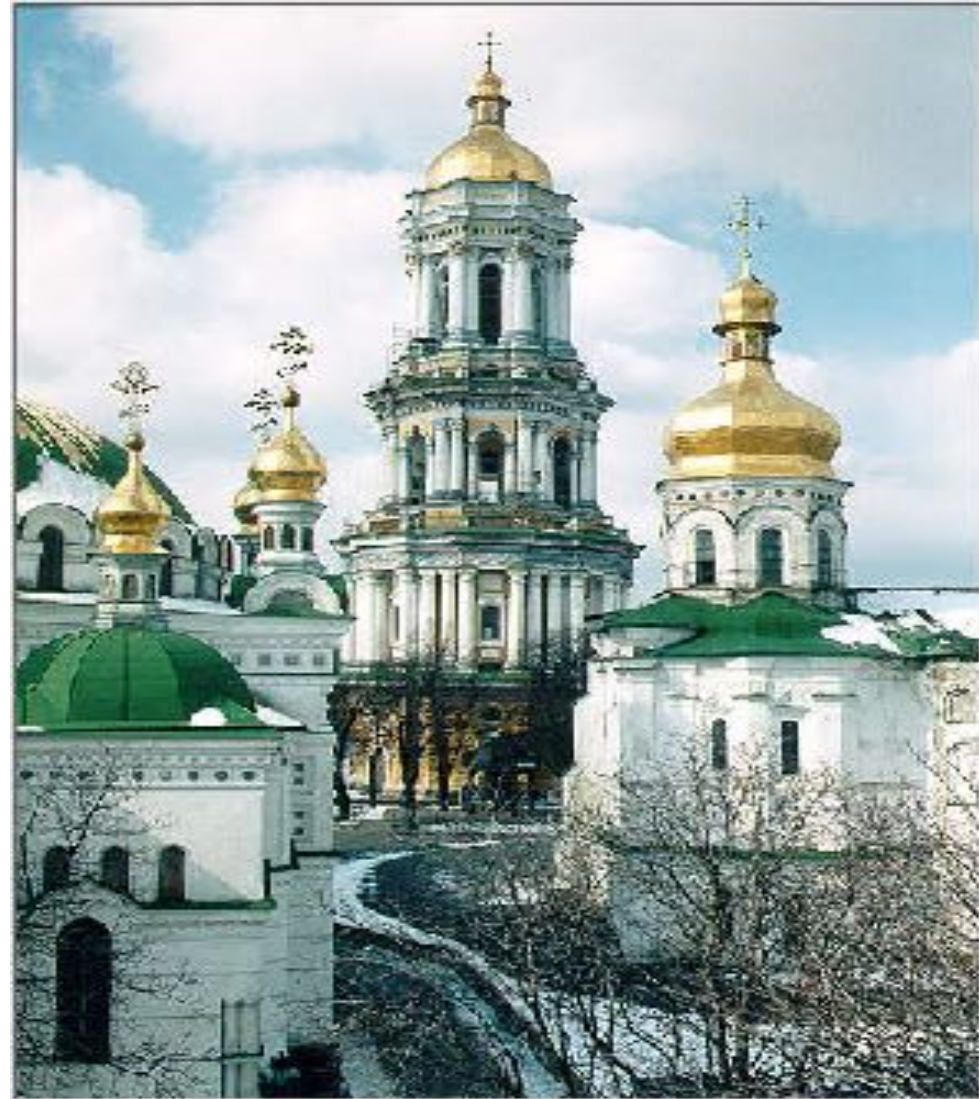




**Some of the most beautiful architecture in Ukraine can be found in the many churches throughout the country.**



**St. George's Cathedral - Lviv**



**Pecherska Lavra - Kiev**



**The Churches are also among some of the oldest buildings in Ukraine.**



**St. Sophia Cathedral in Kiev - built in 1037 by Prince Yaroslav the Wise - is the oldest surviving church in Ukraine**



**Church of St. John the Baptist - 13<sup>th</sup> Century - Lviv**

## Languages Spoken in Ukraine:

Ukrainian (official) 67%, Russian 24%, Romanian, Polish, Hungarian

А а Б б В в Г г Ґ ґ Д д Е е Є є Ж ж З з И и  
І і Ї ї Й й К к Л л М м Н н О о П п Р р С с  
Т т У у Ф ф Х х Ц ц Ч ч Ш ш Щ щ Ю ю Я я Ъ ъ

The Ukrainian Alphabet is the one the national variations of the [Cyrillic writing system](#) - comprised of thirty three letters





**Ukrainian Embroidery, Jewelry (Gerdan), Woodworking  
& National Instrument (Bandura)**







**Ukrainian**



**Easter Eggs**







Ukrainian



Folk  
Dancing





# Celebrity Ukrainians



Vera Farmiga- Hollywood Actress

Olya Kurylenko - Hollywood Actress

Klitschko Brothers - World Champion Boxers

Andriy Shevchenko - Soccer Player for

A.C. Milan & Ukrainian National Team

Wayne Gretzky - Professional Ice Hockey Player

Oksana Bayul - Gold Medal Figure Skater

Victor Petrenko - Gold Medal Figure Skater







**Borscht** is a [vegetable soup](#) which is traditionally cooked including [beetroot](#) as a main ingredient.



**Paska** is a [Ukrainian](#) ritual [bread](#) served at [Easter](#)



**Varenyky** are [crescent-shaped dumplings](#) of unleavened [dough](#), stuffed with [sauerkraut](#), [cheese](#), [mashed potatoes](#), [cabbage](#), [meat](#), or [fruit](#) filling.



**Kutia** is a sweet grain pudding, served as the first dish in the [twelve-dish Christmas Eve supper](#)



**Stuffed cabbage** is made of cooked [cabbage](#) leaves wrapped around rice and often beef or [pork](#) and seasoned with [garlic](#), [onion](#) and [spices](#).

# Plast - The Early Years: 1911 - 1920

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Plast was formed in Lviv, Ukraine in 1911:

- Founded by Dr. Oleksander Tysovsky
- Based on universal Scouting principles
- Plastun: Ukrainian name for a Cossack scout and sentry serviceman
- Plast was born during great social and political upheaval in Europe
- Ukraine was under occupation by the Austro-Hungarian Empire

By 1913, the first:

- Supreme Scout Council was formed
- handbook was published
- hiking camp was organized

By 1916 there were:

- more than 10,000 members with separate branches for Boys and Girls
- regular camps and training courses held
- a variety of Scout publications, including a Ukrainian translation of Scouting for Boys

Between 1914-1918 during World War I:

- Thousands of Plast boy scouts joined the armed forces, fighting on several fronts, and many gave their lives.
- Ukraine declared its independence





# Surviving Supression: 1920-1944

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In the 1920s, the Soviet Union:

- took power and Ukraine lost its independence
- abolished all non-communist scout activities

In an attempt to gain world recognition Plast Scouts:

- took part in World Jamborees at Arrowe Park in 1929 and 1933
- requested international recognition, but were denied on political grounds

In spite of numerous obstacles, Plast:

- saw high levels of membership among students, farmers and workers
- introduced a number of publications at this time
- Molode Zhyttia, (Young Life) the official periodical
- Dr. Oleksander Tysovsky's handbook, Zhyttia v Plasti (Life in Plast)

By 1939, World War II broke out:

- occupying German forces banned Plast and arrested participants
- A network of underground Plast Scout units formed in parts of central Ukraine.
- Many plastuny took up arms in various armies that traversed western and eastern Ukraine during the war.



# Post War Expansion: 1945 and beyond

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After World War II:

- Plast survived the war and began to flourish again in the displaced persons camps
- The mission of Plast was amended to emphasize maintaining Plast and Ukrainian culture and identity throughout the Ukrainian global communities.
- Plast established branches across many countries:
  - United States, Canada, Australia, France, Austria, the U.K., Germany and Argentina
  - Belgium, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Lithuania, Latvia and Kazakhstan
- Plast built over 30 facilities (domivky) where they could hold meetings on a weekly basis.
  - Albany, Boston, Washington, Hartford, Denver, Detroit, Yonkers, Kerhonksen, Cleveland, Los Angeles, New York, Newark, Passaic, Rochester, Philadelphia, Chicago, Baltimore, Bound Brook, Baltimore, Hempstead, Minneapolis, Syracuse, Seattle



Germany



Canada



Argentina



United Kingdom



Australia



# Plast Camps (Oselias)

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At one point there were over 12 Plast camp sites across the U.S. – three major ones remain



**Wolf's Den:**  
East Chatham, NY



**Colorful Rock:**  
Middlefield, OH



**New Eagle:**  
North Collins, NY

# Plast Camps (Oselias)

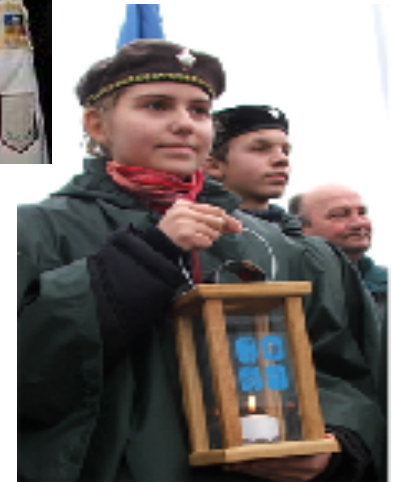




# Plast in Ukraine Today

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- After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Plast started to grow again in Ukraine.
- The first Plast camp in Ukraine was organized in the summer of 1989. It was raided by the Soviet secret police and several Scouts were beaten and arrested, but Plast continued.
- In 1989, Plast started to take part in the Peace Light of Bethlehem, a program started in 1986 in Austria as part of a charitable relief mission for handicapped children and people in need.
- The Peace Light has gone to more than 20 countries in Europe, as well as North America
- By 1995, there were 85 local groups and councils in Ukraine with over 3,500 Scouts.
- Today, Plast has over 10,000 members in Ukraine, and 3,000 members in other countries.



# Plast Celebrates its Centennial

In the summer of 2012, Plast celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a jamboree in Ukraine.

- Opening ceremony in Lviv – founding city
- Two week celebration
- 1,000s of Plast members from 10 countries
- 26 different scouting camps throughout Ukraine





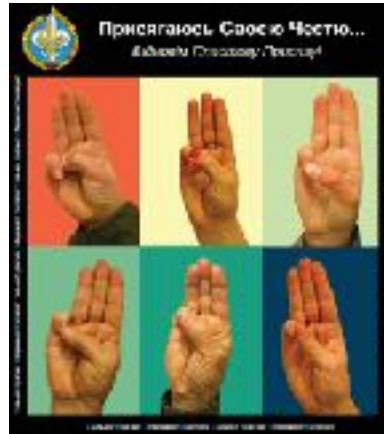
# Plast Scouting Oath, Motto and Tenants

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## Scout Oath

On my honor I swear that I will do everything in my power to:

- Be loyal to God and Ukraine,
- To help others,
- To obey Plast leadership and To live according to the Plast Law.



## Scout Motto

The Plast Scout Motto is SKOB!, an acronym for Syl'no!  
Krasno! Oberezhno! Bystro! meaning "Strongly!  
Beautifully! Carefully! Speedily!"

The Scout Motto for the younger Ukrainian Scouts is  
Hotuis! or "Prepare yourself!"

## A Plastun:

- keeps his (her) word
- is thorough
- is punctual
- is thrifty
- is just
- is courteous
- is brotherly and friendly
- is levelheaded
- is useful
- obeys Plast leadership
- is diligent
- cares for his (her) health
- cares for beauty
- is always optimistic

# Plast Program sections: Pre-Scouts - aged 4 to 6

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Membership in Plast is lifelong – and starts as early as age four

- Pre-Scouts - aged 4 to 6
- Called Ptashata pry Plasti or Little Birdies
- Starts with a one week parent run camp
- Kids come all the way from Sweden for the camp in upstate NY
- Then participate in year long activities
- Preparation for becoming a junior scout





# Plast Program sections: New Scouts - aged 7 to 11



- New Scouts - aged 7 to 11
- Called Novaky and Novachky
- Organized into a group or "riy" of 6 to 10 Scouts
- Within a particular area you can have several groups that are organized into a "hnizdo" or nest typically with 6 to 10 Scouts
- Each Scout has a rank, based on having completed a "proba" (levels), which is based on achieving a number of objectives including earning merit badges ("vmilosty")



# Plast Program sections:

## Scouts - aged 12 to 18

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- Scouts - aged 12 to 18
- Called Yunaky and Yunachky or Youth
- Organized into a hurtok (group) typically with 6 to 10 Scouts
- Hurtky are organized into "kurin"
- Kurin has its own flag, color and a patron
- Each Scout has a rank, based on having completed a "proba" (none, first, second and third), which is based on achieving a number of objectives including earning merit badges ("vmilosty").
- Those with the third proba are "skoby" (roughly equivalent to an Eagle Scout)



- A "skob" who has performed above and beyond the call of duty and has also amassed a substantial number of "vmilosty" is named "hetmans'kiy skob"
- A "skob" can also become a "skob aviator" or "maritime skob" with additional nautical or aeronautical training. There have only been a handful of such individuals.



# Plast Program sections: Aged Over 18

Scouts over 18 years of age:

- Organize into "kureni" - fraternities or sororities
- Each kuren has a particular focus – some in sports, some in maritime Scouting, hiking and mountain climbing, or even publishing.
- Kurens are usually organized by two age groups – Older Scouts those 18-35 and Senior Scouts those 35 and up

Male kureni include:

- Lisovi Chorty (Forest Devils)
- Burlaky (Ramblers)
- Order of the Crusaders
- Chervona Kalyna
- Chornomortsi (Black Sea-ers)
- Vovkulaky (werewolves)
- Khmelnytchenky



Female kureni include:

- Pershi Stezhi
- Chortopolokhy
- Lisovi Mavky (wood nymphs)
- Chornomorski Khvyli (Black sea waves)
- Ti shcho hrebli rvut'(those who break dams)
- Spartanky



# My Plast Experience: Camps and During the School Year

**Born:** February 27, 2004

## Camp – the Early Years

- Pre-scout parent run camps: July 2008-2010
- 1 week pre-scout sleep away camp: July 2011
- 3 week New-scout camp: July 2012-2015
- 3 week Scout camp: July 2016- 2019
- ZB - leadership camp: June - July 2019
- Eagle Scout camp: August 2019
- 2 week Advance Scout camp: July 2020

## During the Year: Scouting meetings every week

- Saturdays as a pre-scout and new scout
- Wednesdays as a scout
- Saturdays as a counselor to new scouts

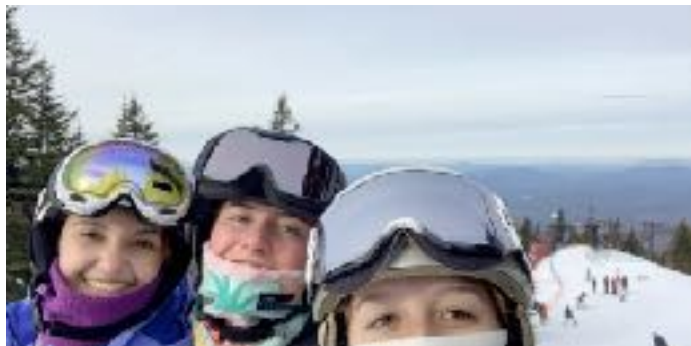




# My Plast Experience: Specialty Camps

## Special camps:

- UMPZ – International Jamboree
- U2 – Camp for soon to be seniors
- Vyshkeel – Counselor Camp
- Bulava – Serve as Camp Counselor
- Ski Camps (2017 - 2020)



# My Plast Experience: Special Events

## Special events:

- Sviata Vesny – Spring Competition
- Orklykiada – Fall Academic Competition
- Debutante Ball





# Requirements for Treta Proba: Plast Eagle Scout

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- **Biography**
- **9 projects across 5 themes:**
  - Key Responsibilities of a Plastun (3 projects):
    - The Pledge
    - Religion
    - Ukrainian language
    - Ukrainian community
    - Ukrainian traditions
    - Ukrainian artwork
    - Joint Good Deed
    - Contemporary Ukraine
  - Plast Ideals and Organization (3 projects):
    - History of Ukraine
    - Leadership
    - Developmental work
    - Plast Organization
    - World Scouting
  - Community Service (1 project)
    - Ambassadorship
    - Expansion of Knowledge of Ukraine
    - Community Service
  - Plast Activities (1 project)
    - Ukrainian song and music
    - Plast games (war games, sports, competitions)
    - Brotherhood
    - Press
  - Life in Nature (1 project)
    - Ecology
    - Plast bon fires
    - Field trip or hiking
- **Plast accomplishments**
  - 3 camps as a senior scout
  - All required merit badges
  - Physical Certification – 3<sup>rd</sup> level
  - Attends Ukrainian School

# My Treta Proba : Eagle Scout

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- **Key Responsibilities of a Plastun**
  - ✓ Ukrainian traditions – Ivana Kypala/Spring Solstice Celebration (August 2019)
  - ✓ Ukrainian artwork – Presentation on Jacques Hnisdovsky (August 2019)
  - ✓ Joint Good Deed – Toy Donation Drive for PeeWee Camp (April 2020)
- **Plast Ideals and Organization**
  - ✓ Leadership – Christmas Caroling (Dec 2019 - January 2020)
  - ✓ Developmental work – My work as counselor
  - ✓ World Scouting – My presentation to the Girl Scouts (April 2020)
- **Community Service**
  - ✓ Ambassadorship – Promotional Video for our Cultural Center (April 2020)
- **Plast Activities**
  - ✓ Plast games – Terrain Game (July 2019)
- **Life in Nature**
  - ✓ Ecology – Climate Change Presentation (August 2019)



# Questions

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or

Дякую (Dyakuuyu)