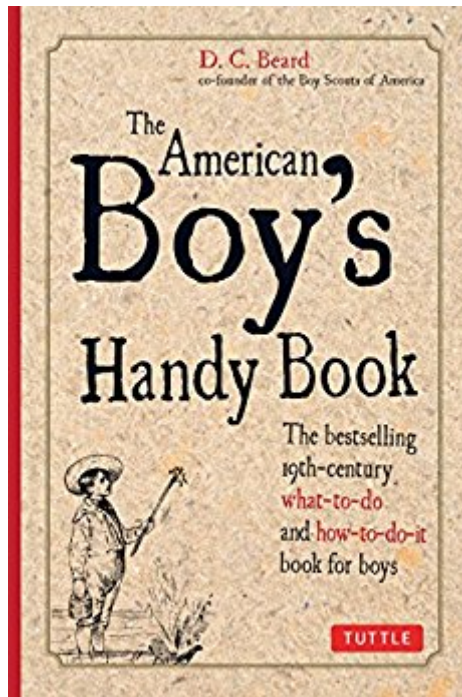


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The American Boy's Handy Book



Synopsis

Long before "danger" was a book for boys, there was The American Boy's Handy Book by Daniel Beard—a beloved classic by one of the original founders of the Boy Scouts of America. The American Boy's Handy Book was designed to provide hundreds of activities for restless young boys—adventures and games, indoors and out, in every season of the year. It was originally published in 1882 and became an instant bestseller. Now, this much-loved classic is back in print for a new generation to enjoy. If you're not too young to fly a kite, or too old to enjoy a day of good fishing, The American Boy's Handy Book is chock full of games and activities just for you! There's something for boys of every age and for every day of the year in this book: Building and flying your own kite Making an aquarium Rigging and sailing small boats Camping without a tent Making a corn stalk fiddle Daniel Beard, a founding member of the Boy Scouts of America, firmly believed in letting boys make their own playthings with their hands, to encourage them to value their own work and gain skills needed to successfully invent, construct and dream.

Book Information

File Size: 23683 KB

Print Length: 322 pages

Publisher: Tuttle Publishing (June 14, 2011)

Publication Date: June 14, 2011

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1462900380

ISBN-13: 978-1462900381

ASIN: B0055PF9WO

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #879,596 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #13

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Camping #65 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Reference > Almanacs

Customer Reviews

Gave this as a gift to my son for things to do with his son. Lots of great small projects and things to do. Also a lot of interesting things to know about and do with kids and a great way to get them away from the TV.

When I was about 8-10, and on into my early teens, I checked one book out of our public library more than any other. That book was "andy boo for boys," at least that is what showed on the cover. The book was very worn and the cover had been taped with black binding tape. In so doing the first and last letters of two words were covered. The book was "Handy Book for Boys." I was talking to my brother a couple of months ago and realized his grandsons would probably love the book. So I bought my brother a copy, as well as one for myself. When the book arrived at my brother's house, the grandsons immediately confiscated it and began to devour its contents. In today's world, with our children captivated by the phosphor screen in their rooms, this book is a window to possibilities that this generation has forgotten. The memories that a family will build with this book will be a legacy that will only grow with time. Right now, my brother and his grandchildren are building a "bunk house" in his back yard. Oh, the stories that will be told as the years pass! Delbert Freeman

This book can occupy a kid for almost their entire childhood with the ideas inside meanwhile teaching them a lot of things that most kids in today's world never do. Now I hear a lot of people talking about supposed racial slurs, yet there are no slurs at all, simply the terminology is of a different era. The book never uses the N word, but things like colored people which was the appropriate term in that era that was NOT derogatory. This book enthralled me from the first time I found it buried in our bookshelf and still does, I use it as a reference on how to make proper knots, or cool project ideas, finding ways to have a little adventure in my life. You will find complex projects that require a month of work, or ones that take ten minutes, it is a must for any American boy who wants to be more than just a gameboy kid who if stuck in a tight situation has no survival skills outside of suburbia.

I was a little skeptical when my daughter suggested I purchase this book for my 7 year old grandson. When I gave it to him to my delight, he could not take his eyes off of it. He could not wait until he could make some of the interesting things that the typical boy of today is deprived of. Of course, it requires some parental involvement, but it will provide worthwhile experiences for kids, their parents, and grandparents.

My Boy Scout troop had no interest in the material within this book. The book was written for my generation the boomers. A couple of the drawings were useful. But all in all for the high tech age of our youth the book was not helpful

I really didn't know much about this book but followed the reviews and bought this book for my grandkids for Christmas. The boys (10 and 8) have devoured this book and finding their noses inside this book became common.

I grew up with this book, and read it cover to cover more than a few times. This is the essential book for an active kid with some imagination and an industrious spirit. This book taught me, among other things, some pretty useful skills: How to build a tree fort How to tie a fishing knot How to build a bolas (and throw it!) How to make a fish aquarium from scratch How to build a lean-to shelter How to sleep outdoors without camping gear How to treat wounds without medical supplies These are just a few of the things included in the book. While it is written in a slightly archaic tone (it was published in the 1880s, so that's to be expected) the information it includes will delight any child who enjoys being outdoors and who is willing to take it upon themselves to create instead of consume. I will have this book readily available for all my children as they grow up, and will willingly help them make/do anything it includes within reason. This book was remarkably important to my childhood, and the sense of wonder that it offered at my own potential to achieve, create, and enjoy has stuck with me into adulthood. I can't recommend it highly enough.

Thank you so much for this book. I bought it as a gift for my daughter's newborn son. My son-in-law read it cover to cover and said he can't wait to try out so many of the great outdoor and project oriented ideas in this book. It will become part of their library for years to come.

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