

Ging Gang Goolie - a Scouting Song



Surely nothing can better capture the essence of the scouting movement than the rousing echoes of 'Ging Gang Goolie' sung around the [campfire](#). As identifiable as the badges, the tent and the woggle, the song was written by founder [Lord Robert Baden-Powell](#) himself as a rousing anthem for the youth of all nations. The supposedly nonsense lyrics have long been a source of intrigue and amusement, but the loss of innocence coupled with some over-protective attitudes may yet consign this classic to the bonfire for good.

The Song

Ging gang goolie goolie goolie goolie watcha,

Ging gang goo, ging gang goo.

Ging gang goolie goolie goolie goolie watcha,

Ging gang goo, ging gang goo.

Hayla, oh hayla shayla, hayla shayla, shayla, oh-ho,

Hayla, oh hayla shayla, hayla shayla, shayla, oh.

Shally wally, shally wally, shally wally, shally wally,

Oompah, oompah, oompah, oompah.

Typically sung around the campfire as a two-part round, the first verse is sung throughout by all. At the end, the first group will keep repeating 'Oompah' while the second group starts again. When the second group reaches 'Hayla' the first group will join in again from this point. At the end of the verse, the groups split once again, but switching parts. The third verse ends abruptly for all at the 'Oom' of the first 'Oompah'.