

Scouting Facts: Austria



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Scouting started in Austria in 1910 and in 1912 Pfadfinder Österreich (Austrian Scouting) was started. This Association was founded by Captain Emerich Teuber after a visit to London where he read a copy of B-Ps "Scouting for Boys". During the following years Scouts spread quickly through the country.

In 1931 Austria was host to the 6th World Scout Conference which was held at Baden and then in 1951 to the 7th World Scout Jamboree at Bad Ischl. The Jamboree was visited by 12,800 Scouts from all over the world.

In 1976 Austrian Scouting merged with the Austrian Girl Guides to form the Pfadfinder und Pfadfinderinnen Österreich (Scouts and Guides of Austria). This is now one of the largest youth organisations in Austria.

The training programme is divided into eight different themes which are repeated within the separate age sections. The themes are:

To live according to your religious faith.

To be a responsible member of the community.

To cultivate worldwide ties.



To make a critical analysis of ourselves and the people around us.

To foster a love of nature.

Preparedness for the adventure of life.

Creative activity.

Physical recreation and sport.

There are four age sections in the Association;
Wolflinge/ Wichtel aged 7 - 10 years

Spaher/ Guides aged 10 - 13 years

Explorers/ Caravelles aged 13 - 16 years

Rovers/Rangers aged 16 - 19 years.

The programme in the youngest section is based upon games and learning to work in small groups (sixes), in the Scout/Guide section the members work in patrols on a test system combined with games. In the older two sections the members are trained to work on their own as well as in groups

Motto:

Wolflinge/ Wichtel - As well as I can

Spaher/ Guide - Always Prepared

Explorers/ Caravelles

Rovers/ Rangers - To see, To understand, To act

The Scout Information Centre

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Promise:

On my honour I promise that I will do my best -
to do my duty to God and the fatherland,
to help other people
and to obey the Scout Law.

Law:

1. The Scout/ Guide searches for the way to God
2. The Scout/ Guide is loyal and helps where he/she can
3. The Scout/ Guide respects all people and tries to understand them.
4. The Scout/ Guide reflects, decides and then acts accordingly.
5. The Scout/ Guide conserves and protects nature
6. The Scout/ Guide is joyous and in good spirits even under difficulties.
7. The Scout/ Guide makes use of his/her capabilities.
8. The Scout/ Guide leads a healthy life.

The Association has a section for handicapped Scouts, called 'Scouts/Guides like anybody else'. In previous years these Scouts formed groups on their own but now they are integrated with the able-bodied Scouts. This is advantageous to both as it teaches how to live together.

General information about Austria may be obtained from:

Austrian National Tourist Office
30 St. George Street
London W1



Austria Embassy and Consular Section
18 Belgrave Mews West
London SW1