

# Scouting Facts: Ghana



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Scouting in Ghana started in 1912 as a Branch of The Scout Association. In 1960 the Ghana Scout Association became a direct member of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM).

also received skill training in farming and they are making good use of it in their various regions.

The Ghana Scout Association has been encouraging its members to include more community services among their Scout activities. The Scouts help the community by getting the people to talk about their needs and then the Scouts help the people to carry out the projects, such as building health centres, new schools or community centres, digging wells and erecting market shed. In most cases the Scouts start the project and later they convince the people to join in, when it can be made clear that the scheme will benefit the community and not just the Scouts. In parts of Ghana there are few trees and lots of open spaces with very little shade; therefore in the north of the country Scouts have planted shade trees and they have advised people to plant trees around their houses to protect them, and to avoid storms destroying their homes. A wire – weaving venture has been established to give employable skills to scouts in the region as well.



Scouts and their leaders receive training through various courses and programmes at the National Training Centre at Sakyikrom near Nsawam in the Eastern Region of Ghana. Village Health Patrols are also trained there who speak to people especially those in the villages on how to protect themselves from acquiring the HIV/AIDS virus. This exercise is very popular among the Volta Region Scouts. Scouts in the Ashanti region, Brong Ahafo region and the Greater Accra have

Sea Scouts in Ghana helped to run fish raising stations under the nation's "Operation Feed Yourself Programme". When traffic changed from driving on the left hand side to the right, the Scouts helped to make the change over as smooth as possible, by directing traffic thereby preventing many a mishap. Rovers and Leaders do many community services in cities and urban towns - for instance in Accra, the capital, they repair, damaged roads by filling in pot holes; they also visit churches and hospitals, they help desilt choked gutters and clean certain towns and sensitise the residents on the need to keep their environment clean always etc. to render services free of charge and encourage such residents to join the movement, since there are more to benefit in scouting than the cleaning of the areas. In recent times, scouts have adopted the theme "pick up rubbish, don't drop any" and occasionally visit targeted areas (principal streets and slum areas) exercising this theme together with the inhabitants. Scouts have also created a rapport with orphanages in and around Accra through clean-up exercise and donations to the orphanages. Cub Scouts visit kindergartens to encourage children to join the Movement when they reach Cub age. Scouts and Guides have

## The Scout Information Centre

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mixed activities and there is close co-operation with other organisations such as the Red Cross, HOSA, YMCA, YWCA..

There are four Sections in the Ghana Scout Association:

Cubs aged 7 - 11 years

Scouts aged 11½ - 14 years

Ventures aged 14 ½ - 17 years

Rovers aged 17 - 22 years

Motto: Be Prepared.

The Scout Promise:

"I promise that I will do my best, To do my duty to God and to my country, To help other people at all times, And to keep the Scout Law"

The Scout Law:

1. A Scout is faithful and can be trusted.
2. A Scout is useful and helpful.
3. A Scout is friendly.
4. A Scout is a brother to all Scouts.
5. A Scout is kind to animals and has reverence for all living things.
6. A Scout is obedient.
7. A Scout is courageous and cheerful.
8. A Scout makes good use of his time.
9. A Scout takes care of his own possessions and those of other people.
10. A Scout is self-controlled in all he thinks, says and does.

The Cub Law:

"A Cub is cheerful, obedient and honest and thinks of others before himself".

Uniform:

Cubs: green shirt, green shorts

Scouts: forest green shirt, green trousers.

Rovers: brown khaki shirt, green khaki trousers.

The colour of the scarf will vary from Groups and Districts

Further information on the country and the Ghana Scout Association may be obtained from:

Office of the National Headquarters

Location: High Street, Accra

Address: P. O. BOX GP 108, ACCRA – GHANA

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