

# Scouting Facts: Japan



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Scouting was first introduced to Japan by a professor in Hiroshima College in 1909. However, it was not until 1915 that Scouting started to spread around the country. The Federation of Boy Scouts of Japan was formed in 1922 and became one of the founding members of the International Scout Conference. In 1944, due to the war, the Federation was dissolved, but Scouting continued. After the war in 1946, the National Association of the Boys Scouts of Nippon was established and resumed the full membership of the World Scout Conference in 1951.

In 1971, Japan was host to the 13th World Scout Jamboree which was held at Asagiri Heights in the foothills of Mount Fuji. The Jamboree was attended by 23,758 Scouts from 87 countries. The 23rd World Scout Conference was held in Tokyo after the World Jamboree.

The National Association was re-named as Scout Association of Japan (SAJ) in 1995. SAJ has opened the doors to the girls/female youth in all Sections at the same time.

A National Jamboree is held in Japan every four years, attended by Scouts from all over the world. For older Scouts named Venture Scouts, a National Camp called "Nippon Venture" is held every four years between National Jamborees since 1983. Scouting in Japan has four training sections for the boys and girls.

Beaver Scout aged 6-8

Cub Scouts aged 8 - 11 years

Scouts aged 11 - 14 years

Venture Scouts aged 14 - 18 years

Rovers aged 18 - 24 years

The first four sections have a progressive badge system. The first badge in each section is for "orientation", to allow a new member a period in which he can learn about the section.

To develop individuals' own interest and specialties, each section has a choice of Proficiency Badges.



**The Scout Information Centre**

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Slogan: Do a daily good turn.

### **Beavers**

Promise:

1. I get along with everybody else.
2. I follow the Colony Laws.

Colony Laws:

1. Beaver Scouts play cheerfully.
2. Beaver Scouts take good care of things.
3. Beaver Scouts do good deeds.

Uniforms:

The Beaver Scouts' uniform consist of a brown vest with pocket coloured light blue, short trousers, blue socks, chief with the ring and a light blue cap.

Age(Progress) Badges:

Beaver Badge, Big Beaver Badge

Skill Awards:

Leaf Award (38 details) and Twig Award (5 Subjects)

### **Cubs**

Cub Scout Motto: Always, Be in High Spirits

Promise:

I promise to behave honestly and steadily, and to follow the Pack Laws.

Pack Laws:

1. Cub Scouts obey
2. Cub Scouts look after themselves
3. Cub Scouts work together
4. Cub Scouts help younger ones
5. Cub Scouts do good deeds

Uniforms:

The Cub Scouts' uniform consists of a blue shirt and shorts or long trousers, a Group scarf and a blue Cub cap.

Age (Progress) Badges:

Risu (Squirrel) Badge for orientation period, Usagi (Hare) Badge, Shika (Deer) Badge, Kuma (Bear) Badge

Skill Award:

Challenge Awards (38 Subjects)Badges:

### **Scouts to Scouters**

Scout Motto:

Be Prepared

Promise:

On my honor, I promise I will do my best to do my duty to God (or Buddha) and the country, and to obey the Scout Laws, to help other people at all times, and to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

Scout Laws:

1. A Scout is faithful
2. A Scout is friendly
3. A Scout is courteous
4. A Scout is kind
5. A Scout is cheerful
6. A Scout is thrifty
7. A Scout is courageous
8. A Scout is thankful

Uniforms:

The other sections wear a khaki shirt with either khaki shorts or trousers, a Group scarf and an old style Scout hat. Senior Scouts and Rover Scouts can wear green shorts or trousers, by the decision of each Unit.

Badges:

the classes are: Scout (orientation), Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class and Kiku (Chrysanthemum).

The Rover Section does not have a badge system. Instead, the section helps each Rover to develop through outdoor activities and service to others.

Progress Badges:

In the Scout section, there are four badges to encourage Scouts to perform character-Building and skill-development activities in Patrols. They are Sho-Kyu (Tenderfoot), Ni-Kyu (2nd Class), Ikkyu (1st Class), Kiku (Chrysanthemum, the highest lank in Boy Scout section)

The four classes in the Senior Scout section are: Green Senior (orientation), Senior, Hayabusa (Falcon), and the highest class, Fuji, the name of Japan's highest mountain.

Skill Award:

Skill Awards (21 subjects) for Scouts, and Proficiency Badges (72 subjects) for Venture Scouts. After obtaining 2-Kyu Badge, Scouts can also challenge Proficiency Badges

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Additional information about Japan may be obtained from:

URL: <http://www.scout.or.jp/e/index.html>

or

Email: intl@scout.or.jp

**Membership of the Scout Association of Japan**

<b>(Youth Sections &amp; Groups)</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Scouts</b>	<b>Leaders</b>
Beaver Scout Section (aged 6-8)	2,203 Colonies	13,962	7,268
Cub Scout Section (aged 8-11)	2,638 Packs	32,086	14,492
Scout Section (aged 11-15)	2,658 Troops	31,700	10,071
Venture Scout Section (aged 15-19)	2,411 Units	15,217	5,087
Rover Scout Section (aged 18-24)	1,585 Crews	10,709	2,420
Group Committee	2,763 Groups		26,519
Scout Club	120 Clubs		858
(Japanese Scout Parliamentary Association)			(203)
Prefectural Scout Councils	47 Councils		114
National HQ	1		68
<b>Total</b>		<b>103,674</b>	<b>66,897</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>170,571</b>

**(as of September 2006)**

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