

# The Promise



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Scouting is available to all faiths and must therefore take account of the different religious obligations of its Members. Similarly, people of other nationalities resident in the United Kingdom, who may become Members of the Association, owe allegiance to their own Country. To meet these circumstances, there are different forms of the Beaver Scout, Cub Scout and Scout Promise that can be made, allowing for the individuals obligations while upholding the essential spirit of the Promise.

The phrase 'to love God' and 'duty to God' implies belief in a Supreme Being and the acceptance of Divine Guidance. In each Promise the phrase 'Duty to God' or, in the case of Beaver Scouts, 'to love God', is suitable for most faiths (including Christians, Hindus, Jews, Muslims and Sikhs).

Hindus may use either the words 'my Dharma' or 'God'. Muslims may use the word 'Allah' in place

of 'God'. Buddhists should use only the words 'my Dharma'. Muslims may use the phrase 'In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful' in place of 'On my honour' when making the Promise.

The Association provides advice where some other form of wording is required for a member of a particular faith or religion.

For people of other nationalities resident in the United Kingdom taking the Cub Scout or Scout Promise, the phrase 'duty ...to the Queen' may be replaced by 'duty...to the Country in which I am now living'. However, British subjects must promise to do their 'duty...to the Queen'.

The following tables show the different forms of the Promise:

The Beaver Scout Promise	The Cub Scout Promise	The Scout Promise
I promise to do my best to be kind and helpful and to love God.	I promise that I will do my best to do my duty to God and to the Queen to help other people and to keep the Cub Scout Law.	On my honour, I promise that I will do my best to do my duty to God and to the Queen to help other people and to keep the Scout Law.

## Variations

Religion or Faith	Beaver Scout Promise	Cub and Scout Promise for British Subjects	Cub and Scout Promise for Subjects of Independent Commonwealth Countries and Foreign Countries
Christian, Jew,	...to love God	...duty to God and to Queen	...duty to God and to the

## The Scout Information Centre

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[www.scouts.org.uk/scoutbase](http://www.scouts.org.uk/scoutbase)

Sikh			country in which I am now living
Muslim (see note 1)	N/A	On My honour... or In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent the Most Merciful...	On My honour... or In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent the Most Merciful...  ...duty to God and to the country in which I am now living or ...duty to Allah and to the country in which I am now living
(see note 2)	...to love God or ...to love Allah	...duty to God and to the Queen or ...duty to Allah and to the Queen	
Hindu (see note 3)	...to love God or ...to love my Dharma	...duty to God and to the Queen or ...duty to my Dharma and to the Queen	...duty to God and to the country in which I am now living or ...duty to my Dharma and to the country in which I am now living

## Notes:

1. For some Muslims there is a difficulty with the phrase "On my honour" because some Muslims are not permitted to "swear by" anything except Allah. The phrase "On my honour" indicates swearing by their personal honour. 'In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent the Most Merciful...' has therefore been provided as a comparable alternative.
2. There are many different approaches to Islam. Many will accept the term 'God' (meaning 'Allah') some Muslims may prefer to use their term 'Allah'
3. There are many different approaches to Hinduism. Some Hindus will accept 'God' but others do not agree with the concept of an omnipotent God and therefore will prefer to use 'my Dharma' (meaning 'the divine force which directs my life')
4. Where some other form of wording is required for a member of a particular faith or religion, advice should be sought from The Programme and Development Department.

In the case of Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts and Scouts the decision as to which form of wording should be used in any particular case will be made by the Group Scout Leader in consultation with the parents of the young person concerned.

In the case of Explorer Scouts, Scout Network members and adults the decision as to which permitted form of wording should be used in any particular case will be made by the District or County Commissioner as appropriate in consultation with the person concerned.

In making a decision it is important to:

- a. Recognise the individual's nationality
- b. Be fully aware of the exact nature of their faith or religion
- c. Ensure that the Promise taken is fully binding to them personally
- d. Provide literature on the Scout Movement for young person's parents (where the parents do not speak or read English, information should be provided in their own language)
- e. Assure parents of Members that their child's religious obligations will be upheld.