

Chapter 1

Fundamentals of Scouting

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The Purpose of Scouting

The purpose of Scouting is to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

The Scout Method

The Scout Method provides an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law, which is guided by adult leadership. In practice the method is best seen when young people, in partnership with adults, are:

- enjoying what they are doing;
- learning by doing;
- participating in varied and progressive activities;
- making choices for themselves;
- taking responsibility for their own actions;
- working in groups;
- taking increasing responsibility for others;
- taking part in activities outdoors;
- sharing in prayer and worship;
- making and living out their Promise.

The Scout Promise

(for Scouts, Explorer Scouts, the Scout Network and adults)

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.

The Scout Law

1. A Scout is to be trusted.
2. A Scout is loyal.
3. A Scout is friendly and considerate.

4. A Scout belongs to the world-wide family of Scouts.
5. A Scout has courage in all difficulties.
6. A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property.
7. A Scout has self-respect and respect for others.

The Cub Scout Promise

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.

The Cub Scout Law

Cub Scouts always do their best,
think of others before themselves
and do a good turn every day.

The Beaver Scout Promise

I promise to do my best
to be kind and helpful
and to love God.

The Beaver Scout Law

There is no formal Beaver Scout Law. The concepts expressed in the Scout Law are to be presented to Beaver Scouts through games, storytelling and other informal activities.

Rule 1.1: Variations to the wording of the Promises

- a. Scouting is open to all faiths and must therefore take account of the different religious obligations of its Members while upholding the essential spirit of the Promise.
 - b. 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).
 - c. Hindus may use either the words 'my Dharma' or 'God'.
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- d. Orthodox Muslims may use the word 'Allah' in place of 'God'.
 - e. Buddhists should use only the words 'my Dharma'.
 - f. Where some other form of wording is required for a member of a particular faith or religion advice should be sought from Headquarters.
 - g. Similarly it is accepted that foreign residents who may become Members of the Association owe allegiance to their own country.
 - h. To meet these circumstances the phrase 'duty to The Queen' should be replaced by the phrase 'duty to the country in which I am now living'.
 - i. In the case of Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts and Scouts the decision as to which permitted 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.
 - j. 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.