

Chapter 1

Fundamentals of Scouting

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The Purpose of Scouting

Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

The Values of Scouting

As Scouts we are guided by these values:

Integrity - We act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.

Respect - We have self-respect and respect for others.

Care - We support others and take care of the world in which we live.

Belief - We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.

Co-operation - We make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends.

The Scout Method

Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and:

- enjoy what they are doing and have fun
- take part in activities indoors and outdoors
- learn by doing
- share in spiritual reflection
- take responsibility and make choices
- undertake new and challenging activities
- make and live by 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 people of all faiths and of none and must therefore take account of the different religious obligations of its Members while upholding the essential spirit of the Promise.
- b. The following table shows the alternative wording of the Promise that young people and adults may wish to use to best reflect their own beliefs.

Religion or Belief (including no religion)	Beaver Scout Promise	Cub and Scout Promise (for British Subjects)
Christian, Jew, Sikh	...to love God	...duty to God and to The Queen
Muslim	N/A ...to love God or ...to love Allah	On My honour... or In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent the Most Merciful... ...duty to God and to The Queen or ...duty to Allah and to The Queen
Hindu	...to love God or ...to love my Dharma	...duty to God and to The Queen or ...duty to my Dharma and to The Queen
Humanist, atheist or no faith	... To be kind and helpful and to love our world To uphold our Scout values, to do my duty to The Queen

- c. Where some other form of wording is required for a member of a particular faith or religion advice should be sought from Headquarters.
- d. Similarly it is accepted that foreign residents who may become Members of the Association owe allegiance to their own country.
- e. 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'.
- f. In the case of young people the decision as to which permitted form of wording should be used rests with them, however in the younger Sections parents should be aware of the Promise chosen before the investiture ceremony.

- g. In the case of adults the decision as to which permitted form of wording should be used rests entirely with the adult concerned.