

## Scouting Symbols & Ceremonies

### Scout Sign/Salute



The Scout sign is made by holding your right hand at shoulder height in the position shown below left. It is used when ever someone makes or renews their Scout Promise.

The three outstretched fingers represent the three main parts of the promise and the circle between thumb and little finger represents the world-wide family of Scouting.

The Scout salute is made by holding your right hand in the same position, but with your first finger pointing to your right eyebrow (and your elbow out).

It is only used when in full uniform as a formal greeting or sign of respect e.g. when hoisting/breaking open the union flag.

### Scout Handshake

Scouts informally greet each other by shaking with the left hand. B.-P. adopted this from his time in Africa, when he had seen native warriors lower their left handed shields as a sign of trust and friendship.



### Investiture Ceremony

When you feel you are ready to become an Explorer Scout, you should make sure that you know the Scout Promise and Law and then talk to the Explorer Scout Leader. A time should be agreed with you for the ceremony to happen.

At the investiture, you will be asked to place your left hand on the Scout Flag (another symbol of Scout honour) and make the Scout sign with your right hand. You will then be expected to make your Scout Promise for the first time. All the other invested members will also make the Scout sign as they renew their promise with you and will be remembering their own investitures.

This ceremony is a celebration of your entry into the Explorer Scout Unit. Your parents are cordially invited to this ceremony. They are quite welcome to take photographs. Either way it is a very special event and the memory of it will stay with you for a long time.

