

Fundamentals of Scouting



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Introduction

Scouting is much more than an activity club for young people. Scouting is a worldwide, values based, educational movement.

Scouting believes that the world is a better place when people:

- are trustworthy, self-controlled and self-confident
- have self-respect and respect for others
- work together to serve other people and to improve society
- show responsibility toward the natural world
- have proper respect for possessions and property
- have an active religious faith

This factsheet considers the fundamentals of Scouting. By fundamentals we mean the Purpose, Principles and Methods of Scouting.

Purpose

The Scout Association has a clear purpose it is:

"To help young people achieve their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials as individuals, as responsible citizens and as Members of their local, national and international community."

Scouting is concerned with all young people without regard to origin, nationality, race, creed, physical or mental ability, gender, political or religious belief or sexual status. Scouting is barrier-free.

Scouting is not a youth club, but an educational Movement with a clear purpose. The Promise and

Law, if applied in daily life, can make our world a better place. Adults in Scouting should help young people to apply the Principles in their everyday lives.

Principles

Three principles underpin Scouting

1. Duty to self
2. Duty to others
3. Duty to God

1. Duty to Self

Scouting encourages young people to develop their own gifts and talents and to be responsible for who they become and what they do.

2. Duty to others

Scouting encourages young people:

- to share in the development of society
- to recognise and respect the dignity of other people
- to promote local, national and international peace, understanding and co-operation
- to protect the natural world

Scouts are not passive and are called to service to 'help other people'. This is a Scout's personal integrity, trust, honour and commitment that others value

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3. Duty to God

Scouting undertakes to help young people seek a spiritual dimension to life and try and live in a religious way.

Scouting is not a religious organisation and the Movement does not align itself with any particular religion. Scouting gives young people the opportunity to explore and value personal faith and deepen their relationship and commitment to God.

Scouting recognises that there are diverse ways in which God may appear to mankind. It is possible for young people to be unsure of the existence of God and remain a Member of the Association, but it is not possible for an atheist to hold a Warrant as a Leader.

The spiritual development Scouting seeks for its Members is encouraged by:

- Developing personal discipline and training
- Being involved in co-operative activities
- Understanding the world around them
- Creating a more tolerant and caring society
- Discovering the need for prayer and worship, both personal and shared.

The Association is not directly responsible for the religious education of its Members. The responsibility rests with Parents or carer, the religious community to which they belong and the Members themselves. Some Scout Groups are supported by religious bodies through sponsorship, as part of their pastoral care for young people.

Scouting and religion work in partnership, how this is demonstrated varies from faith to faith.

Scouting recognises many different faiths and religions, adults in Scouting have a responsibility to understand a little about the religions of all young people in their care.

Method

Scouting achieves its purpose and works well when young people enjoy Learning by Doing in partnership with adults. They do this by:

- taking part in a variety of activities
- exploring the outdoors
- participating in teams
- taking responsibility

The Programme gives young people the opportunity to Learn by Doing. The Programme is a seamless progression of training, activities and awards that covers everything young people do in Scouting from age 6 to 25.

The Programme is based around helping young people develop knowledge, skills and attitudes in the following six Personal Development areas:

- Body
- Mind
- Faith and beliefs
- Relationships
- Community
- Surroundings

The six personal development areas translate into the different Programme Zones for the different Sections.

Scouting succeeds when it is:

- fun
- attractive to young people
- fulfilling for adult Members
- trusted by parents and carers
- valued by society

For further information on the fundamentals of Scouting refer to Chapter 1 of *Scouting Essentials*.