SCOUTS®
South Africa



be prepared....

This is Scouting!

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Introduction

For more than a century SCOUTS South Africa, a volunteer organisation, has been dedicated to developing the youth of South Africa. By learning new skills and forming lasting friendships through the Scout programme, generations of Scouts have grown up to become some of our nation's most outstanding leaders.

The Scout movement was founded by Lord Robert Baden-Powell in 1907. The skills he learnt in South Africa, and fine-tuned on the first camp on Brownsea Island, have spread around the world.

At present, there are more than 30 million Scouts, in 161 countries throughout the world that belong to the World Scout Movement. South Africa is a member of the World Scout Movement.

Many youths and adults, boys and girls find enjoyment in the Scouts. By learning new skills, they are able to live better and happier lives.

As a new Pack/Troop Scouter and/or parent/ principal or teacher, we want to welcome you to our Scouting family, and we want you to understand how the programme works. This guide will help to explain.

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Who can join?

Membership is open to all boys and girls irrespective of their race or religious beliefs in the following age groups:

- Cubs 7 – 10
- Scouts 11 – 17
- Rovers 18 – 30

In some areas, movement from Cubs to Scouts is linked to the school grade system.

Adult leaders are all volunteers. Many were Scouts themselves or parents of Scouts, but anyone is welcome to join scouting as training is offered to the leaders.



What does Scouting aim for?

The aim of Scouting is to add to the development of boys, girls and young adults in achieving their full potential as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities by:

- developing their leadership skills;
- developing their character;
- training them as responsible citizens; and
- making them healthy in body, mind and spirit.

body, mind and spirit

How does Scouting achieve its goal?

Scouting uses a unique method of progressive self-education and committment to a simple code of living by making a Promise and Law.

Cubs have their own Promise and Law

The Cub Promise

I promise to do my best:
To do my duty to God and my country;
To keep the law of the Wolf Cub Pack;
and to do a good turn to somebody every day.

The Cub Law

The Cub gives in to the Old Wolf;
The Cub does not give in to himself/herself.



Scouts, Rovers and adult leaders have the Scout Promise and Law

The Scout Promise

On my honour I promise that I will do my best:

To do my duty to God, and my country;

To help other people at all times;

To obey the Scout Law.

The Scout Law

1. A Scout's honour is to be trusted.
2. A Scout is loyal.
3. A Scout's duty is to be useful and help others.
4. A Scout is a friend to all and a brother/sister to every other Scout.
5. A Scout is courteous.
6. A Scout is a friend to animals.
7. A Scout obeys orders.
8. A Scout smiles and whistles under all difficulties.
9. A Scout is thrifty.
10. A Scout is clean in thought, word and deed.



Learning by doing

"Learning by doing" is the natural way for children and young people to learn new skills. In Scouting, this takes place through result-driven, hands-on activities where Scouts can later evaluate what they have learnt. Learning by doing is far more meaningful, memorable, and long lasting and it deepens the understanding of concepts and mastering of practical skills. Our youth training programme is an advancement system where Scouts are allowed to progress at their own pace. It allows for experiental learning and contributes to their personal development.

Cub, Scouts and Rovers aquire Advancement Badges as part of their journey. The Advancement programme provides the core training e.g. first aid and emergency, hiking, camping, compass and mapping, knotting, pioneering, cooking, outdoor safety, conservation, cleanliness and topics relating to personal development.

The Interest Badges relate to a wide range of activities (sport, hobbies and useful skills) designed to broaden the outside interests of a Cub, Scout or Rover. These badges can be earned at any stage of the Advancement programme. Requirements for each interest badge are described in The Cub Trail, The Scout Trail and The Rover Trail.









We work in small groups

One of the greatest strengths of the Scout movement is its success in developing leadership qualities in young people. This is achieved by organising Cubs and Scouts into small groups, each usually with six to eight members.

In Cubs, these groups are called Sixes and one of the more senior Cubs are put in charge of each Six and is called a Sixer.

In Scouts, these groups are called Patrols and each Patrol has a Patrol Leader elected to manage the activities of the patrol.

In this way, the young leaders lead the other Cubs or Scouts and continuously learn better leadership skills by being held responsible and accountable for decisions they have made.

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Offering different interesting activities, programmes and community service projects

Scouting activities are planned around the interests and needs of the children and can vary from Group to Group. As Scouts go about these activities, they learn the Scout way of honesty, integrity, fairness and success in life!

Scouts are Messengers of Peace agents and this is done through community service projects, such as:

- growing vegetables in well-prepared gardens, which can help provide food for the family, school or local health care projects;
- cleaning up the countryside by picking up litter or cleaning a nearby river;
- doing first aid;
- learning job skills like electronics;
- volunteering to help at an orphanage or at a health clinic;
- preventing erosion; and
- learning and teaching literacy skills.

Scouts re-inforce the message in their area of care for the environment, their communities, their family and for animals. In this way, Scouts find out about citizenship (ubuntu) and how to live with each other in peace.

Join 30 million Messengers of Peace



What is in it for the girl/boy?

Scouting offers a fun way to learn how to be the best you can be in a healthy environment. It provides a sense of belonging and focuses on the following:

- character development;
- exposure to new interests;
- life skills e.g. HIV training and first aid;
- outdoor adventure;
- leadership training;
- teamwork;
- citizenship (ubuntu) and involvement in the community;
- and understanding and caring for the environment.

Scouting offers a fun way to learn how to be the best you can be in a healthy environment.

Organisation within Scout Groups

Sometimes there is only a Cub Pack, or only a Scout Troop, or even only a Rover Crew. One or more of the entities linked together form a Scout Group.



The Cub Pack

We all know the adventures described in the Jungle Book. The characters are jungle animals that children can relate to. So the adult in charge of the Cub Pack is called Akela which, in the book, is the name of the leader of the wolf pack. We call this person the Pack Scouter.



The Scout Troop

In the Scout Troop, the adult leader is called the Troop Scouter. When girls and boys reach 11 years old, they leave the Cub Pack and go up to the Scout Troop. This is a special occasion called the Going Up Ceremony. If a child has not been a Cub, then he/she may still join the Scouts.



The Rover Crew

Rovering can be described as a journey that equips young people with the 'tools' they need to tackle life's challenges. These 'tools' may come in many forms such as social skills, attitudes, management skills, etc. Young people often feel as though they are on the rollercoaster of life and are constantly facing new realities. Rovering joins young people together to define their own paths according to the Scouting Principles.



Parents

Parents are encouraged to help with Scouting activities. Cub Packs and Scout Troops are encouraged to form committees of parents to support them. One of the Parent committee's main functions is to raise funds to help pay for the running costs of the pack and the troop.



The Worldwide Movement

Our Movement is Scout centred. Our focus is on the young people we are helping to grow up as true Scouts.

We need to remind our Scouts that they are part of a worldwide Movement with over 30 million members. As they grow up they will come into contact with other Scouts who have also lived according to the same value system:

- Each Cub is part of a **Six**
  – they are part of a **Cub Pack**
- Each Scout is part of a **Patrol**
  – they are part of a **Scout Troop**
- Each Rover is a **Crew** member
  – they are part of a **Crew**
- One or more of these together form a **Group**
  – Every **Group** belongs to SCOUTS South Africa

SCOUTS South Africa is part of the international fellowship of 161 countries that forms part of the **World Organisation of the Scout Movement**.

Your Scouts will soon be ready to take part in the local events run by your Scout Region. Some may take part in national events such as the National Senior Scout Adventure, or a South African National Jamboree. They could also represent their country in one of the World Jamborees.

Each year there are more Scouts and more people, like you, who take Scouting seriously and help it grow.

For you and your community, this is the beginning of the great Scouting adventure.

About Us……

1st Greenside was established in 1953 and runs a Cub Pack, Scout Troop and a Rover Crew.

Cub meetings take place every Friday during the School term from 17:30 to 19:15 at the Scout Hall

Address: John McKenzie Drive
Victory Park, Johannesburg

GET INVOLVED!

GET EXCITED!

GET EMPOWERED!