

# The Promise



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Scouting is available to people of all faiths as well as people who are humanist, atheist or have no affirmed faith and therefore must therefore take account of the different religious obligations or non religious beliefs of its Members. Similarly, people of other nationalities resident in the United Kingdom, who may become Members of the Association, owe allegiance to their own Country. To meet these circumstances, there are different variations of the Beaver Scout, Cub Scout and Scout Promise that can be made, allowing for the individuals obligations while upholding the essential spirit of the Promise.

The Scout Association has a core Scout Promise and is fully committed as a Movement to exploring faith, beliefs and attitudes as a core element of its programme.

The phrase 'to love God' and 'duty to God' implies belief in a Supreme Being and the acceptance of Divine Guidance. 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).

Hindus may use either the words 'my Dharma' or 'God'. Muslims may use the word 'Allah' in place of 'God'. Buddhists should use only the words 'my Dharma'. Muslims may use the phrase 'In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful' in place of 'On my honour' when making the Promise.

The Association provides advice where some other form of wording is required for a member of a particular faith or religion.

For people of other nationalities resident in the United Kingdom taking the Cub Scout or Scout Promise, the phrase 'duty ...to the Queen' may be replaced by 'duty...to the Country in which I am now living'. However, British subjects must promise to do their 'duty...to the Queen'.

The following tables show the different alternative variations of the Promise:

## Core Promise:

The Beaver Scout Promise	The Cub Scout Promise	The Scout Promise
I promise to do my best to be kind and helpful and to love God.	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.	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.

## Variations:

Variation for	Beaver Scout Promise	Cub and Scout Promise for British Subjects	Cub and Scout Promise for Subjects of Independent Commonwealth Countries and Foreign Countries

## The Scout Association

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Christian, Jew, Sikh	...to love God	...duty to God and to Queen	...duty to God and to the country in which I am now living
Muslim (see note 1)  (see note 2)	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	On My honour... or In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent the Most Merciful...  ...duty to God and to the country in which I am now living or ...duty to Allah and to the country in which I am now living
Hindu (see note 3)	...to love God or ...to love my Dharma	...duty to God and to the Queen or ...duty to my Dharma and to the Queen	...duty to God and to the country in which I am now living or ...duty to my Dharma and to the country in which I am now living
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	.... To uphold our Scout values, to do my duty to the country in which I am now living

## Notes:

- For some Muslims there is a difficulty with the phrase "On my honour" because some Muslims are not permitted to "swear by" anything except Allah. The phrase "On my honour" indicates swearing by their personal honour. 'In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent the Most Merciful...' has therefore been provided as a comparable alternative.
  - There are many different approaches to Islam. Many will accept the term 'God' (meaning 'Allah') some Muslims may prefer to use their term 'Allah'
  - There are many different approaches to Hinduism. Some Hindus will accept 'God' but others do not agree with the concept of an omnipotent God and therefore will prefer to use 'my Dharma' (meaning 'the divine force which directs my life')
  - Where some other form of wording is required for a member of a particular faith or religion, advice should be sought from The Programme and Development Department.
- In the case of young people it is important that they choose and make a Promise that resonates with them and they can be proud to live by. The role of the Leader is to make young people aware of the options, explain what the Promise means, what the options for alternative wording are, and if the young person expresses a wish to explore alternative wording; depending on their age and maturity, discussing the decision with parents or carers. Ultimately the decision of which version of the Promise young people make lies with the young people, however in the younger sections parents should be aware of the Promise chosen before the investiture ceremony.

In the case of adult Members again it is important that they choose and make a Promise that resonates with them and they can be proud to live by. The decision as to which permitted form of wording should be used in any particular case lies entirely with the person concerned.