

The Fundamentals- Promise and Law

Transcript

The Fundamentals are key to all members of The Scout Association. They describe what we're trying to achieve and how we do it in everyday Scouting. There are three elements that make up the Fundamentals: the Purpose, the Values and the Method.

The Purpose of Scouting describes, in one sentence, what we are trying to do:

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

The Method helps us to think about exactly what we would see that would define good Scouting in action. Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and do the following:

- 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.

As Scouts, we are defined by a shared set of Values, which guides us in the way that we act, the decisions we make, what we say and how we treat people. There are five Values: Integrity, Respect, Care, Belief and Cooperation.

Integrity is at the very core of how we view ourselves and therefore, what we do. Scouts see the importance of being honest, trustworthy and loyal and that our world is better for us and for others if we act this way.

Respect influences how we feel about and treat ourselves, as well as others. It includes acceptance and inclusion of others even if they are different from us, whether they are family, friends or strangers. In many ways it is our respect for others that has helped Scouting to spread across the world.

Care is about action as well as a feeling. By actively caring for our surroundings and for people, Scouts create a better world for everyone, whether it is the natural environment or the built environment. This leads us to help other people.

Belief and its exploration helps Scouts to learn from other faiths and explore spirituality. Scouts are open and willing to explore faiths whether established or defined or not. Learning about other faiths, beliefs and attitudes can help to make the world a more tolerant and a less frightening place.

Cooperation means working with other people and building friendships with adults and peers. The key here is that this Cooperation and friendship helps us to do things that make a positive difference to the world so the relationships are active and worthwhile.

So, why are the Fundamentals so important? For some of you, these ideas may come intuitively, but for others, these may be a helpful way of guiding you in your role.

Understanding the Fundamentals can help empower you, enabling you to make decisions about how Scouting is delivered by understanding what we're trying to achieve.

Everyone will have a different way of describing the Fundamentals and it's important that you reflect on what they mean to you and how you can implement them within your role in Scouting.

Another way we help young people and adults alike to keep the Fundamentals in mind is through the Promise. The Promise is the oath taken by all Members as they commit to sharing the Values of Scouting.

There are a number of variations of the Promise to reflect the range of faiths, beliefs and attitudes within Scouting.

To support Members to live out the Fundamentals of Scouting, there is also the Scout Law. The Scout Law consists of seven statements that express Scouting values. The Laws are as follows:

- A Scout is to be trusted.
- A Scout is loyal.
- A Scout is friendly and considerate.
- A Scout belongs to the worldwide family of Scouts.
- A Scout has courage in all difficulties.
- A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property.
- A Scout has self-respect and respect for others.

All Members of Scouting agree to abide by this code. For younger Members, the Cub Law presents the same principles in age appropriate language.

By making the Promise and abiding by the Scout Law young people and adults are committing to doing their best to demonstrate the Fundamentals of Scouting. This is the foundation to support young people as they grow into responsible citizens and members of local, national and global communities.