

# Scouting Facts: Germany



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**0845 300 1818**

Scouting started in Germany in 1909 when Dr Alexander Lion translated the book- "Scouting For Boys" into German. Many groups of Scouts soon sprang into being, and in the same year British Scouts were invited to visit Germany.

and handicrafts. Special community needs through local conservation activities, working with marginal groups and helping the children in new suburbs.

The Ring Deutscher Pfadfinderverbände (German Scout Federation), which consists of 3 Associations, was recognised by the World Scout Conference in 1950. All 3 Associations maintain close contact with other Scout Associations in Europe and from their education standpoint, they influence youth policies in Germany. Their social commitment is expressed through assistance to developing countries, environmental conservation and work with handicapped children. There is well thought out cooperation between Guides and Scouts at all levels in all 3 Associations.

Motto: Allzeit Bereit (Be Prepared)

Bund Der Pfadfinderinnen Und Pfadfinder (The Guide & Scout Union)

Promise:

With confidence in God's help, I promise to live with you in accordance with the Scout and Guide law.

On 1 January 1976 the Bund Deutscher Pfadfinderinnen and the Bund der Pfadfinder founded this merged Association, open to boys and girls of all spiritual convictions. Three years of intensive preparation preceded this step and although there are mixed leader teams at all Levels, local groups may decide whether to have a mixed unit or cooperate in a close manner.

Law:

1. I will be helpful and considerate.
2. I will be respectful.
3. I will be a friend to all Scouts and Guides.
4. I will be honest and trustworthy.
5. I will use my own judgement and assume responsibilities.
6. I will not avoid difficulties.
7. I will acquaint myself with nature and help to conserve it.
8. I will become master of myself.
9. I will serve peace and the community I live in.

The programme emphasis is upon hiking, camping, social services, resocialisation of young criminals, work with socially handicapped children

## **The Scout Association**

Glwell Park Chingford London E4 7QW Tel + 44 (0)20 8433 7100 Fax + 44 (0)20 8433 7103 email [info.centre@scouts.org.uk](mailto:info.centre@scouts.org.uk) [www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk)

There are 3 sections in this Association:

Cub Scouts aged 7 - 11 years

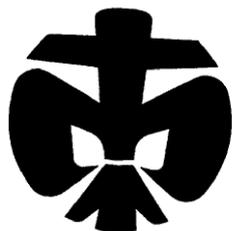


Boy Scouts aged 11 - 15 years

Ranger/Rovers aged 16 years upwards

Deutsche Pfadfinderschaft Sankt Georg (German Saint George Scouting)

This Catholic Association is the largest in Germany and about 20% of all units at all levels are mixed. The programme aims for the 4 sections can be described as follows:



Wolflinge (Cubs) aged 8 - 11 years

"Bring your life into the game with children"

Jung-Pfadfinder (Young Scouts) aged 12 - 14 years

"Working together with others, so that strangers may become friends"

Pfadfinder (Scouts) aged 13 - 16/17 "Take your chance!!!"

Aged 16/17 – 20 "Just like ourselves ..."

Motto:

Leben in Hoffnung, Freiheit, tatiger Solidarität und Wahrheit (Life in hope, freedom, active solidarity and truth)

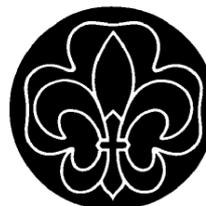
Promise:

Junior Scout - "I want to belong to the Troop (name) and promise to observe the guidelines." (Response) "You are now a member of our Troop. You belong to us. We need you. (Troop Leader) "Your joining the Junior Scout Troop verifies your membership in the DPSG and in the World Organisation of the Scout Movement. We rely upon your cooperation."

Cub – "I want to belong to you and promise to be a good Cub and to observe the guidelines of the Cubs." Cub Leader: "We enjoy your commitment." Akela: "You now belong to us, you are a member of the DPSG and of the Scout brotherhood throughout the world."

Verband Christlicher Pfadfinderinnen Und Pfadfinder (Christian Guide and Scout Union)

This is a Protestant Association, but it is open to boys and girls of all faiths. Most of the groups at all levels are mixed and all Leader training is



carried out on a coeducational basis.

Faith plays a big part in the programme and aside from the usual Scout and Guide activities the programme is a particularly society-orientated one.

Decision making is quite democratic through a system which offers members at all levels real

opportunities to express their opinions. Through a special voting system at the annual national meetings every member participates in the main decisions of the VCP.

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Promise:

“I will be a member of the VCP, Live and work with you in this Group and accept the Group’s rules!”

Law:

Group rules are set up by each individual Group. There are, as a kind of minimum requirement, special points for those rules, fixed in the Constitution of the VCP: Plan, work and play together – not against each other. Don’t get under pressure – be active yourself. Don’t agree with everything – say if you don’t agree. Do things together – alone you obtain less. Participate in your Group’s activities – stay aside. Watch carefully – don’t agree without checking. Be open to going new ways – accept nothing as unchangeable. Participate don’t let others think for you. Learn from others – don’t hold to your own point of view. Help others – don’t look only after yourself.

There are 4 sections in the VCP:

Kinder (Cubs) aged 7 – 11 years

Pfadfinder (Scouts) aged 11 – 15½ years

Rovers aged 15½ - 18 years

Seniors aged 18 years and over.

Further information may be obtained from:

German Tourist Information Bureau

61 Conduit Street

London