

PROMISE AND LAW

A DISCUSSION GUIDE



FOR CUB SCOUTS

UPDATED 2018

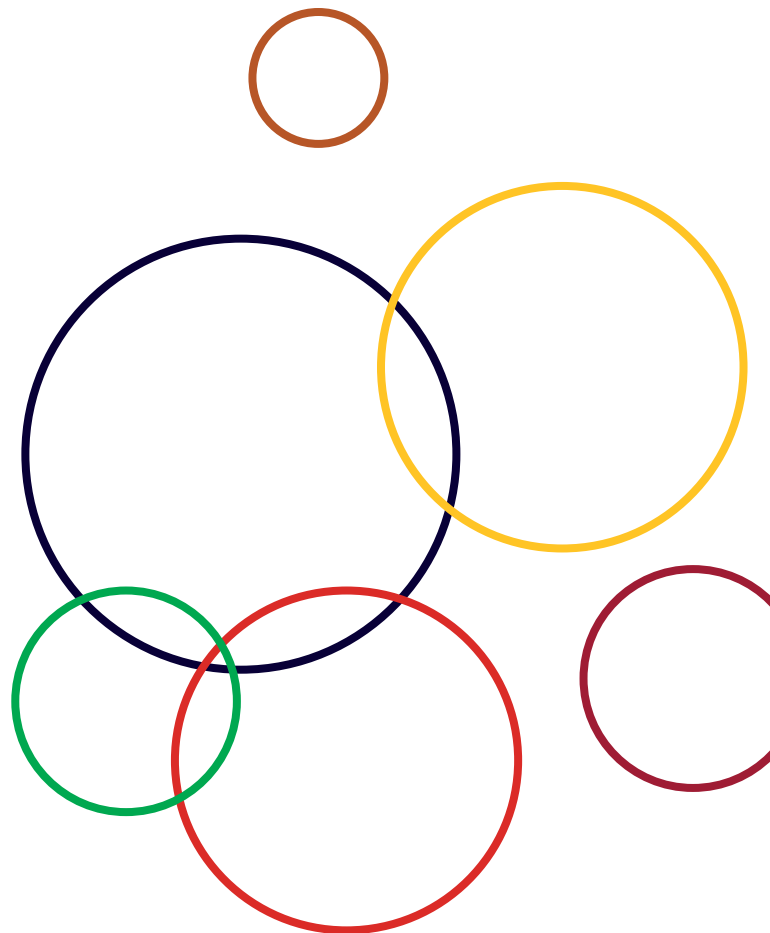


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Scouts Australia has recently updated the Australian Scout Promise and Law. This discussion guide has been developed to support facilitating discussion about the Promise and Law with Scouts. The intention is not to be a list of questions which must be discussed every time a prospective Scout prepares to join the Scout Movement, but instead, as a guide to explore concepts with Scouts as they increase their knowledge of Scouting. Adults may choose to have regular conversations with their Scouts regarding the Promise and Law, and some of the questions in here may produce different responses from different youth members at different times in their Scouting journey.



AUSTRALIAN SCOUT PROMISE

VERSION 1

On my honour, I promise
To do my best,
To be true to my spiritual beliefs,
To contribute to my community and our world,
To help other people,
And to live by the Scout Law

VERSION 2

On my honour
I promise that I will do my best
To do my duty to my God, and
To the Queen of Australia
To help other people, and
To live by the Scout Law



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WHAT DOES **ON MY HONOUR** MEAN?

Your honour is made up of a few different things. It includes your reputation – how you want other people to see and think of you – as well as the good feeling you get when you know you've done the right thing. When you make your promise, you recognise that if you don't try to do your best, that your reputation as someone who keeps their promises may suffer.

Being human, we all know that it's very hard to do your best at all times, but we are still promising that we will try to do this.

HOW DO I **DO MY BEST**?

Your best is the best that you can possibly do at the time. You don't have to do things perfectly, and you don't have to do things better than everyone else. You just have to be happy that you've done the very best you can possibly do.

WHAT DOES **SPIRITUAL BELIEFS** MEAN TO ME? HOW AM I TRUE TO THEM?

Your spirituality is your feelings or beliefs about your purpose in life, your relationship with other people, and the meaning of life. Every person has some sense of where they fit in this world – maybe even just being part of nature.

So when you say that you will be true to your spiritual beliefs, this means that you will think about what your spiritual beliefs are, and what you need to do to follow those beliefs.

For some people – perhaps you – a religion helps you understand your place in the world. As part of your religion, you might be expected to do certain things, like attend religious services, fast (not eat) at certain times of the year, or take part in special traditions.

There might be other things that help you to understand your place in the world, how you connect to others, your purpose and the meaning of life – perhaps for you it's about thinking about how the world fits together: how animals live in the bush and the oceans, and how we use the bush and the ocean for things too. These beliefs might not come with the same kinds of traditions and expectations as religious beliefs, but there might be other ways you should stay true to them.

Hint for Leaders: Depending on your Cubs, you could talk about a belief in the power of humanity, or the environment, or scientific research – whatever concepts resonate best with your Cubs and their families. Please refer to Resources for The Internal Compass on Spirituality



DEFINITION OF SPIRITUALITY:

The definition of spirituality for Australian Scouting is the feelings or beliefs of a person regarding their purpose in life, connection to others and place in the world around them. These spiritual feelings or beliefs may change as a person develops and guide their actions throughout their life.

Spiritual Development occurs in Scouting through:

- Exploring a connection with nature and the world around us
- Searching for meaning in life's experiences
- Learning about different religions and non-religious belief systems
- Learning about and respecting others spiritual beliefs
- Participating in Scouts' Owns, reflections or other activities



This allows young people to develop, question and refine their **spirituality**



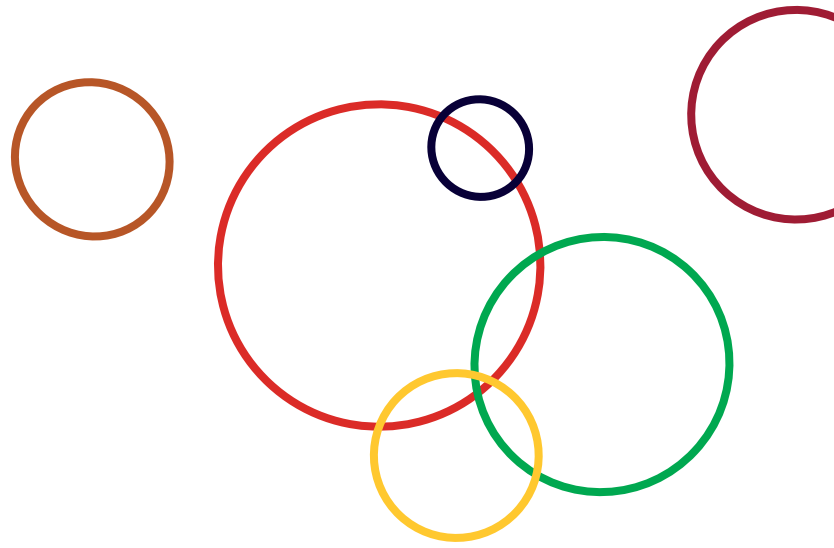
Through making the Scout Promise, members commit to 'being true to' their spiritual beliefs (**Duty to God**)

HOW CAN I EXPLORE MY BELIEFS? WHAT IF MY BELIEFS CHANGE?

There are lots of different ways that you can explore your beliefs, and you can choose which ones work for you.

The first place that a lot of us learn about our beliefs is from our parents and other family members. Have a chat with them about what they believe. Different people in your family might have different beliefs, and different friends might too. Think about which beliefs make sense to you and how they make you feel.

You can also learn more about different beliefs by speaking to people who are experts in particular beliefs. This could be a Priest, an Iman, a Rabbi, a Monk, or a Nun. You could also speak to someone from a local Humanist society, or biologists, anthropologists, sociologists and environmental scientists. Every one of them will be able to tell you something different about how they find meaning in their life. Perhaps you could have some of these people come to your Pack night, and about their views of the world?



WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE THE SAME BELIEFS AS YOU?

That's absolutely fine! There are lots of different sets of beliefs in the world, and every single one of them's different. Different beliefs bring different perspectives, and different ways of thinking, and different ways of doing things. And the more of these, the better! Understanding a bit about other people's beliefs also helps us understand each other better.

Download the Internal Compass resources to help you understand further.



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WHAT IS MY COMMUNITY?

We all are part of lots of different communities. Your Cub Pack is one. Your school is another. The suburb or town you live in, an ethnic, cultural or religious group you're a part of, your sports team or any hobbies you have – these are also lots of other communities you're a part of. Even Scouts all over the world make a community together – a very big one!

Of course, we also can't forget that Australia is a massive community.

Communities are all about groups of people who share something – a place they live, or visit, or learn at, or a set of ideas or values that they share. When you take the Scout Promise, you become a part of the Scouting community! When you start at a school, you join the school community, and if you're part of a religion, you'll be part of that religious community. What communities are you part of?

HOW CAN I CONTRIBUTE TO MY COMMUNITY? HOW AM I ALREADY CONTRIBUTING TO MY COMMUNITY?

Different communities need you to contribute to them in different ways.

- Your school (or your Scout group!) might ask you to look after younger students and help out at working bees or fundraisers.
- Your sports club might ask you to commit to always attending training and to bring oranges to share once a season.
- As a member of your local community, perhaps you can contribute by picking up rubbish in your local streets, or letting your local government know if something needs fixing.
- And as a member of the Australian community, you can contribute by finding ways to make Australia better for everyone. When you're older, this might include voting and paying taxes, but even now there are ways you can contribute. You can use your voice to help others find theirs, or you can volunteer for other community organisations.

What ways are you already contributing to your communities? What new ways could you find to contribute to your communities?



HOW CAN I CONTRIBUTE TO OUR WORLD? HOW AM I ALREADY CONTRIBUTING TO OUR WORLD?

Our world is the world that we all share – and in sharing our world, we all have to look after and contribute to it.

Our world has many parts, and each part needs looking after. The natural environment, people, plants, animals, and the built environment too we all need to help out, but there are lots of different ways to do so.

Jane Goodall, Ban Ki-moon, Caroline Chisolm, Eddie Mabo, Rosa Parkes, Leonardo da Vinci, Jane Austen, Robert Baden-Powell – all contributed to our world in different ways. They all found something that they were good at, and used that skill to improve people's lives, in their local community, and the wider world around them. Do you know some of the things that these people have done?

You don't have to be famous to contribute to our world though – have a think about the people around you making contributions to our world by small acts. Making sure rubbish doesn't end up in the sea can have an impact all over the world!

What other ways could you contribute to our world, that could have an impact – big or small – globally? Think about things that make people, animals, the and the environment (built and natural) happier, healthier, and safer. See what things you can start doing!

Top Tip for Leaders: Check out the Messengers of Peace programme offered by the World Organisation of the Scouting Movement – some activities that your Cubs take part in or run could contribute towards this award.



HOW DO I **HELP OTHER PEOPLE?** WHAT MORE CAN I DO TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE?

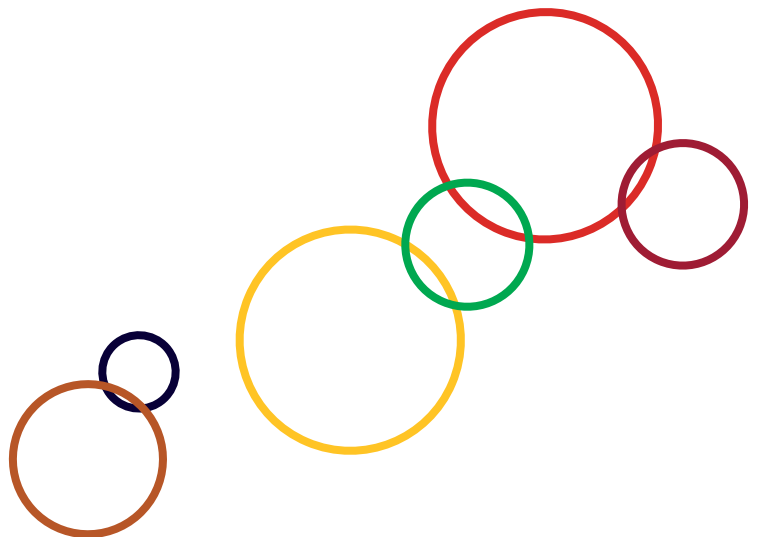
Baden-Powell wrote in *Scouting for Boys* that;
“*[w]hen you get up in the morning remember that you have got to do a good turn to someone during the day*”.

A good turn is doing something good for someone else. It doesn't have to be massive: you've probably heard about the idea that Scouts help little old ladies cross roads. Well, that was one of the suggestions BP gave for a good turn. It certainly isn't all that we do, but if you see someone who's struggling to cross a road, offering them help – and giving it if they want it – is a good thing for a Scout to do.

There are lots of other things you can do to help other people. Maybe a friend at school needs help with their homework? Or your neighbour's going away and their dog needs feeding and walking? Perhaps you've got another skill you could use? Some people make blankets or toys for sick babies and children, or collect old mobile phones for recycling. What can you come up with?

ARE THERE DIFFERENT WAYS THAT I HELP OTHER PEOPLE FOR DIFFERENT PEOPLE?

Everybody needs different help. You might help your best friends by looking after them when they're unhappy, but you might help your parents by being patient if they're busy or stressed. Who are the different people in your life? What can you do to help?



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HOW AM I LIVING BY THE SCOUT LAW?

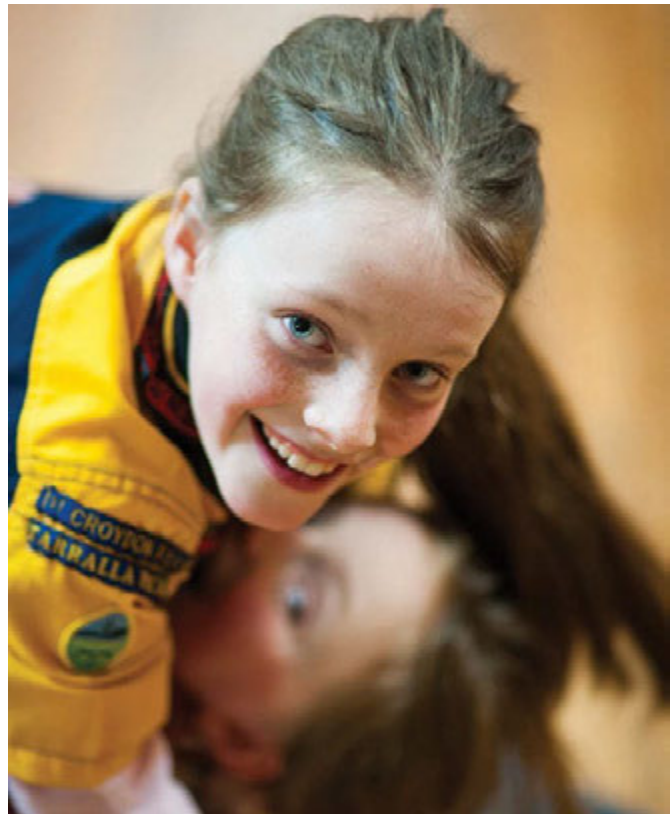
The Scout Law is a set of principles every Scout promises to follow throughout their life. We'll talk a bit more about the Law later on, but to live by it, you're using these Laws to help you decide what it is you're going to do every day of your life. If you find something challenging, have a think about the Scout Law – they might be able to help you to make your decision.

HOW DO I DO MY DUTY TO THE QUEEN OF AUSTRALIA?

When you do your "duty to the Queen of Australia", you're not doing things specifically for Queen Elizabeth II. This is another way of saying you'll do your duty to others – one of the core principles of Scouting. Because Australia is still a constitutional monarchy (our country has a Queen as our head of state, in charge of our country), you might prefer to acknowledge her when you promise to do your duty to others, instead of to "my community and our world".

HOW DO I DO MY DUTY TO MY GOD?

Find out what your God asks you to do. Perhaps you're expected to pray, go to certain places, or take part in certain traditions. Your parents, or elders from your religion, might be able to help you understand what your duty to your God (or Gods) is.



WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO VERSIONS OF THE PROMISE? WHICH VERSION WOULD I PREFER TO MAKE?

There's a few differences between the two versions of the Promise, but there are two key differences.

VERSION ONE

"be true to my spiritual beliefs"
"contribute to my community and our world",

VERSION TWO

"do my duty to my God"
do my duty "to the Queen of Australia"



You can't pick and choose which parts of which version you would like – you have to take all of one, or all of the other. When you're deciding between the two, though, you should think carefully about the words of both versions of the Promise, and which set works better for you. You can talk it over with your family and friends, your Scout Leaders, your teachers at school, or other people you know. But in the end, it's your choice which one you choose to make – no one else can make it for you.

AUSTRALIAN SCOUT LAW

BE RESPECTFUL

Be friendly and considerate
Care for others and the environment

DO WHAT IS RIGHT

Be trustworthy, honest and fair
Use resources wisely

BELIEVE IN MYSELF

Learn from my experiences
Face challenges with courage



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***Note for Leaders:** the focus for Cub Scouts should be on the three headings, with the points beneath providing more details for the older sections. However, you can still use them – this document will only provide brief information on these points. The Scout sections discussion guide goes into greater detail on them.*

WHAT DOES RESPECT MEAN? HOW DO I DEMONSTRATE MY RESPECT?

Having respect is about caring for others' feelings and thinking positively – about yourself, others, the environment, animals, or things. For instance, when you're at school and it's time to work quietly, you should stay quiet to respect everyone else and allow them to work in peace. At home, you might show your respect to other members of your family by keeping the volume down on music that you're playing, or the TV.

Then there's respect for yourself. Showing respect for yourself involves things like looking after yourself – getting enough exercise, eating responsibly, keeping yourself neat and tidy. This doesn't mean that you have to always look immaculate, go on a diet, and run for an hour every day – it just means that you make sure you're healthy. Others will have more respect for you if you can show that you respect yourself.

You should show respect to your environment too - whether your bedroom, your school, the local shopping centre, a forest you're camping in or the top of the tallest mountain you can climb. What are the different ways you can do this?

How do you show your respect?

HOW DO I CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT?

- Think about the different environments we use/ live in – it can be both the 'great outdoors', or your bedroom, or your Scout Hall
- Think about what you can do to help look after these different environments

HOW AM I CONSIDERATE?

- Think about the impact the things you do have on others

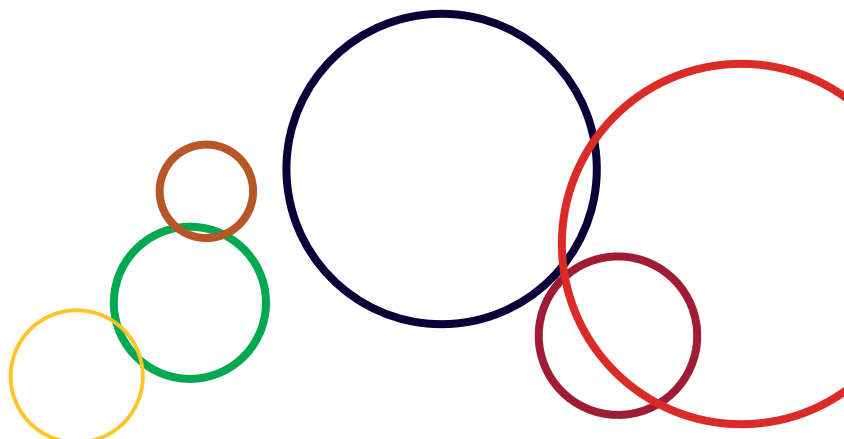
HOW AM I FRIENDLY?

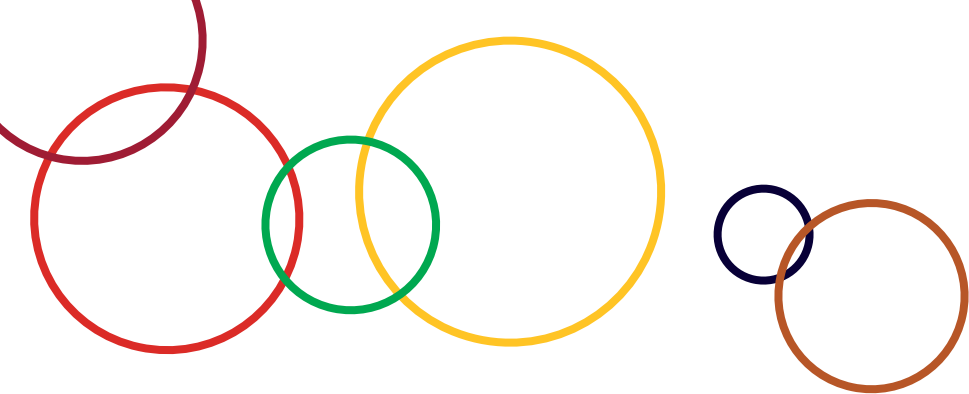
- Think about being welcoming and kind, both to people you already know and people you've never met

HOW DO I CARE FOR OTHERS?

First of all, it's important to realise that everyone around you is different to you. For instance, if you've only ever used a knife and fork to eat at home, you'll probably find it hard to use chopsticks – but someone else in your pack might have a lot of trouble using a knife and fork if they've always eaten with chopsticks. As everyone's life has been different, they'll see the world a little differently. Therefore, there are different things that they'll need help with, and that you can do to care for them. Have a think about the different things that people do to care for you – your parents? Your Scout Leaders? Your teachers at school? Your friends?

Now have a think about what do you can do to care for others.





WHAT DOES **RIGHT** MEAN?

This is a difficult one, but something that is just as important as the rest of the Law. What are the different things that you know that are right and wrong? Things like getting to school on time and listening when other people are speaking are right, while snatching someone's pen from their hand or throwing a ball at someone's window so it breaks is wrong.

The right thing is not always the easy thing – owning up to something you did that was wrong, giving up something you like for others, doing something that you really don't want to do – but if it's the right thing, then as a Cub Scout, you've should try to find the way to do it.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE **TRUSTWORTHY**?

- If you say you're going to do something, do you make sure you do it?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE **HONEST**?

- This is about telling the truth, even when it's difficult to do so
- There are some 'good' lies though – when you're planning a surprise party, for instance, or to keep yourself or others safe

WHAT DOES **FAIR** MEAN TO ME? HOW AM I FAIR?

- Think about how you make sure everyone has the same opportunities to do things

WHAT DOES **USE RESOURCES WISELY** MEAN?

- Think about how you make sure you don't waste things, like food, water, fuel, equipment, rubbish, or other resources



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HOW DO I BELIEVE IN MYSELF?

Think of something you're scared of doing. Public speaking? Rock climbing? Scuba diving? Maths tests? It's okay to be scared of things – everybody's scared of something sometimes. But do you believe that you can do whatever it is that you're scared of doing? Do you believe that, if you try really hard, take lots of deep breaths, focus – that you can achieve it?

Believing in yourself is all about believing that you're able to do things if you set your mind to them. You might not be able to beat Usain Bolt in the 100m sprint, but that doesn't mean that you can still beat your own personal best over 100m. You mightn't be able to climb that rock climbing wall today, but perhaps you can work towards it, and will be able to do it next time.

What's something that you could work on, where you're not believing in yourself as much as you could?

WHAT KIND OF CHALLENGES DO I FACE? HOW CAN I APPROACH THEM WITH COURAGE?

- Think about what things you find difficult: how do you get through them? Are there things that you do to help yourself do them?

HOW DO I LEARN FROM MY EXPERIENCES? WHICH EXPERIENCES CAN I LEARN FROM?

- Think about how you've learned from mistakes that you've made, or when things have gone well for you.