

# PROMISE AND LAW

## A DISCUSSION GUIDE



**FOR JOEY SCOUTS**

UPDATED 2018

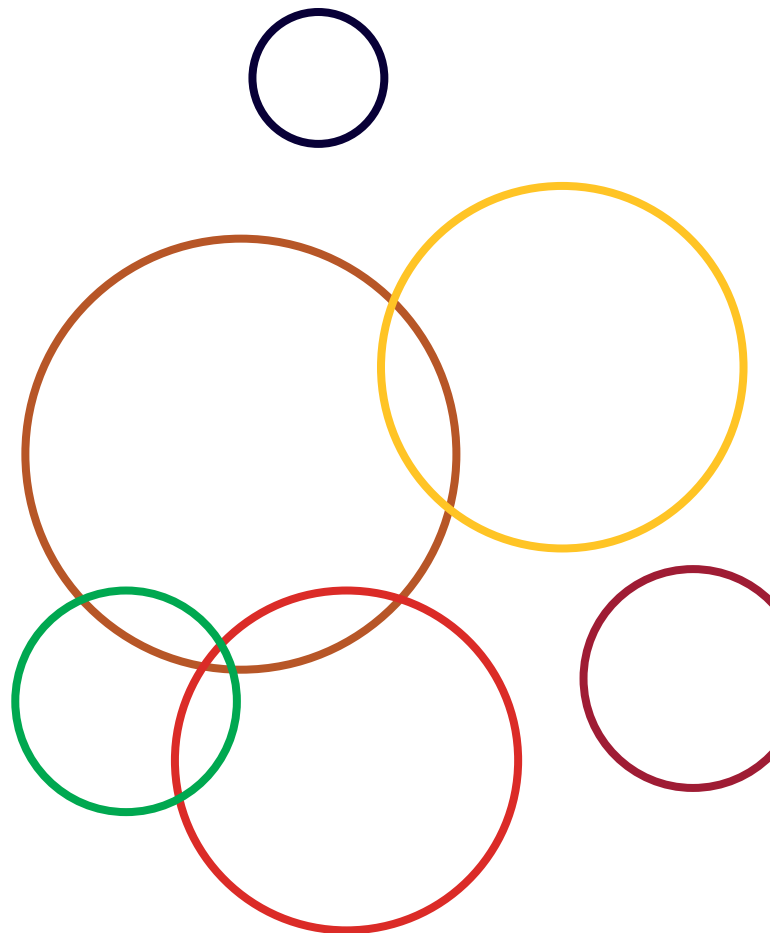


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Scouts Australia has recently updated the Australian Scout Promise and Law. This discussion guide has been developed to support facilitating discussion about the Promise and Law with Scouts. The intention is not to be a list of questions which must 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

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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

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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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### THE CONCEPT OF “HONOUR”

#### DO YOU KNOW WHAT HONOUR MEANS?

Honour is about doing things right, and the feeling you get when you have done this. It is about keeping your promises, and following through by doing what you have said you will or won't do.

#### WHAT DOES ON MY HONOUR MEAN TO YOU?

When you do something 'on your honour', you tell everyone else that you're going to keep your promise to always try to do your best.

#### HOW DO YOU DO YOUR BEST?

Is there something that you try your hardest at to get right? Doing your best is about putting in the most effort you can into something, especially things you promised to do.

### THE CONCEPT OF “SPIRITUAL BELIEFS”

#### WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU BELIEVE IN?

This should be about something that is bigger than or outside of ourselves, eg a god or gods, scientific theories, or the idea that everyone can work together to make the world a better place etc. Many people have different beliefs, and sometimes our beliefs change as we learn more about things.

#### HOW CAN YOU EXPLORE YOUR BELIEFS?

Talk to other people (parents, friends, teachers, leaders, etc). Sometimes people visit places that help them to find out more about their own beliefs, or learn about other people's beliefs. This is why we explore our beliefs, because they might be changing and developing, or the way you understand them changes.

#### WHAT IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE SAME BELIEFS AS SOMEONE ELSE?

That's ok! There are lots of different beliefs in the world, and different people bring different thoughts about their beliefs. It is always good to respect other people's beliefs though.

#### WHAT IF YOUR BELIEFS CHANGE?

That's ok too! Everyone grows up and what they understand about the things they believe in changes. It's always good to ask questions, listen, and to think about what we believe in.

### WHAT IS SPIRITUALITY?

Spirituality is about a sense of belonging and a sense of connection to something bigger than ourselves. Sometimes, spirituality results in a strong feeling of connection to all living things. It might be found in places of worship such as a church, temple, mosque or synagogue; outdoors in the natural world; through being part of a community; through focussed physical activity such as reflection, yoga or meditation; or even through art.

*Note for Leaders Scouts Australia's definition of spirituality is as follows:*

*Spirituality refers to 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:

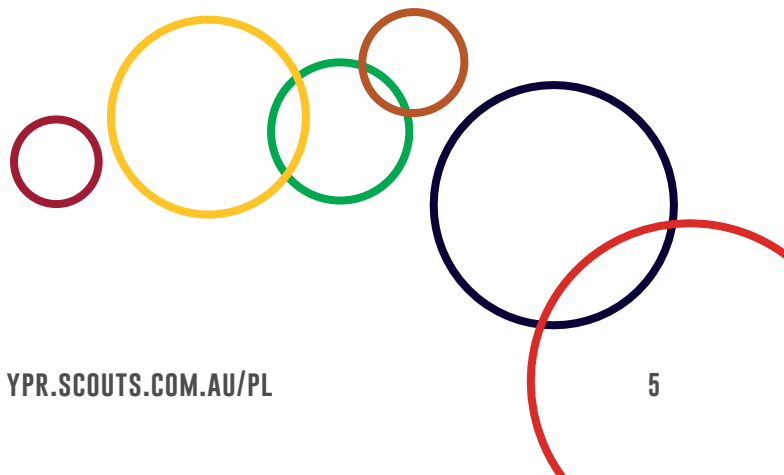
- Exploring a connection with nature and the world around us
- Searching for meaning in life's experiences
- Learning about different religions and non-religious belief systems
- Learning about and respecting others spiritual beliefs
- Participating in Scouts' Owns, reflections or other activities



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**)



## THE CONCEPTS OF “COMMUNITY AND WORLD”

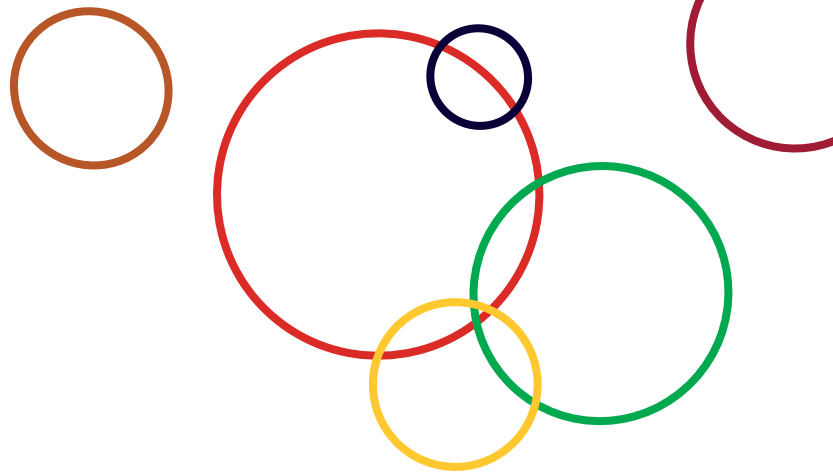
### WHAT IS YOUR COMMUNITY?

Your community is where you live, your school, family, friends, organisations and clubs (sports, arts, community, youth) you belong to.

You are not necessarily part of the same communities as all of your friends – maybe there is a cultural, ethnic or religious community you belong to, that others you know do not. Each person’s community will be different from the next, and that’s fine! Scouting helps us to meet new people and to have friends in many places – you will find we are always meeting new people who are part of our community, or a community nearby!

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

Contributing to your community can occur in many ways – maybe it is leading by example, doing your school work, showing respect when competing in sports. With Scouts, we contribute to our community by helping other people and organisations.



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

We are part of a worldwide (global) Scouting community! By working together we can make a difference locally, that will contribute to the benefit of our world. Contributing to our world can be achieved through similar activities to those that show we are contributing to our community. The focus of this is on acknowledging that there is more to the world than just the people we currently know or see regularly. As we get older, we will get to meet more Scouts from around our area, our country, and our world.

Maybe you or your Mob has earned the Messengers of Peace badge? If you have, you have contributed to making our world a better place. Well done.



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### THE ROLE OF “THE QUEEN OF AUSTRALIA”

#### WHO IS THE QUEEN OF AUSTRALIA? WHY IS SHE IMPORTANT?

Queen Elizabeth II is the Queen of Australia (as well as lots of other places around the world). Because she doesn't live in Australia, she makes someone the Governor-General of Australia every few years, and that person – an Australian citizen – represents her here. Her (and her Governor-General's) job is to help make sure our government is doing the right thing, especially if something happens to our Prime Minister.

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

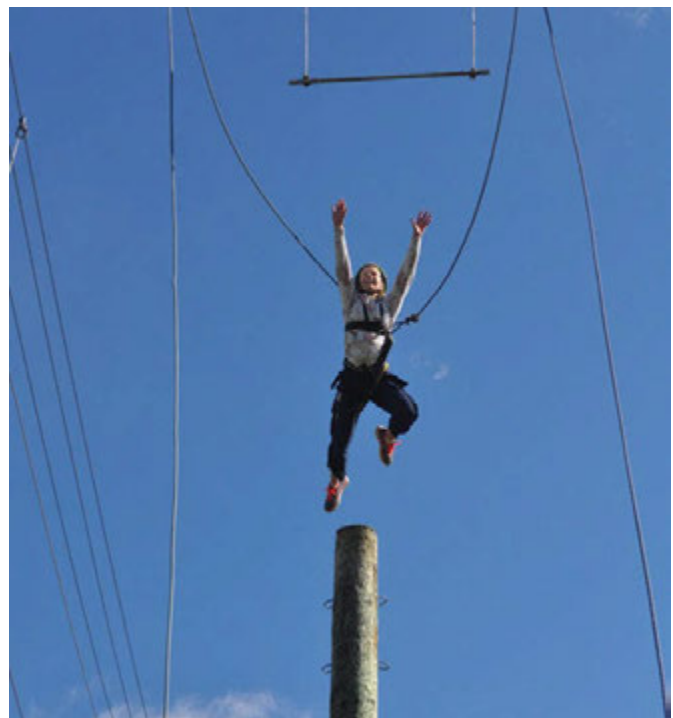
When we do our duty to the Queen of Australia, we're not just doing things for her – we're doing it for all of Australia! All of the people who live here, the land itself, the animals and the plants – it's for everyone and everything. Doing your duty means to do things like follow the law, help other people, and take part in the communities that you're a part of.

### THE IDEA OF “HELPING OTHER PEOPLE”

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

Have you cleaned up your room? Done some dishes? Helped with the cooking? Maybe done chores around the house? These are all ways in which you might be helping other people. Perhaps you have made things for others, or carried things for people. What about cleaning up after Scouts? Have you visited places with your Mob where you helped other people?

Helping other people is not just about the wider community, but also about the people and places close to us. Sometimes, helping other people might show you are contributing to your community. Clean-up Australia Day and community fundraisers such as Relay for Life, are activities where Scouts are helping other people.



#### SHOULD I HELP SOME PEOPLE DIFFERENTLY TO OTHERS?

Definitely! Different people need different kinds of help. At home you might help by looking after your younger brother or sister while your parents are busy. Perhaps the best thing you can do to help your grandparents is to have a conversation with them. You could help a friend at school with their reading, or teach them how to play a game. The best way to find out what people need help with is to ask them!

#### HOW AM I LIVING BY THE SCOUT LAW?

This means that you are being respectful, doing what is right and that you believe in yourself. This is a promise you are making as a Joey Scout, and one we'll talk a bit more about later.

### YOUR CHOICE

#### WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO PROMISES? WHICH WOULD YOU PREFER TO MAKE?

The difference between the two versions of the Promise is in the expression of the core Scouting principles. Which one you make is entirely up to you. If you are having trouble choosing, think about:

- Do I have a God? Who is my God?
- Or, would I prefer to talk about my spiritual beliefs?
- Does contributing to the community and world work better for me?
- Or, does the idea of a Queen of Australia make sense to me?



# 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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*Joey Scouts focus on the three key headings of the Scout Law. Though the subpoints may provide useful discussion points, the emphasis is on the headings for this section. Subsequently, this discussion guide focuses on the three key headings.*

## BE RESPECTFUL

### WHAT DOES RESPECT MEAN?

Respect is about being polite, listening to others, being friendly, being caring, and thinking before we act. It also includes looking after yourself.

### HOW DO I DEMONSTRATE MY RESPECT?

By being respectful, you care for yourself and those around you. You should also be caring for the environment, so doing things like cleaning up after yourself and recycling fit into this. Respect for yourself is about keeping yourself clean, neat and tidy, but might also include your safety and things like being careful with who you talk to. You can demonstrate you are respectful by listening to instructions, then leading by example. If it is quiet time at school, then you work quietly and allow others to work quietly as well. Taking turns is also about having respect and allowing others an opportunity to try something or do something.

Think about how you are friendly to others, or care for the environment. These are part of being respectful.

## DO WHAT IS RIGHT

### 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 Joey Scout, you've should try to find the way to do it.

## BELIEVE IN MYSELF

### HOW DO I BELIEVE IN MYSELF?

Sometimes we don't always manage to do what we want or need to do – maybe you're finding it hard to finish reading a book at school, or to spell a word, or hit a ball with a cricket bat. Believing in yourself is about not giving up. Sometimes it will be difficult but believing that you can do something will help you to keep on making yourself try and try again, until you can do it.