



The New Parent or Scouter

-Fast start view to Scouting



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Author:

David van Eyk & Andre Foot

Assistants:

With acknowledgment to:

Boy Scout's of America – Fast start to scouting

For further information:

E-Mail: davidve@mweb.co.za

P.O. Box 1039

Somerset West 7129

Mobile: +27+83 2800 101

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This booklet is designed to help those who become involved in a Scout Group get started.

It is not designed as a technical guide but to point you in the right direction in the first few weeks and months.

Policy, Organisation and Rules of The South African Scout Association (POR) is referred to in this booklet, It contains the up to date rules and Policies of The Scout Association,



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Skip's Tip

A PROGRAMME WITH A PURPOSE

For nearly a century the South African Scout Association, has been dedicated to developing character: instilling duty to God, citizenship, country pride: and promoting physical, mental, and physical fitness in the youth of South Africa. By learning new skills and forming lasting friendships through the Scout programme, generations of Scouts have grown up to become some of our nation's most outstanding leaders. As a new Troop Scouter and parent, you are joining our Scouting family, and we want you to understand how the programme works. This guide will help explain. This material was created as Fast Start training – a quick orientation to get you ready for your first Troop meeting. Welcome to Scouting!

An Overview of Scouting

Delivering the promise of Scouting doesn't happen by chance. Scouts are organised into Patrols – groups by association and they meet periodically as a Troop to further their experience in the Scouting Program. The Scout Troop is structured so that it is led by the youth members themselves called a Patrol Leader, with guidance from adult leaders behind the scenes. As a Scout develops the necessary skills through participation in weekly meetings and outdoor experiences, he/she moves up the ranks in Troop leadership.

To help meet our promise of fun and adventure for Scouts while achieving Scouting's aim of encouraging character growth, moral development, citizenship, and mental and physical fitness, eight fundamental methods are used to deliver the program:

- ▶ a Promise and Law
- ▶ learning by doing
- ▶ membership of small groups (e.g. the Patrol) involving, under adult guidance, progressive discovery and acceptance of responsibility and training towards self-government directed towards the development of character and the acquisition of competence, self-reliance, dependability and capacities both to co-operate and to lead

- ▶ Progressive and stimulating programmes of varied activities based on the interests of the participants, including games, useful skills, and services to the community, taking place largely in an outdoor setting in contact with nature.

1. DRESS IN UNIFORMATIE
2. THE OUTDOOR PROGRAMME
3. THE ADVANCEMENT PROGRAMME
4. THE PATROL SYSTEM
5. SCOUT PROMISE & LAW
6. INCREASINGLY SELF-GOVERNING
7. SERVICE TO OTHERS

The Scout troop functions best when all seven methods are employed.

What's Covered in this Booklet?

The first thing a new leader or parent should know is that there is an abundance of help and resources out there to give you further information on anything you need. This guide will give you the basics to get started as a leader in Scouting. It will cover the following topics: The seven parts of a Troop meeting. Conducting an outdoor program. How the Group Committee relates to the Troop

Each section will be accompanied by a list of further training and resources - your next step in guiding today's youth to become tomorrow's leaders.

The training is divided into five sections:

1. The Troop Meeting
2. The Group Committee
3. The Outdoor Program
4. Basic Concepts of Scouting
5. The Scout Uniform

You may review these sections all at once, or one at a time (in any order).

I. OVERVIEW OF THE TROOP MEETING

This section gives you an overview of the Troop meeting. This 120 minute, weekly event is truly youth-run. The goal is to use the Patrol Method to develop leaders and enable the youth to "run the show." Your role as a Troop Scouter is to facilitate the Patrol Method, offer advice, and guide the youth throughout the process.

Youth run programme

The youth-run program is delivered through the Patrol Method.

"The Patrol Method is not a way to operate a Scout Troop, it is the only way. Unless the patrol method is in operation, you don't really have a Scout Troop."

Robert Baden-Powell

The Patrol Method

With the Troop Scouters direction, the boys/girls are formed into Patrols, plan the Troop's program, and make it a reality. Patrols are made up of small groups of boys or girls who are similar in age, development, and interests. Although Patrol size varies depending on a Troop's total enrolment and needs, the ideal size is eight Scouts.

Each Patrol selects a name for itself and takes pride in its own identity. Its members strive to make theirs the best Patrol possible.

The Patrols elect Scouts into key leadership positions:

- ▶ Troop Leader
- ▶ Patrol Leaders

Troop Leader

- ▶ Elected by all members of the Troop.
- ▶ In charge of Troop meetings from beginning to end.
- ▶ The Troop Scouter works with TL before and after the Troop meeting to give guidance.
- ▶ TL runs the meetings. The Troop Scouter gives him/her the tools to succeed.

Patrol Leader

- ▶ A Patrol Leader is elected by members of the Court of Honour.
- ▶ Responsible for the Patrol's activities.
- ▶ Represents the Patrol as a member of the Court of Honour.

Court of Honour

- ▶ Holds monthly meetings to plan activities.
- ▶ Organizes and assigns activity responsibilities for weekly Troop meeting
- ▶ Holds annual program planning conference to create a yearly plan for the Troop.
- ▶ Patrol Leaders, not the adult leaders, are responsible for planning Troop activities.

Role of Troop Scouter

The important challenge the Troop Scouter faces, as the adult leader responsible for working directly with the Scouts, is to help them create the programme for the Troop. To train the youth leaders to run the Troop by providing direction, coaching, and support. They will make mistakes now and then and will rely on you to guide them. But only through hands-on experience as leaders can Scouts learn to lead.

- ▶ Trains and guides boy/girl leaders.
- ▶ Works with other responsible adults to bring Scouting to boys/girls.
- ▶ Uses the methods of Scouting to achieve the aims of Scouting.
- ▶ Can be male or female, but must be at least 21 years of age.
- ▶ Is appointed by the head of the Group Scouter and Committee.

The Troop Meeting

New Troop Scouters need not worry about planning and conducting Troop meetings they have plenty of help from the Group Committee, the assistant Troop Scouter, and the Scouts themselves. The process begins each year with the annual program planning meeting and continues monthly at Patrol Leaders meetings and Court of Honour.

Seven parts of the Troop meeting

1. PRE OPENING

The pre-opening activity is designed to keep the Scouts together and occupied while everyone arrives. It is usually a game or organized activity, and it could be held indoors or outdoors.

- ▶ Occurs as Scouts begin arriving.
- ▶ Should include physical activity.
- ▶ Begins 15 minutes before the meeting starts.
- ▶ Facilitated by the Troop Leader or the Duty Patrol Leader.



Skip's Tip

Plan an upbeat activity that allows boys/girls to join in as they arrive and promote co-operation amongst the youth. This is the best strategy for a pre-opening activity. There are plenty of these provided in the Troop programme Resources.

2. OPENING CEREMONY

The opening ceremony brings the Troop together for the formal start of the meeting. The senior Patrol Leader presides over the meeting, leading the Troop members in the Scout Promise to help remind them of their Promise to live by a specific life code. The Promise as well as the full Scout uniform and the Patrol Method of operation are reminders to the youth and adult leaders alike that they set the example for the rest of the Troop. The set opening focuses the youth on the reasons they are in Scouting and consistently reinforces the value of the programme

- ▶ Opening Ceremony - Five minutes in length
- ▶ Troop Leader or Troop Scouter calls the Troop to fall into Patrols.
- ▶ Troop Leader or Troop Scouter calls on a Scout to lead the Troop in the reaffirming their Scout Promise.

Re-enforces Values.

Scout Promise

*On my Honour I Promise ,that I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country,
To help other people at all times,
To obey the Scout Law.*

3. SKILLS INSTRUCTION

Scout skills are an integral part of the Scout Advancement process. The Scouts learn the basics skills in an organized setting like the Troop meeting, and then they are able to apply their skills in the outdoors - perhaps on a Troop campout. Not all Scouts will be at the same skills level at any given time, so the Troop might need an instructor to teach basic skills to new Scouts - knot tying, for example - and others to teach older Scouts more advanced skills - lashing or climbing, for example.

- Skills Instruction - 15 to 20 minutes in length

4. PATROL MEETINGS

After skills instruction, the Scouts break into their Patrols. The Patrols are where the real work is done during the Troop meetings - the members plan and prepare for their roles in upcoming Troop activities, pay their dues, and take care of other administrative tasks within their Patrols.

- ▶ Patrol Meetings - 15 to 20 minutes in length
- ▶ Plan for upcoming outdoor activities - menus, equipment, etc.
- ▶ Conduct routine weekly meeting business such as attendance, dues.
- ▶ Prepare Patrols assignment for the next Troop meeting.
- ▶ As the youth finish their business and grow restless, move on to the inter-Patrol activity.

5. INTER-PATROL ACTIVITY

The inter-Patrol activity is a short game or skills competition between the Patrols. The goal is to help reinforce the Scout skills they have learned. It also teaches the Patrol members how to work together as a team.

- ▶ Inter-Patrol Activity - 15 to 20 minutes in length
- ▶ Fun
- ▶ Hands-on
- ▶ Reinforces a Scouting skill

Suggestions are available in the *Troop Scouters Handbook* and *Scout Trail*.

6. CLOSING - The TS's Minute.

The TS's Minute is the highlight of the closing. The Troop Scouter addresses the Troop imparting a bit of wisdom to motivate the Scouts until the next meeting.

Don't worry; there's help here, too. A variety of TS's Minutes can be found in *Troop Program Resource* and *Western Cape 2004 CD*.

After the TS's Minute and any last-minute announcements, the Troop members are dismissed.

- ▶ Troop Scouter gives a closing message.
- ▶ The message reinforces the values expressed in the opening ceremony.
- ▶ Quiet, serious time.
- ▶ Messages can be found in Troop Program Resources and CW 2004 Resource CD.

7. AFTER THE MEETING

The weekly meeting is an important tool to the Troop. After the Scouts have been dismissed, the Troop Scouter, Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leaders, and Assistant Troop Scouter come together to discuss what went well, what did not, and what plans need to be in place for the next meeting.

- ▶ Review the current Troop meeting.
- ▶ Offer praise for things that went well.
- ▶ Offer encouragement and suggestions to handle things that did not go well.
- ▶ Review assignments for the next Troop meeting.



Skip's Tip

The meeting should be extremely organized. There are seven parts of a Troop meeting that can be adapted to the activities you need to accomplish in your 120 minute meeting. This seven part agenda keeps the Troop meeting at a rate that maintains the attention span of the youth. The Troop Leader/Assistant Troop Scouter or duty Patrol Leader conducts the entire meeting under the Troop Scouters watchful eye.

Further Training

Taking adult training to the next level enhances youth interaction and makes leading a group of Scouts even easier. New adult leaders and interested parents are provided with formal training on the roles of the Troop Scouter and other adult and youth leaders on the following courses:

Adult Introduction course

This day course is the first stage of the basic training program. It is designed for all new adult leaders entering the Scouting Movement.

Troop and Assistant Troop Scouter Specific Training

This is a training course for Troop and Assistant Troop Scouters. Topics covered

include leadership styles, youth leadership development, Patrol Leaders' Council, teaching Scouting skills, the Troop Scouter conference and growing the Troop.

WARRANT - Course takes two weekends, with assignments

WOOD BADGE – Three weekend course with assignments

Introduction to Outdoor Leader Skills

This is an adult leader course that teaches outdoor skills used in Scouting from Troop Membership to First Class.

MOUNTAIN LEADERSHIP

WATER & AIR CHARGE

CERTIFICATES

PLTC OR PLTU (Leadership Training)

Scouting workshops or conferences

This publication is filled with new ideas on activities, themes and the latest Scouting information.

Scouting magazine

This publication is filled with new ideas on activities, themes and the latest Scouting information.

To learn even more about the Scout program, check out any of the other parts of the Fast Start.

Printed resources that will help new leaders plan Troop meetings and better understand each player's role includes:

Scouting magazine

Troop Scouters Handbook

Scout Badge Book

Patrol Leader Handbook

Scout Trail & CW 2004 Scout Resource CD

THE OUTDOOR PROGRAM

Welcome to the Outdoor Program segment.

Youth are attracted to Scouting by the fun and adventure it offers. Both are centred in the Outdoor Program, which focuses on exciting outdoor activities like camping and hiking, studying nature and watching wildlife. Scouts learn to 'Leave no trace' and to care for their environment, and they master new skills while exploring the outdoors. At the same time they are demonstrating the impact of the outdoor program and the value of their Scouting experience by demonstrating leadership and teamwork.

Scouting promises youth adventures in the great outdoors. The Outdoor Program allows Scouts to

grow closer to nature while providing an opportunity to better understand their spirituality and to develop a deep appreciation for our country.

Outdoor activities for Scouts can include high adventure challenges like rafting and climbing in a National Park or even sleeping under the stars in their own backyard. No matter what the venue, a well-planned and programmed outing can be a fantastic Scouting experience.

As new Scout leaders and parents, you probably know that the outdoor experience is a vital part of Scouting. This section will show the steps involved in creating successful outdoor programs. Camping is a unique tool used in Scouting, where Scouts and their Scouters are together in nature for a definite period of time for individual training in character, initiative, and physical and moral development. It can be a 'laboratory for life.'

A few reasons why a strong Outdoor Program is vital:

- ▶ The Outdoor Program provides the Scouter with the opportunity to create moments of positive influence in a Scouts life.
- ▶ Nature is a classroom without walls that is ideal for teaching and learning Scouting skills and relationship skills.
- ▶ When Scouts walk the same trail and cook and eat together, they learn to respect others' opinions, do their full share, and develop lasting friendships.
- ▶ The outdoor program gives Scout leaders opportunities to develop working teams and to face real leadership tests.

The Outdoor Program enables youth to experience the greatness and inspiration of nature.

Programme Planning

This section gives you an overview of the steps you need to take to plan safe, effective outdoor programs. There are six key parts in planning an outdoor program:

- ▶ Establishing a purpose
- ▶ Selecting a site
- ▶ Building a program of activities
- ▶ Providing two-deep leadership
- ▶ Taking care of physical requirements
- ▶ Using the Patrol Method

SIX STEPS TO, OUTDOOR ACTIVITY PLANNING

A great outdoor program doesn't just happen. The

following six specific steps will help a Troop plan a safe and exciting trip.

1. Establish a purpose for the outing.

Decide your objective for the trip, whether it is building knowledge, completing advancement requirements, or using newly learned skills.

2. Select a site.

Determine the exact spot for your outing, even if it's close to home, and make the necessary arrangements to camp there.

3. Build a program of activities.

Plan a schedule that will keep the Scouts engaged and enable them to meet their goals for the trip.

4. Provide two-deep leadership.

Safety is always the top priority in Scouting. Two or more adults are required for every activity.

5. Take care of physical arrangement.

Complete a Troop Program Plan, listing the dates and responsible adults for the outing, as well as necessary food, equipment and transportation.

6. Use the Patrol Method at the campsite.

The Patrol Method is essential in developing youth into leaders and teaching teamwork, so be sure to extend that leadership training into the great outdoors.

Part one: Establish a purpose

- ▶ Enables youth to pick up new skills and improve upon old ones.
- ▶ Co-ordinates with a theme based on a monthly program feature
- ▶ Gives members of the Patrol Leaders Council an opportunity to develop their leadership skills as they plan and conduct their Troop's campout.

Part two: Select a site

How do you find a good campsite?

- ▶ Check with your local council for a list of suggestions.
- ▶ National, state, local parks and forests often have appropriate camping areas.
- ▶ Even a community park can be the setting for a good outdoor experience.
- ▶ Once you've found your site, make sure you:
 - ▶ Contact the owners or managers of the site in advance.
 - ▶ Understand and obey any regulations to the letter.

- ▶ Ensure your Troop members protect the natural resources by adhering to guidelines and using the principles of ‘Leave no trace’ camping.

‘Leaving no trace’

1. Plan ahead and prepare.

Proper trip planning and preparation helps hikers and campers, accomplish trip goals safely and enjoyably while minimizing damage to natural and cultural resources. Campers who plan ahead can avoid unexpected situations and minimize their impact, by complying with area regulations such as observing limitations on group size.

2. Camp and travel on durable surfaces.

Damage to land occurs when visitors trample vegetation or communities of organisms beyond recovery. The resulting barren areas develop into undesirable trails, campsites and soil erosion.

3. ‘Pack it in - Pack it out’.

This simple yet effective saying motivates backcountry visitors to take their trash home with them. It makes sense to carry out of the backcountry the extra materials taken there by your group or others. Minimize the need to pack out food scraps by carefully planning meals. Accept the challenge of packing out everything you bring.

4. Leave what you find.

Allow others a sense of discovery: Leave rocks, plants, animals, archaeological artefacts and other objects as you find them. It may be illegal to remove artefacts.

5. Minimize campfire use.

Some people would not think of camping without a campfire. Yet the naturalness of many areas has been degraded by the overuse of fires and increasing demand for firewood.

6. Respect wildlife.

Quick movements and loud noises are stressful to animals. Considerate campers observe wildlife from afar, give animals a wide berth, store food securely and keep garbage and food scraps away from animals. Help keep wildlife wild.

7. Respect others.

Thoughtful campers travel and camp in small groups, keep the noise down, select campsites away from other groups, always travel and camp quietly, wear clothing and use gear that blends with the environment, respect private property, leave gates (open or closed) as found. Be

considerate of other campers and respect their privacy.

Part three: Building programme activities

Help the Patrol Leaders Council develop Scouting activities the outdoors seems made for—nature, advancement skills, exploration, tracking and compass challenges, environmental awareness, cooking specialties, Star hikes and conservation Good Turns. Stress safety and use the Patrol Method all the way.

Part four: Two-deep leadership

One of your most important jobs as an adult leader is ensuring the protection of your Troop members. To ensure safety, every campout and short-term camp must have qualified adult leaders. As a rule, Scouts may not conduct an activity unless one or more warranted adults as a minimum of leadership are assured. In this section, we’ll explain the purpose of this two-deep leadership and also review the Child Protection Policies established and Volunteer Policies.

Two-deep leadership is required on all trips and outings:

- ▶ Two registered, approved leaders, one being warranted
OR
- ▶ One registered leader and a parent or guardian of a participant, one of whom must be at least 21 years of age.
- ▶ For large groups, it is advisable to take several adult leaders and parents.

In addition to two-deep leadership, adhere to the SASA Child Protection Policies.

No One-On-One Contact Programme Planning

This section gives you an overview of the steps you need to take to plan safe, effective outdoor programs. There are six key parts (*listed here once again*) in planning an outdoor program:

- ▶ Establishing a purpose
- ▶ Selecting a site
- ▶ Building a program of activities
- ▶ Providing two-deep leadership
- ▶ Taking care of physical requirements
- ▶ Using the Patrol Method

1. **Using the Patrol Method**
One-on-one contact between an adult and a youth member is not permitted. In situations that require personal interaction, such as a Scouters conference, the meeting must be conducted in view of at least one other adult.
2. **Respect of Privacy**
Adult leaders must respect the privacy of youth members in situations such as changing into swimsuits or taking showers at camp. In similar situations, adults should also protect their own privacy.
3. **Separate Accommodations**
When camping, no youth is permitted to sleep in the tent of an adult other than his own parent or guardian. Councils are strongly encouraged to have separate shower and latrine facilities for females. Where separate facilities are not available, separate shower times for males and females should be scheduled and posted.
4. **No Secret Organizations**
There are no secret organizations recognized within the Scout Association of SA. All aspects of Scouting are open at any time for observation by parents or guardians and Troop leaders.
5. **No Hazing (harassing / abuse)**
Physical hazing and initiations are strictly prohibited by the Scout Association and may not be included as part of any Scouting activity.
6. **Appropriate Attire**
Proper clothing is required for all Scouting activities. 'Skinny-dipping' is not condoned by the Scout Association of SA.
7. **Junior Leader Training and Supervision**
Adult leaders must monitor and guide the leadership techniques used by junior leaders and ensure that Scout Association Policies are followed.

Physical Arrangement

- ▶ Tour permit
- ▶ Equipment
- ▶ Food
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Adult leadership help
- ▶ Troop program plan

Using the Patrol Method

- ▶ Enables Scouts to develop into youth leaders.
- ▶ Teaches Scouts how to cooperate and work together.
- ▶ Enables Scouts to learn from each other.
- ▶ Promotes advancement.

TS responsibility

Although you should stand back and let the Scouts run the outdoor program, you as a Troop Scouter play a key role in its success. In the outdoors, as well as during every Troop activity, you are leading by example.

Assistant Troop Scouter responsibilities for the Outdoor Program

- ▶ Make sure the six steps of Outdoor Program Planning are followed.
- ▶ Ensure your Troop has a monthly outdoor activity.
- ▶ Plan a long-term camping experience or high-adventure activity at least annually.

The Group Committee

(Note: In this section where Troop (Group) is mentioned, this should be taken to also include the Cub Pack and or Rover Crew.)

There is more to Scouting than the Troop Scouter and the youth members. Adult volunteers play a pivotal role in the Troops operation. The assembly of adult volunteers that support a Scout Troop is called the Group Committee; it handles all the paperwork and the business end of Group operation.

Its role is vital to enabling the Troop Scouter to spend his or her time where it has the greatest impact: working directly with the youth. The Group Committee is formed from the following people:

Group Chairman.

Responsible for the total operations of the Group Committee in supporting the Scout Troop.

Group Treasurer.

Ensures the Group budgets are adequate and well-followed, and allocates Group resources to fund programs and activities. Handles fundraising events, which help support programs and activities, and procures necessary donations when feasible.

Equipment (Group) Quartermaster

Ensures the Troop has all the necessary equipment when it embarks on its activities.

Group Secretary.

Keeps records of the Group Committee meetings, and works with the Group Scouter to keep parents informed of and involved in Troop activities.

Outdoor Activities Co-ordinator.

Co-ordinates adventurous trips into the outdoors, where members can put their skills into action.

FURTHER TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Developing the Group Committee into a working team ensures the delivery of a strong Scouting program to youth.

New adult leaders can learn more about the Group Committees role by attending the Lay Members Course on offer or from Literature available and by participating in the Group Committee Challenge (Star Award Scheme).

- ▶ Can include invited guests, such as chartered organization representatives or the District Commissioner
- ▶ Promote the support and administration of an active Troop.
- ▶ Last approximately 1½ hours, but no longer than two.



Group Committee

Although this section will focus on the various roles of the Group Committee itself, we have included two important reference sections that give you some valuable information.

The Basic Concepts section gives you a concise overview of the principles and methods of Scouting, so you can better understand the Scouting organization.

The Role of the Troop Scouter within the Troop Meeting branch gives you an overview of the Troop Scouters responsibilities within a boy/ girl-run program. It's important to note that even though the Troop Scouter may attend Group Committee meetings (in the absence of the GS), he or she is not actually part of the Group Committee. The Committee supports the Scouters and the Scouting program.

What does the Group Committee do?

- ▶ Ensures quality leadership is recruited and trained, including Troop Scouter and Assistant Troop Scouter.
- ▶ Assigns qualified Assistant Troop Scouter to continue the program if the Troop Scouter slot is vacated.
- ▶ Supports leaders in carrying the program.
- ▶ Responsible for finances, adequate funds, and disbursements based on the annual budget developed by the committee.
- ▶ Serves on boards of review.

Group Committee meeting

- ▶ Are attended by all Committee members and the Group Scouter.

Agenda

1. Call the meeting to order - **Chairman**
2. Welcome and introduction of new members and guests - **Chairman**
3. Approval of previous meeting's minutes - **Secretary**
4. Matters arising from the previous minutes – **Secretary**
5. Reports
 - ▶ Group Scouter (Troop [and Pack/Rover] progress, actions of Patrol Leaders Council, disciplinary problems, attendance, monthly outing plans, other Troop needs, Troop Advancement progress, boards of review)
 - ▶ Secretary (newsletter, additional resource surveys)
 - ▶ Outdoor/activities co-ordinator (outdoor plans, special activities, District and Council activities, summer camp update)
 - ▶ Treasurer (report on current financial standing, money-earning projects, Friends of Scouting, money spent)
 - ▶ Chaplain? (update on Chaplain support to Troop members, religious emblems program)
 - ▶ Equipment (Quartermaster) co-ordinator (status of new and existing Troop equipment and of Troop needs, new procedures for safe use and storage of equipment)
6. Old business (reports on task assignments from previous meeting)

7. New business (assign tasks as issues are discussed)
8. Announcements (including date of the next Group Committee meeting)
9. Close

WHAT IS SCOUTING?

The Scout Movement is defined as;

"A voluntary non-political educational Movement for young people open to all without distinction of origin, race or creed in accordance with the purpose principles and method conceived by the Founder as stated below."

The word Movement means a series of organised activities working towards an objective, a movement thus implies both an objective to be achieved and some type of organisation to ensure this.

The voluntary character of Scouting emphasizes that members adhere to it by their own free will and because they accept the fundamentals of the Movement.

Scouting is non-political in the sense that it is not involved in the struggle for power, which is the subject matter of politics and which is usually reflected in the system of political parties.

Scouting is defined as an educational Movement. This is undoubtedly its essential characteristic. Scouting must therefore be clearly distinguished from a purely recreational Movement

In the Founder's own words *"Here then lies the most important in the boy/girl Scout Training. To educate not to instruct, means you educate, that is to draw out the boy/girl to learn by himself/herself, of his/her own desire, the things that tend to build character in him/her."*

The word education is normally associated with the school system, which is however only one form of education. Three types of education are distinguished.

- ▶ Formal education is the hierarchically structured chronologically graded educational system running from Primary School through to university.
- ▶ Informal education is the lifelong process whereby every individual acquires attitudes, values, skills and knowledge from daily experience and the educative influences and resources in his/her environment.
- ▶ Non-formal education is organised educational activity outside the established formal system that is intended to serve an

identifiable learning clientele and identifiable learning objectives.

Scouting belongs to the last type of education since while it takes place outside the formal educational system, it is an organised institution having an educational aim and addressed at a predetermined public.

Scouting addresses itself to young people; it is a Youth Movement where the role of adults consists of assisting young people in achieving the objectives of Scouting.

Scouting is open to all without distinction of origin, race, class or creed. Thus one of the basic precepts of the Movement is the principle of non-discrimination provided that the person voluntarily adheres to its purpose principles and methods.



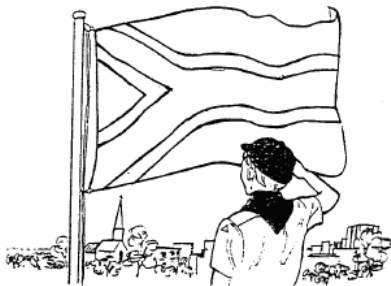


The Aim of the Association

The Aim of the Scout Association is to encourage the spiritual mental, social and physical development of boys/girls and young men/women by:

- ▶ Developing their character;
- ▶ Training them in citizenship;
- ▶ Developing their personal fitness by promoting their spiritual, mental and physical qualities so that they may take a constructive part in the community.

We must look at this aim carefully as it is important that we should understand what we are trying to accomplish. As far as the boys/girls are concerned Scouting provides fun, adventure, comradeship and a sense of achievement. But, Scouting is not a recreational activity. It is an educational programme



with a very serious aim namely, to improve and develop the boy/girl, in aspects which may be described under the following headings:

- (a) **CHARACTER** By this we mean what a boy/girl is as an individual, his/her habits, his/her attitudes, his/her personal qualities, the kind of life he/she leads the kind of beliefs he/she has.

By exposing him/her to the right kind of influence, Scouting can train and strengthen a boy's/girl's character in such qualities as truthfulness, honour, loyalty, helpfulness etc. which are embodied in the Scout Law.

- (b) **CITIZENSHIP** This is the way an individual fits into the community, how he/she gets along with other people, how he/she reacts to those around him/her and how he/she prepares himself to assume his/her adult responsibilities. While still a boy/girl he/she is already a "citizen" in his/her school, home and community environment and in his/her sporting and other activities. As a boy/girl grows, his/her circles widen and his/her responsibilities to others grow with him/her.

To become a good citizen is to learn to accept one's responsibilities to other people. So a boy/girl learns citizenship step by step as his/her world expands. First, he/she learns it by living in his/her family then in the neighbourhood gang and then in organized groups such as his/her school, place of worship and SCOUTING. For training in citizenship to be effective, a boy/girl must be exposed to good influences over a period of years. The Scout and Cub Programme provides such training. Although we have dealt with citizenship and character under different headings they do not separate easily. It is difficult to distinguish between what a man/woman is in himself/herself from what he/she is in relation to others.

- (c) **PERSONAL FITNESS** The third kind of improvement we hope to make in a boy/girl through Scouting is in the general condition of his/her body, mind and spirit. The aim is not to develop athletes or intellectuals, but to teach a boy/girl to maintain his/her body and mind so that he/she may live and work effectively. As Scouters we can help boys/girls to develop habits and attitudes that can contribute to life long fitness.



Scout Method

It follows that we must have a very clear idea how the Aim is to be accomplished. Here we comment briefly on the methods used. The Scout Method is a system of progressive self-education to be reached as a result of a combination of elements which are outlined below.

Before dealing with these elements, the key concept in the definition of the Scout Method should be underlined. This concept is that the Method is a **system of progressive self-education**. The fact that it is a **system**, implies that it has to be conceived as an interdependent group of elements forming a unified and integrated whole. That is why the word method is used in the singular, not in the plural. For while each of the elements comprising it can be considered as a method in its own right, we can only speak of the Scout Method these elements are combined within an integrated educational system. This system is based on the idea of **progressive self-education**.

- **Promise and Law**

The first element of the Scout Method is a **Promise and Law**. It has already been seen that the Promise and Law are the very basics for the formulation of the principles of the Scout Movement. Here, however, we are concerned not so much with the ethical principles contained in the Promise and Law,

but more with its role as an educational method. Through the Promise and Law, a young person makes, of his/her own free will, a personal commitment to a given code of behaviour and he/she accepts before a group of peers, the responsibility to be faithful to the given ward. The permanent identification with these ethical values and the sustained effort to live up to those ideals to the best of his/her ability ("I will do my best") are therefore a most powerful instrument in the development of young people.

- **Learning by doing**

Another basic element of the Scout Method is the concept of active education or more simply, **learning by doing** which has become a cornerstone of modern education. This concept appears throughout the writings of the Founder, who has systematically emphasized that "*a Scout is always ready to do rather than to digest*". A programme which is not based upon the concept of learning by doing cannot be considered a Scout programme.

- **Membership of small groups**

A third basic element of the Scout Method is the system of membership of small groups (for example the Patrol System).

The advantage of small groups as agents of socialization i.e. Facilitating the integration of young people in social life, has long been recognized by social science. In this respect, it is an acknowledged fact that in the peer group relationships take place at the primary level.

The small number of people, the lasting character of the relationship, the identification of all the members of the group with the objectives, the thorough knowledge of other persons in the group the mutual appreciation within the group, together with the feeling of freedom and spontaneity and the fact that social control takes place informally - all this provides an ideal atmosphere for boys/girls and young men/women to undergo the process of transformation into the adult stage.

The small group operation thus provides opportunities for young people to progressively discover and accept the idea of the responsibility and trains them towards self-government. This facilitates the development of young people's characters and enables them to acquire competence, self-reliance, dependability and capacities both to co-operate and to lead.

In the above process, the role of adults is one of guidance. It consists in helping boys/girls and young men/women to discover their potential to assume responsibility in social life. The role of adults should

not be conceived as one of control since young people can only develop fully in a climate of respect and appreciation of their personality. When truly applied this relationship between young people and adults fulfils an essential need of modern society, since it provides a platform for dialogue and co-operation between generations.

- **Progressive and stimulating programmes**

The three elements of the Scout Method mentioned above are concretely expressed within the Scout (and Cub and Rover) programme, which is the totality of activities practised by young people in Scouting. The programme is designed to form an integrated whole and is not a collection of miscellaneous and unrelated activities. The basic characteristics of the programme constitute the fourth element of the Scout Method.

The Scout (and Cub and Rover) programme must thus be conceived in a progressive way in order to satisfy the need for gradual and harmonious development of boys/girls and young men/women. One tool which achieves this progression is the Advancement and Interest Badge System.

To achieve its objectives the programme is a **stimulating** balanced combination of **varied activities** which are based on the interests of the boys/girls. An harmonious combination of varied activities **games, useful skills** and **services to the community** ensures that the programme reaches its educational objectives.

Since the inception of Scouting, **nature and life in the outdoors** have been considered as the ideal framework for Scouting activities. The Founder attached great importance to nature. Indeed, he subtitled "Scouting for Boys", A handbook for *instruction in good citizenship through woodcraft* and he defined woodcraft as being the "*knowledge of animals and nature*".

The importance attached by Baden-Powell to nature was not only due to the obvious benefits of life in the outdoors for the physical development of boys/girls and young men/women, but also from the point of view of intellectual development. The numerous challenges that nature presents stimulate the creative capacities of young people. Furthermore from the point of view of social development, the common sharing of risks and challenges and the collective struggle for the satisfaction of vital needs creates a powerful link between members of the group.

Finally, nature plays a fundamental role in the spiritual development of young people; in the Founder's own words; "*The atheists... maintain that a religion that has to be learnt from books written by me cannot be a true one. But they don't seem to see*

that besides printed books... God has given us as one step the great Book of Nature to read and they cannot say there is untruth there - the facts stand before them... I do not suggest Nature Study as a form of worship or substitute for religion, but I advocate the understanding of Nature as a step in certain cases towards caring religion."

Whenever possible, therefore, Scout and Cub activities take place in an outdoor setting in contact with nature, since it provides the ideal environment in which a harmonious and integrated development of the young person can take place.

This section gives you an overview of the methods of Scouting. The Scout Association of SA uses eight fundamental methods to give boys/girls fun and adventure and to achieve Scouting's aims of encouraging character development, citizenship and mental and physical fitness.



The Patrol Method

Within the larger community of the Troop, the Patrol is a Scout's 'family circle'. Often made up of boys/girls who are close in age and experience level, each Patrol helps its members develop a sense of pride and identity. The boys/girls themselves elect the Patrol Leader, divide up the jobs to be done, and share in the satisfaction of accepting and fulfilling group responsibilities.

- ▶ Involves groups of six to eight Scouts each.
- ▶ Each Patrol elects a leader and has its own identity.
- ▶ Leadership changes regularly.
- ▶ Enables Scouts to discover what they're good at and work on skills they need to improve.

The Outdoors

The outdoor experience is the very essence of Scouting. It's a place where Scouts can practice the skills and activities they've learned at Troop meetings and learn to live with each other - and work as a team.

- ▶ Outdoor experiences can occur almost anywhere - from a camp to a community park.
- ▶ Troops should camp out every month.
- ▶ Every Scout uses the 'Leave no trace' camping method to preserve the environment.
- ▶ Every Scout learns valuable outdoor skills.

Advancement

- ▶ Recognizes achievements.
- ▶ Sets a lifelong pattern of setting positive goals and reaching them.
- ▶ Builds confidence.

Association with Adults

- ▶ Youth learn by watching adult conduct.
- ▶ Scout leaders become positive role models for Troops.
- ▶ Association with adults accelerates personal growth and the maturity of the Scouts.

Personal Growth

- ▶ Scout-age boys/girls experience dramatic physical and emotional growth.
- ▶ Scouting helps them channel this change into productive endeavours.
- ▶ Scouting helps youth discover their places in the community.



FURTHER TRAINING & RESOURCES

Q&A - Frequently Asked Questions:

The Troop I have joined doesn't have any Assistant Troop Scouter. Where do I get this support?

The Group Committee is responsible for adult recruiting.

How do I build more adult support?

Ask adults to do a specific task.

I will be working with a new/young Troop that doesn't have youth leadership developed. What do I do?

Troop Scouter and Assistant Troop Scouter Specific training will give you practical examples of how to teach Scouts to run their own Troop meetings.

Contact your District or Area to learn how you can take part in the training.

The troop is not operating like other Troops. They don't use the Patrol Method and adults pretty much plan and run the whole show. What do I do?

Contact your District or Area to learn how you can take part in Troop Scouter and Assistant Troop Scouter Specific training.

I have a fairly full schedule and will not have much time for additional training. How important is it that I take additional training, and how soon should I take it?

Scouting recognizes the value of your time, so the training has been designed in short modular segments. It lets you continue to grow into your Scouting position.

It is recommended that you receive training within the first three months of assuming your position in Scouting. The first part is adult Introduction Course followed by the position-specific training for your volunteer role.

Troop Scouter and Assistant Troop Scouter Specific training has been developed for Troop leaders who meet with the Scouts, and the Group Committee Challenge is for Group Committee members (Lay members).

What if I have to miss a Troop meeting or activity?

Two-deep leadership is important every time adults are meeting with youth.

If the Troop Scouter is not available, Assistant Troop Scouter work with the Senior Patrol Leader to conduct the Troop meeting or activity. **It is important to have two-deep adult leadership present every time an adult is meeting with youth.** You may need to ask a Group committee member or a parent to attend.

Where can I find ideas for outdoor activities?

Contact your District Commissioner or Area Headquarters for suggestions. Alternately, there are many resource materials available.

Be sure to ask when and where your monthly roundtable meetings are held. These meetings will provide specific program ideas you can use with your Scouts. The roundtable is also a great place to develop a network of other Troop Scouter who are willing to share their knowledge of local camping areas and activity ideas.

Where can I go camping?

Contact your District Commissioner or Area Headquarters for possible locations. Be sure to ask about District or Area camp facilities.

What is a Camp permit? Where do I get a permit as mentioned in the outdoor program section?

Camp permits are necessary in planning a safe and successful outing. They focus on transportation safety and are available from your District Commissioner or Area Headquarters

More information is available in the Troop Scouter and Assistant Troop Scouter Leader Specific training sessions.

Our Group committee only has the minimum members. Several positions are vacant. How can I do the job without this support?

Don't let the size of the committee be an obstacle. The key is to divide the tasks, which is critical in giving the Troop Scouter a greater ability to work with the youth.

Then start to invite other parents to join the committee and give them a task to accomplish or a committee assignment.

It is the responsibility of the Group Committee Chairman to recruit and develop a strong committee with the assistance of the chartered organization representative.

**ENJOY YOUR SCOUTING & REMEMBER
TO ALWAYS DO YOUR BEST**