



Scout Motto

In the past each section had its own motto. When joined together the original ones said: 'Do your best to be prepared for service'. We now however, all use the same one to show unity and family. It is shown on the logo of the UK Scout Association to the left. Once invested it should become your own personal motto. It is:

'Be Prepared' !

Scout Sign / Salute

The Scout sign is made by holding your right hand at shoulder height in the position shown below left. It is used when ever someone makes or renews their Scout Promise.

The three outstretched fingers represent the three main parts of the promise and the circle between thumb and little finger represents the world-wide family of Scouting.



The Scout salute is made by holding your right hand in the same position, but with your first finger pointing to your right eyebrow (and your elbow out). It is only used when in full uniform as a formal greeting or sign of respect e.g. when hoisting/breaking open the union flag.



The Founder

The Scout Movement was founded by Robert Stephenson Smythe Baden-Powell (B.-P.) in 1907. B.-P. was a famous soldier who once used local boys to help him defend a town during the Boer War. He wrote a book about some of the things they did for him and soon hundreds of youths were doing these things too.

The king told B.-P. that he should retire from the army and further develop the new 'Scout Movement'. He was made a baron for his many services to the country and decided to share the honour with Scouting by becoming 'Lord of Gilwell'.

Gilwell park is the Head Quarters campsite, known as the 'home of Scouting' where leaders are still trained to earn their 'wood badge' (which was also devised by B.-P.)



Scout Handshake

Scouts informally greet each other by shaking with the left hand. B.-P. adopted this from his time in Africa, when he had seen native warriors lower their left handed shields as a sign of trust and friendship.

In order to become invested, you will need to learn the Scout Promise and know the Scout Law. These are set out below, along with some other information that will help you understand the values and traditions of Scouting.

Scout Promise

On my honour I promise,
That I will do my best:
to do my duty to God and to the Queen,
to help other people and
to keep the Scout Law.

Scout Law

1. A Scout is to be trusted
2. A Scout is loyal
3. A Scout is friendly and considerate
4. A Scout belongs to the world-wide family of Scouts
5. A Scout has courage in all difficulties
6. A Scout makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property
7. A Scout has self respect and respect for others

Scout Uniform

Scouts wear a uniform as it gives all of us a sense of belonging, it gives the Scout Movement a high profile and helps to reinforce a strong unified image of Scouting. The uniform is easily recognised by the public and shows that we are an active, dynamic youth movement.

B.-P. designed the first Scout Uniforms to take advantage of readily available materials and be practical when undergoing the various activities Scouts enjoy.

The uniform has evolved through many changes since then and today, we have several options of garments, depending on the nature of our activity.

Scout Neckerchief

The Scout neckerchief or scarf (with woggle) is one of the most instantly recognisable parts of the Scout uniform, as it has remained virtually unchanged throughout the whole history of Scouting. Each Scout Group in a district should have their own distinctly coloured scarf, as a 'flag' of their identity.

It too was introduced by B.-P., as a very useful piece of equipment. The triangular shape lend it's self readily to first aid and B.-P. described many other uses for it in his books.

B.-P. first used the neckerchief with his soldiers, as it kept them warm in winter, and shielded from the sun in hot weather. He also made them tie a knot in the bottom as a reminder to do a good turn daily. When they had done so, they could untie it. Some Scout Groups still uphold the tradition of a knot to this day.



World Scout Emblem (Scout Membership Badge)

Where ever you are in the world, if you see another person wearing this badge, it means they are an invested member of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement. There are over 28 million brothers and sisters in the world-wide family of Scouting!

It was designed by B.-P. as a symbol of our fellowship throughout the world and each part has a particular meaning:

At it's heart is a white fleur-de-lis (a Lilly) pointing north, both the colour and flower have traditional meanings of peace and purity. It's three petals represent the three main parts of our promise. The two stars are the open eyes of truth and knowledge and each of their points represent an individual point of the Scout Law.

It is all set on a royal purple background, which indicates our foundations of leadership and guidance.

Finally, our world unity and fellowship is shown as a large circle of rope joined with a reef knot—which can expand without breaking.

When you become invested, you too will be given this badge, so wear it on your uniform with pride and honour, as a symbol of your commitment to Scouting values.

Investiture Ceremony

When you feel you are ready to become a Scout, you should make sure that you know the Scout Promise and Law and then talk to you Patrol Leader. A time should be agreed with you for the ceremony to happen.

At the investiture, you will be asked to place your left hand on the Scout Flag (another symbol of Scout honour) and make the Scout sign with your right hand. You will then be expected to make *your* Scout Promise for the first time. All the other invested members will also make the Scout sign as they renew their promise with you and will be remembering their own investitures.

This ceremony is a celebration of your entry into the Scout Section and most groups will choose to mark it in a memorable way. It may be that your parents are invited to watch / take photos, or it could be seen as a private Scout affair. Either way it is a very special event and the memory of it will stay with you for a long time.

So now that you know a little more about what it takes to become a Scout, are you prepared to take the next step?

...your investiture!

If you are, then good luck and remember:

**"SCOUTING IS A GAME"
WITH A PURPOSE**

(Lord Baden-Powell)

so enjoy it !

