

**VENTURE
UNIT**

THE VENTURE SCOUT



**In Scouting,
a boy is encouraged
to educate himself
instead of being instructed.**

Robert Baden Powell

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What is Venture Scouting?

ACTION

Becoming a member of a Venture Scout Unit, will introduce you to carrying out a variety of indoor and outdoor activities, amongst others are abseiling, archery, hiking, camping and canoeing.

FUN

Have you ever participated in a pie fight or mud wrestling? Venture Scouts can and do! You can organise fun activities, put together your own ideas and have loads of fun.

UNDERSTANDING

The members of the Unit are a team. Together you will learn new skills and knowledge, develop new pursuits and interests whilst sharing them with each other.

INVOLVEMENT

Apart from participating in outdoor activities and developing new interests, a Venture Scout will also have the opportunity of getting involved within the Community (locally/nationally and globally).

The possibility of being involved in various projects on a local and international level will allow one to develop a greater understanding of others, and work with various organisations.

YOUNG PEOPLE RUN THE SHOW

Venture Scouts take responsibility for running the Venture Unit according to the Venture Scout Programme. They are the managers – making plans and achieving goals. By participating in the management, the decision making process of the Unit and being involved in community life, Venture Scouts develop their own values and gain confidence to take up challenging issues they may face in a real-life situations.

AWARD SCHEME

The Venture Scout Programme allows the individual Venture Scout to pursue the Olympian Award.

The Award is designed to widen a Venture Scout's experiences outside their comfort zone, increase their personal capabilities and build their leadership and teamwork skills. Simultaneously, the Award allows the Unit to work at common goals.

The Venture Scout

A youth becomes a Venture Scout at investiture during which the Promise is made or reaffirmed. Investiture entitles the Venture Scout to wear the membership badge on the Venture Scout uniform and to be a member of the Scout Group, the National Association as well as the worldwide family of Scouts.

As a Venture Scout it is your responsibility to show commitment to the Venture Unit as well as to your Scout Group.

- 1. To become a Venture Scout you must have attained the age of 14 ½ and not reached your 18th birthday.**
- 2. The age of progression from the Scout Troop to the Venture Scout Unit is 14 ½ and by not later than your 15th birthday.**
- 3. A Venture Scout will progress to the Rover Crew on his/her 18th birthday**

Becoming a Venture Scout brings further commitment and responsibilities. You should respect your peers as well as your Leaders. As these make the time and effort to arrive at Venture meetings every week you too should make the effort. Why should they give up their time and put in that effort if you can't be bothered?

The Venture Section is a commitment and wherever possible you must keep at least one evening a week available for Venture scouts. When there is an activity set on the programme it is your responsibility to plan your social life around it. If a problem arises or a major function coincides with the programme, it is your responsibility to phone somebody and excuse yourself from the activity, at least two days before the activity. It is simply rude not to turn up to an activity without excusing yourself.

Another responsibility you have to the Unit is to tell the Leaders what your intentions are and to see if they approve of them, before going ahead and making arrangements.

If something happens, it falls back on the Leaders. Leaders need to know of your plans as they need to ensure all forms and paperwork are clear and correctly filled out. Communication is also an important aspect of not only Venture Scouts but also life and needs to be undertaken at a responsible level so everyone knows what's happening.

Finally, the older members need to set an example for the new members joining the Unit and set a standard for them to follow and respect in order to maintain a successful and enjoyable unit. Venture Scouting is aimed at fun but this is put at risk when Venture Scouts of a Unit don't meet their responsibility to the unit.

If you want to continue with a good unit and have a reputation to be proud of, you must put in the effort. Have a responsible attitude – this includes making what you know is the right decision when on a venture scout activity.

The Scout Law and Promise

The Scout Promise is the common bond of unity for all members of the Scout Movement and is accepted on a voluntary basis. That in itself is a fundamental expression of worth and value since any act that is enforced is of inconsequential value. In this respect the Promise is a personal commitment of the individual.

“On my honour” is the personal expression given by a Venture Scout, to uphold and maintain the Principles implied by the Promise, in a manner that is developed on the basis of trust. B-P invariably believed that one of the finest possible relationships that could exist between an adult Scout and a youth member was TRUST. This belief is still true today.

Understanding the Promise

DUTY TO GOD

Your personal example in carrying out the Promise and Law will be most significant in affecting the spiritual life or atmosphere of the Unit. The spiritual life of the Unit is not just prayer or the Scouts' Own – it is the spirit and purpose that inspires all activities and the way in which people react to each other within the Unit and Group.

In reality, numbers of Venture Scouts are not regular churchgoers; others may attend only occasionally to celebrate a special event or festival. For many Venture Scouts there is a personal difficulty in assessing their own attitudes and feelings about God and what God means to them.

Nonetheless, the acceptance of duty to my God stated in the Promise and the code of living in the law should permeate all our Scouting activities and all of our everyday life.

DUTY TO THE COUNTRY

Venture Scouts are encouraged to understand that living in a democracy results in acceptance of responsibility as well as privilege. Part of such responsibility is to accept and abide by the laws of the nation. It is not expected that disagreement of an existing law means that a person can ignore or break it.

It is important to note that in Scouting there are no politics attached to the development of citizenship. Duty to the country must also include a respect of the flora and fauna of the country as well as a will to conserve the resources and use them wisely.

TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE

A big part of the Venture Award Scheme is given to the development of skills that a Venture Scout may employ in the service of other people. A fundamental part of the section programme is based on the premise that a Venture Scout should be of service to other people.

Too often, sad to say, this part is neglected particularly in a period of time when people of Venture Scout age have more material possessions and more opportunity to obtain them than young people ever before.

It is not enough to assume that a Venture Scout, although equipped with skills of emergency, is capable of carrying them out. Venture Scouts need to train in learning to approach people, how to be at ease with them, as well as to learn to assist. The qualities of cheerfulness, concern and a desire to be of service require fostering.

**If I was asked
what is
the prevailing vice
in the world,
I should say –
SELFISHNESS.**

Baden-Powell

Aids to Scoutmastership.

Guidelines for Venture Scout Leaders

AIMS

The Aim of the Association is to encourage and provide opportunities for personal growth in young people aged 14 ½ to 18 years in the following areas:

- Social
- Physical Development
- Intellectual
- Creativity (Character)
- Emotional
- Spiritual

so that they may take a constructive place in society as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

The areas of growth, encouraged by Scouting and their relationship to the Aim, Promise and Law and Method of Scouting, are shown in the following chart.

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AREAS OF PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT	AIM IN RELATION TO THE PROMISE AND LAW	INTERPRETATION	METHOD
Physical	Aim: Physical development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fitness, Health • Survival and activities skills 	Training Scheme. Activities especially camping, exploring, adventurous activity, e.g. sailing, canoeing.
Intellectual	Aim: Intellectual development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interests, hobbies • Resourcefulness • Creative ability 	Award Scheme Activity Badges
Emotional: Expressed through values	Promise: "On my honour..." Law: Trust, courage, respect for self, makes good use of time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Values including sense of responsibility • Sense of own personal identity • Expression of values 	Training Scheme, Promise and Law. Example and influence of Leaders. Atmosphere of Venture Scout Unit
Social: Relationships	Law: Loyalty, friendly, helpful, cheerful, considerate, respect for others' possessions and property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With young people and adults • Sense of own personal identity • Expression of values • Expression of skills • Leadership skills • Responsibility to local, national and global community • Career development • Environmental awareness 	Support by Leaders, training activities
Spiritual: Religious Concept	Aim: Spiritual Development Promise: "Duty to my God"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belief in a religious concept of life and practice of that belief i.e. develop values and express through personal relationships. 	Training Scheme, Promise and Law. Encouragement of church membership. Example and influence of leaders. Atmosphere of the Venture Scout Unit.

The Role of the Venture Scout Leader

The Venture Scout Leader is an adult member of the Unit whose role is to supervise and counsel the Venture Scout. It is the leader's responsibility to ensure that the Unit runs effectively and to provide a safe environment for its' members.

The Venture Scout Leader's relationship with the Venture Scouts should be one of trust and teamwork. A good Venture Scout Leader will ensure that the Unit is active, while allowing Venture Scouts the opportunity to take their own decisions, be assertive in their increasing leadership skills and independence.

PRIMARY FUNCTIONS

The Venture Scout Leader has the responsibility for the overall management of the Venture Scout Unit and has an obligation to ensure the delegation of some of the responsibilities in order to ensure the appropriate development of the Assistant Venture Scout Leaders.