







*Organise a series of activities for another Section based on values*

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## Notes

Scouting is based on a Value System. The mission of scouting specifically says that a scouting *is to contribute to the **education of young people**, through a value system based on the **Scout Promise and Law**, to help **build a better world...***

Your role in this task is not about leading a religious ceremony, but is to help young members grow in spiritual development by reflecting on their experiences and living out its consequences.

### What do we mean by VALUES?

Values are standards or principles considered important in life. They come from within us and they can also be practiced.

#### Values from within

- Love
- Kindness
- Compassion
- Mercy
- Sympathy
- Empathy

#### Values to be practised

- Punctuality
- Discipline
- Obedience
- Behaviour
- Conduct
- Character

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*Take an active part in a project examining your own faith such as a retreat*

Human beings are a naturally curious species. Along with this curiosity comes a tendency to examine many different things during the course of our lives.

We examine our pocket money regularly to make sure the balance is correct and to see where we are spending our money. We go to the doctor for a check-up to find out if we have any health issues. We examine our grades (and sometimes even those of our friends) to see where strengths and opportunities exist. There are literally countless things that we choose to examine.

However, are we examining where our faith lies? When we look at ourselves honestly to determine if we are practicing what we preach, are we keeping ourselves on track?

Attend or organise a day or two to discuss and delve into spirituality and how, as teenagers, can accept God in our lives and still be cool. Invite over your group's chaplain or any other spiritual leader to help you in your quest.



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*Take an active part in a project examining a faith other than your own*

Buddha has said: *'There is only one way of driving out Hate in the world, and that is by bringing in Love'.*

The opportunity lies before us where in place of selfishness and hostility we can infuse goodwill and peace as the spirit in the coming generation.

We know nowadays, more clearly than ever before, that there are very many different religions throughout the world. Since there are many religions, it is natural for us to ask what they have in common, and how they differ. However, while it is easy to ask many questions about religions, there may not always be easy answers to our questions.

So here are some questions to assist you in understanding other religions:

- What do you know about other religions?
- Whom do you know who practices a different faith?
- What do you think the major religions have in common?
- What might Christians learn from Jews, or Jews from Muslims, or atheists from believers?

*"Finding common ground among faiths can help us bridge needless divides at a time when unified action is more crucial than ever." - 14th Dalai Lama*

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Rewrite the Law and Promise in your own words

The principles of the Scout Movement are defined as "adherence to spiritual principles, loyalty to the religion that expresses them and acceptance of the duties resulting therefrom".

It should be noted that the word "God", also covers religions which are non-monotheistic, such as Hinduism, or those which do not recognize a personal God, such as Buddhism.

When asked where religion came into Scouting and Guiding, Baden-Powell replied "*It does not come in at all. It is already there. It is a fundamental factor underlying Scouting and Guiding*".

A careful analysis of the Founder's writings shows that the concept of a force above man is basic to Scouting. The whole educational approach of the Movement consists in helping young people to transcend the material world and go in search of the spiritual values of life.

The Scout Promise and Law have been written a very long time ago and many of us feel that this is now out dated. Keeping the above in mind, as a Unit, rewrite the Law and Promise in your own words. Discuss whether this revised form is more meaningful to you and why.

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*Scouting is a mixed gender/cultural way of life. How can we all integrate? Discuss and present*

## Notes

We are all dedicated to helping all young people fulfil their potential and become confident, responsible citizens. To achieve this aim, we need to ensure that there are as few barriers as possible to them joining the Movement. The Scout Association of Malta welcomes members regardless of their gender identity.

Co-education in Scouting means that all young people are given the opportunity to understand the opposite sex and empathise with them.

*“Rock climbing and orienteering isn't just for boys; cookery and needlework isn't just for girls. The only splitting of the sexes should be in bathrooms and locker rooms. Otherwise, we're all in this world together and we can work, play and learn together.”*

*“The whole principle of the scouts should be helping each other - not restricting a movement to 50% of the children who may want to be a part of it.”*

The above two statements are just a guide to help your debates. What are your thoughts on the subject? Research and explore other ideas around other scouting associations around the world. Why not try and draw up a survey on how many associations around the world are mixed gender? And why not take the discussion to focus on diversity (religion, race etc)?

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*Talk with the Cub Scout Leader and carry out the Spirituality session to the cubs in either the Bronze, Silver or Gold Arrow*

## Notes

Spirituality is a fundamental part of the human experience and a part of the heritage we pass down to our children. Regardless of religion, it instills in kids what will become their framework of ethics and personal conduct throughout their life.

No matter what the religion of the family is, or if the family has no religion at all, it's important to teach kids to respect all points of view and all beliefs. With so much intolerance showing on the media, kids may get the impression that people from other cultures are "the bad guys" and this assumption can evolve to an intolerant attitude towards colleagues or promote bullying. The best way to teach children about different cultures is by telling them stories from other countries and play games so they understand the differences.

Talk with the Cub Scout Leader and carry out the Spirituality session to the cubs in either the Bronze, Silver or Gold Arrow. The attached document may be of assistance to prepare games and crafts.









*Plan, organise and present the Scout's Own Service at a camp.  
What yarns and songs do you know.*

## Notes

Scouts' Owns are made up of a combination of stories with a moral or spiritual message; metaphors, such as describing learning in terms of packing a backpack for life; prayers, where hopes, fears, emotions, and thankfulness are expressed; songs, which usually are prayers; and sharing between those present.

These elements can be combined in a variety of ways. One should not include any elements that will not lead towards the goal of the Scouts' Own. For example, songs should not be included unless the members would really enjoy singing them. Campfires are the place to introduce Scouts to singing, not Scouts' Own. These elements also need not be combined in a manner that resembles a church service. When telling a story or parable, one need not explain its meaning. A parable hides the truth from those who are listening until they are ready to understand it. The Scouts may be turned off by the moralizing instead of leaving thinking about the story, later to find meaning in it.

A simple plan for a Scout's Own:

- Prayer
- Song
- Small story with a moral
- Closing thought

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**Opening Prayer**

Dear Lord, Thank you for this beautiful earth which you have created for us to live on. We are grateful for the abundant food we have to eat, and for the many wonderful places we can visit. We are grateful for this campsite where we can enjoy the bush. We ask you to help us look after it, that it will continue to be a special place for Scouts in years to come. We pray that we might keep the tenth Scout law, and care for the environment, to make this world a better and more beautiful place. In Jesus' name, Amen

**Closing Prayer**

Dear Lord, We thank you for this opportunity to meet together and think about the environment. We are grateful for the beauty around us, and for the Scouting program that allows us so many chances to get outside and see all your creations. We are grateful for all our friends in Scouts and for our leaders who give up their time to help us in life. We ask that you will keep us safe throughout the rest of this camp, and this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen

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### Three Trees

A long time ago, three trees started their lives as tiny seedlings, struggling to grow upwards towards the light. As they grew they dreamed about the magnificent trees that they would become, and then wondered about the uses to which they might be put.

One day the first of the trees confided its hopes and dreams to the other two. "When I am fully grown," it said, "I would like to be turned into a beautiful bed. I can see my trunk being turned into the planks and posts for a big four-poster bed, with a hand-carved headboard, and wood-turned legs, and fitted out with the finest linen in a castle for a king." The other trees agreed that this was an impressive ambition.

The second tree summoned the courage to confess its own fantasy. "When I am fully grown," it said, "the strong centre of my trunk will be laid down as a keel for a mighty sailing ship. I will grow so tall that the top of my trunk will form a towering mast that will carry a great expanse of sails and be strong enough to withstand any wind. And I will sail across the oceans and carry rich treasures in my cargo." The other trees sighed in admiration at the thought.

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### Notes

The third tree hesitated a moment before admitting its ambitions. “When I am fully grown,” it said, “I want to be made into a beautiful monument, something that people will look to and admire. A marvellous thing, a surprising thing that lifts people’s souls and makes them feel joy and hope.” The other trees thought this was the most inspiring desire of all.

Years passed and the three trees reached maturity.

One day the first tree trembled in anticipation as it was chopped down and taken away. To its dismay no one took its timber and turned it into a beautiful bed. Instead its wood was hewn roughly into slats and it was made into a feed box in a stable. It felt disgusted that it was filled with hay and had to endure the snuffling of donkeys and goats.

The second tree held onto its dream as it was felled and cut up. Instead of being turned into an impressive ship, however, its timber was turned into short planks and a stumpy mast, and gradually it took the shape of a fishing boat. Instead of plying the vast oceans, it made its way around a tiny inland lake, seeming to shudder whenever its hold was filled with smelly fish.

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## Notes

The third tree, knowing nothing of the fate of the other two trees, imagined all sorts of possible designs for a suitable monument when the time came for it to be cut down. In vain it waited for an artist or craftsman to commence work on its beautiful timber; instead it was chopped in two, and the shorter piece was attached across the longer. As it was dragged to the top of a hill it felt horrified as it realised it was to be used for an execution.

But God knows the purpose of all things. One night a miracle happened and a special baby was wrapped in swaddling clothes and placed in a rough-hewn manger bed in a stable in Bethlehem. Thirty years later, a master teacher preached a sermon, spoke wonderful parables, and calmed a raging storm from the deck of a fishing boat in the Sea of Galilee. Three years later still, that same Jesus was crucified on a wooden cross on Calvary, offering himself as a sacrifice for all people who sin, and giving them hope of overcoming their faults and obtaining forgiveness and resurrection.

Without realising it, the ambition of each tree was fulfilled beyond measure.

