



To Parents Why Scouting!?



Introduction

“Given that the Scout Movement is considered the largest youth educational movement in the world for children and young people, and relies on a comprehensive and participatory educational process between various parties, with the aim of developing young people and motivating them to become active citizens in their societies, the Arab Scout Region desired to provide this guide to parents. This guide aims to clarify the fundamentals and principles of the Scout Movement, in addition to explaining the method of learning within scouting, which is known as the Scout Method. Through this guide, parents will discover the benefits that their sons and daughters can achieve from their participation in the Scout Movement, and how they can play an important role as vital partners in this educational process. This guide was carefully prepared through the cooperation of





an elite group of scouting and educational experts from the Arab Scout Region. In this vein, the opinions of scout leaders and parents were surveyed to ensure that the content is consistent with the needs and aspirations of everyone. This collaboration aims to make this guide comprehensive and reflecting the opinions of different people interested in the education and upbringing process. Ultimately, it will benefit our children and young people and will contribute to improving their experience and personal as well as social development.”

Amr Hamdy

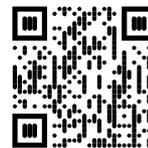
Regional Director of the Arab
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What is scouting?

Scouting is:

The world's leading educational youth movement, founded in 1907 , in Britain by Lord Robert Baden-Powell, has now membership of 65 million scouts (census of 2023) in 174 countries.

Boys and young people of both genders join scouting starting from the age of 5 years. The Scout Movement is concerned with education and aims to develop physical, emotional, mental, social and spiritual potentials, based on basic principles: duty to God, duty to self and duty to others. Scouting is characterized by its unique style and distinctive method of education.



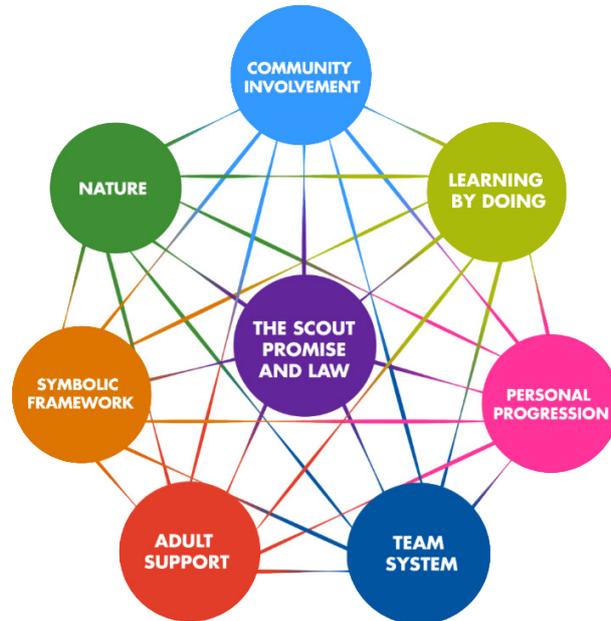
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How do scouts learn?

Learning is through programs and activities that are practised according to the Scout Method, which is the basic foundation of the distinctive learning method in Scouting. It provides learning opportunities for children and young people, through a method that relies on a set of interconnected elements that integrate with each other to ensure learning and reaching the goal.

The Scout Method includes the following elements:

1. Scout Law and Promise: A personal, voluntary commitment to a set of shared values.
2. Learning by Doing: Real life experiences.



3. Personal Progression : Progression within the scout sections by passing a set of tasks.
4. The Team System: Using small teams as a way to engage in learning and assuming responsibility
5. Adult Support: Providing help and assistance to boys and young people by adults.
6. A Symbolic Framework: Forms, symbols, actions, signs...etc, used by scouts only.
7. Nature : Scout camps, all kinds of trips, and learning in nature.
8. Community Involvement : Active commitment to local, regional and global communities.

What do children benefit and learn?

The Scout Movement has played a major role in enhancing the role of school and home, and providing young people with a set of knowledge, skills, and behaviors, which can be summarized as follows:

1. Giving them self-confidence, highlighting them as good role models, and refining their planning skills and sense of leadership.
2. Encouraging and motivating them to perform religious rituals regularly and adhere to good morals and values.
3. Promoting citizenship and pride of belonging to the homeland.
4. Refining their management skills that contribute to organizing their daily lives.
5. Developing many skills that contribute to refining their personality.



6. Teaching them self-reliance and assuming responsibility, which contribute to developing their life skills.
7. Sticking to discipline and commitment.
8. Spreading the culture of cooperation, sacrifice, and altruism, and developing the spirit of volunteerism and helping others.
9. Increasing their flexibility within work teams and acceptance of others.
10. Providing them with communication skills that help them increase their social relationships.
11. Instilling in them the principles of preserving public property and the environment.
12. Increasing creative thinking skills.
13. Contributing to developing the spirit of adventure and courage.



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Leader's role

The leader is the role model, guide, facilitator, and discoverer of the capabilities of children and young people. He is also responsible for managing the scout teams in order to achieve the educational goals of the Scout Movement. His role varies according to the age section he leads. He also motivates the boys and young people, highlights their talents, and improves their performance.

According to scout schemes, the leader undergoes gradual training and qualification courses, and continuous follow-up that corresponds to the tasks he occupies:



- He plans, implements, manages and follows up the scout programs of his team.
- He recognizes participants' needs to satisfy them.
- He strengthens the relationships between members of the scout troop and scouts in general.
- He discovers the talents of his troop members and works to enhance them.
- He contributes to solving the problems they may face.
- He provides advice.
- He distributes responsibilities.
- He contributes to educating and guiding the members of his troop.
- He develops good relationships with children, youth, and parents on the one hand, and with society on the other hand.

What is the role of parents in the Scout Movement?

Parents are considered an integral part of the educational process, and this necessitates them to have a large and important role in the Scout Movement, and some contributions can be as follows:

1. Following up children development and linking the values, principles and behaviors they learn in scouting to their daily lives.
2. Cooperating with children and youth leaders on some items related to personal progress.
3. Participating in scouting competitions and games, and attending various scouting activities to encourage them, (concerts - competitions - camps... etc).



4. Providing suggestions for activities through parent committees and implementing some of them.
5. Promoting the Scout Movement, its virtues and its positive impact on children.
6. Communicating with scout unit leaders to follow up children progress.
7. Transferring the experiences of parents in different areas of life to the leaders of the Scout Movement.
8. Contributing to providing all support to help implement programs.

Are my children safe?

The safety and wellbeing of your children is one of the most important priorities of the Scout Movement. Scouting has ensured this through a complete set of systems and procedures, which reduce the possibility of any harmful incident, and address any abuse if it occurs. A special system has also been established to receive complaints and reporting abuses, and ensure immediate dealing with them.

In view of the importance of protecting scout members, WOSM Constitution was amended at the 42nd World Scout Conference by adding articles to ensure that scouts around the world comply with Safe from Harm (SfH) rules.

Regulations and procedures were put in place; the articles of which were derived from a global framework called "Safe from Harm".



The SfH framework aims to enhance the safety and wellbeing of your children in all scout activities. Protecting your children includes making them safe against all types of harm or abuse, including bullying, harassment, cyber attacks, abuse, neglect, infringement of intellectual property, etc., and training them on how to protect themselves and others in different situations.

Applying the Safe from Harm framework leads to creating a safe scout environment that enables the individual to achieve self-development, in addition to creating positive and healthy personal relationships, by defining the relationships and methods of dealing between scouts and leaders.



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Scouting and mental health

The mental well-being of children and young people will reflect positively on their special abilities, enable them to adapt to normal types of stress, work with dedication and effectiveness, and contribute to the progress and growth of their societies.

Mental health is the safety of young people from the psychological pressures they may be exposed to, which may negatively affect their behavior, such as emotional outbursts, changes in appetite, sadness, anxiety... This may affect their physical health as well.

Scouting contributes to the development of several aspects of boys and young people, including the physical, emotional and mental aspects. Parents can recognize any changes



or ailments that may appear in their children on the physical aspect. However, parents find difficulty in discovering psychological illness that affects both the mental and emotional sides.

Therefore, scouting paid attention to mental health, and issued bulletins and provided training to their leaders after studies by experts and specialists. These efforts aim at recognizing the different behavioral changes that may appear in boys and young people which should be communicated to their parents, in order to follow them up with the competent authorities to develop appropriate solutions and achieve sound mental health, which will reflect positively on the family and society.

Activities and training have also been formulated for boys and young people to practise during scout activities to maintain their mental health and avoid illnesses.



Scouting role in society

Community Involvement has always been one of the core goals of the Scout Movement and one of the most important elements of the Scout Method. Therefore, the Scout Movement gives priority to train its members on the principles of belonging to their communities and serving them to achieve its goals and to achieve the positive influence which makes a favourable change. We will show you a set of examples that can be implemented by scouts to serve society.

1. Combating epidemic diseases and participating in health campaigns, as happened during the outbreak of the Covid19-pandemic and participation of more than 10 thousand scouts in the Arab region in awareness and sanitation campaigns to help others.
2. Organizing medical convoys.
3. Providing service in places of worship, such as the pioneering role played by the Saudi scouts in serving pilgrims in the Holy Kaaba, and the Palestinian scouts in serving those who are fasting in Al-Aqsa Mosque, and serving worshipers in churches.
4. Providing moral support to orphanages, homes for the elderly, hospitals, and families of martyrs.
5. Participating in organizing events, including national, patriotic and



- religious celebrations, sports tournaments and international events.
6. Preserving forests and water, caring for wildlife and natural reserves, and resisting agricultural pests (environmental projects); such as the initiatives taking place in Morocco to preserve beaches.
 7. Organizing lectures, seminars, cultural campaigns, in addition to cultural activities and exhibitions.
 8. Spreading awareness and interest in tourism and caring for heritage.
 9. Providing aid during disasters; as happened during the scout teams' assistance after the Beirut port explosion, during the earthquake in Syria and Turkey, and the flood in Sudan and Oman. This is in addition to spreading awareness of public security and safety.
 10. Raising awareness of the importance of rationalizing the consumption of thermal and electrical energy, and benefiting from new renewable energy; such as the pioneering activity of the Egyptian scouts to rationalize water consumption.
 11. Spreading awareness about the importance of a culture of children, human and women rights, protection of minorities and education for peace.
 12. Helping farmers in different seasons; in addition to contributing to tree planting.

You ask and Scouts answer

What is the scout curriculum?

It is a set of educational experiences and requirements defined according to well-studied measurements and standards to achieve the educational goals of the Scout Movement. It is the minimum that must be practised by boys and young people in terms of activities and events that ensure the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes at a specific time in accordance with Arab and national specificity.



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The word “Jamboree” is often mentioned. What does it mean?

It is a commonly known term for scouting. It means the World Scout camp, which is organized every 4 years in one of the countries of the world, under the umbrella of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, with the participation of scouts and guides from all over the world.



In case my children do not participate in the World Scout Jamboree, can they communicate with and get to know their peers from other regions and countries?

Yes The Scout Movement has a global digital camp, which is considered the largest global scouting event. It is held annually, for three days, via the Internet and the radio . It is called in the language of scouting (JOTA & JOTI), and more than three million members participate in it.

- JOTA Jamboree On The Air.
- JOTI - Jamboree On The Internet.

There are also many regional and international jamborees that can be participated in by communicating with the National Scout Organizations.



What is the purpose of the Scout Movement?

Contributing to the development of boys and young people to achieve their fullest physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual abilities and potentials as individuals, responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.



What is the Scout Promise?

It is a text of a voluntary commitment made by a scout to achieve a set of common values, which boys and young men repeat when they join Scouting, and in their meetings and activities. It is as follows:

I promise to do my best to do the following:

- my duty to God and the country,
- help others at all times,
- and to follow the Scout Law.

It may vary between countries.



What is the Scout Law?

It is a personal commitment to a set of qualities derived from good values and morals, with which Scouting seeks its members to comply.

- A Scout's honour is to be trusted.
- A Scout is loyal.
- A Scout's duty is to be useful and to help others.
- A Scout is a friend to all, and a brother to every other Scout.
- A Scout is courteous (polite).
- A Scout is a friend and companion to animals.
- A Scout obeys orders of his parents and patrol-leader, or scout master without question.
- A Scout smiles and whistles under all circumstances
- A Scout is thrifty.
- A Scout is clean in thought, word and deed.

Each country may amend in accordance with its regulations in a manner that does not contravene the above provisions.



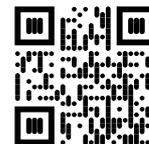
Does scouting have anything to do with the military?

No, it has nothing to do with the military, but because scouting is distinguished by its uniform, discipline, commitment, and order, in addition to raising its children to belonging and be loyal to the homeland, this has led some to liken it to the military.



How does scouting contribute to achieving the sustainable development goals?

Through various activities and the implementation of its programs at various stages, in addition to the Scout Movement partnerships signed with various agencies of the United Nations to include global programs and initiatives related to sustainable development within its programs <https://sdgs.scout.org>. An example of this is the initiatives and programs of the Scout Movement and the Sustainable Development Goals.



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What is the scout emblem?

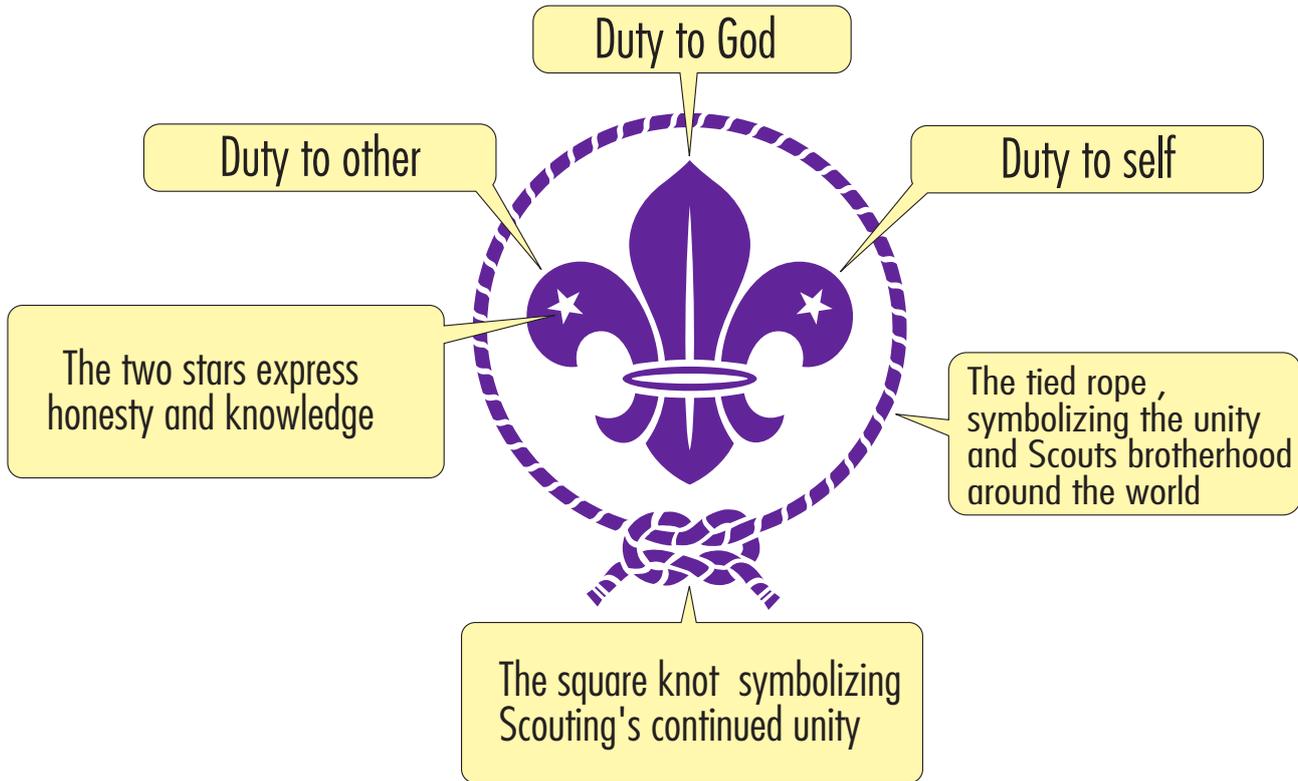


Baden-Powell himself explains the Scout emblem by saying: "We took our badge from the north point used on maps to indicate the north." Baden-Powell's wife said afterward, "It shows the right way to go." Therefore, the emblem helps Scouts to be honest and reliable in maintaining the principles of Scouting, and to light the way for others just like a compass.

In Scouting, the three heads of the emblem represent the three main points of the Scout's Promise, and the two five-head stars express honesty and knowledge...

The basic design of the World Scout Emblem is surrounded by a rope tied with a knot, symbolizing the unity and brotherhood of the movement throughout the world, and also symbolizing Scouting's continued unity.

(The emblem varies from one country to another)





At what stage can my children join the Scout Movement?

Boys and youth of both genders can join the Scout Movement at any age, starting from the age of 5 to 26 years old. A scout joins the group that corresponds to his age according to the following details:

- From the age of 5 - 6 years, he will join the bud stage.
- From the beginning of age 7 - 11 years, the section of cubs and brownies (butterflies according to the name of the Arab cub guide)
- From the beginning 11 - 15 years, Boy Scout for males and Girl Scouts for females.
- From the beginning 15 - 17 years, senior scout for males and senior girl guide for females.
- From the beginning 18 - 26 years, the rover section for males and the Rovers for females, or according to the national naming in the NSO.
- (The names of the scout sections vary from one country to another)



What is the meaning of the scout salute performed by scout members with the right hand?



It is the universal greeting for Scouts and is performed with the right hand, raising the index, middle and ring fingers as a symbol of the principles and qualities of Scouting, and placing the thumb on the pinky in the form of a closed circle as a symbol of the Scouting brotherhood and as an indication that the strong protect the weak and the young respect the older.



What is the Wood Badge?

It is a unified global system for qualifying and training leaders, and consists of three gradual stages, so that leaders are able to lead scout teams in the first stage, to train other leaders in the second stage, and to design training paths and courses in the third stage. Scouting has unified traditions and symbols throughout the world. .



Is Scouting available to girls?

Yes, Scouting is available to males and females



Are Scouts mixed in their activities?

This matter is subject to established social traditions and age stage.

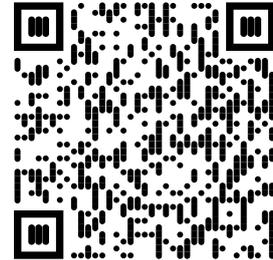


Are there famous people in the scout movement?

Yes, many kings, presidents, princes, scholars and artists around the world have been joined the Scout Movement and their lives were influenced throughout history.

You can read:

- Arab Cub Guide.
- Educational guide for cub leaders.
- Cubs poster.
- Scout Guideline.
- Scout Leaders Guide.
- Boy Scouts poster.
- Senior Boy Scout Guide.
- Educational guide for senior boy scout's leaders.
- Senior Boy Scout Guide.
- Arab Rover guide.
- Rover Leaders Guide.
- Rovers poster.
- World Safe from Harm Policy
- WOSM Guidelines for Organizing Sustainable Events.
- Guide to Scouting activities for mental health.



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