



SCOUTS[®]
South Africa

**WELCOME
TO
SCOUTING**

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It's great to have your son or daughter join our world-wide Movement. There's an exciting programme lined up in the years ahead, with plenty of outdoor adventure on offer. Activities such as hiking, camping, and pioneering will all provide fun with good friends in a healthy and stimulating environment.

There's plenty of fun in store for you too, and we urge you to play an active role. To introduce you to this great Scout family of ours, we would like to tell you something about our Movement.

Your son or daughter is following over 250 million others who have been Scouts since Robert Baden-Powell started the Scout Movement in 1907. Today there are more than 28 million members in over 200 countries and territories. About 300 000 are members of SCOUTS South Africa (SSA). As parents of a Cub or Scout, you too will be drawn into the action. So let's tell you what it's all about:

THE MISSION OF SCOUTS SOUTH AFRICA IS:

- to make available voluntary membership regardless of colour, class or creed;
- to develop a spiritual awareness among its members;
- to create for each member an awareness of, and involvement in, service to others and the community;
- to use the opportunities of the family of Scouting in accordance with its purpose, principles and method, in order to develop in its members unprejudiced attitudes and an understanding of, and respect for, others;
- to promote a commitment to a code of values which results in a self-discipline and the development of the members' full potential that will enable each one to take a meaningful place in society.

In fulfilling the Mission, the Aim of SSA is as follows:

THE AIM OF SCOUTS SOUTH AFRICA

is to encourage the spiritual, mental, social and physical development of boys and girls, young men and young 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.

MEMBERSHIP is open to boys and girls over the age of 7 years and to adults who accept the Aims and Methods and who make the Scout or Cub Promise, Scout Groups form the basic unit at which the majority of our members operate.

Your son/daughter has joined theGroup.

Each Group can consist of up to three branches - Cub Pack(s), Scout Troop(s) and Rover Crew, catering for the following ages:

- Cubs 7 - 10
- Scouts 11-17
- Rovers young adults 18 and over

School-sponsored Groups may operate on the school standard system - in these cases a Cub 'goes up' to the Troop after completing Grade 6, where he/she may remain until completing Grade 12.

On investiture, Scouts, Rovers and adult leaders make the **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.

Cubs make the **CUB PROMISE** on investiture:

I promise to do my best -
To do my duty to God and my Country;
To keep the Law of the Wolf Cub Pack;
and to do a good turn to somebody every day.

The **CUB LAW** is:

The Cub gives in to the Old Wolf,
The Cub does not give in to himself.

and the **CUB MOTTO** is “DO YOUR BEST”.

The **SCOUT LAW** is:

1. A Scout's honour is to be trusted.
2. A Scout is loyal.
3. A Scout's duty is to be useful and to help others,
4. A Scout is a friend to all and a brother to every other Scout.
5. A Scout is courteous.
6. A Scout is a friend to animals.
7. A Scout obeys orders.
8. A Scout smiles and whistles under all difficulties.
9. A Scout is thrifty
10. A Scout is clean in thought, word, and deed.

and the **SCOUT MOTTO** is “**BE PREPARED**”.

So what then do we have on offer for your son or daughter? In broad terms, Scouting is the development of each individual to his full potential, through:

- character development
- fun in action
- outdoor adventure
- training in leadership
- active service to others
- learning useful skills spiritual growth
- citizenship and involvement in the community
- sound physical and mental health
- education for life
- teamwork and friendships
- accepting responsibility
- understanding and caring for the environment
- building self-confidence to meet challenges
- stimulating respect for self and others

The Scout Programme endorses a **CODE OF LIVING**:

A spiritual dimension

- a commitment to seek the spiritual value of life beyond the material world.

A social dimension

- participating in the development of society, respecting the dignity of others and the integrity of the natural world;
- promoting local, national and international peace, understanding and co-operation.

A personal dimension

- developing a sense of personal responsibility and stimulating the desire for responsible self-expression.

One of the fundamental means of developing each boy or girl is the progressive badge system, including Advancement Badges and Interest Badges. The Advancement Badges provide the core to develop a Scout up to the level of the Top Award,

The **METHOD** underlying these activities involves:

Making a personal commitment

- to a simple code of living: the Scout Promise and Law.

Learning by doing

- active participation, with others.

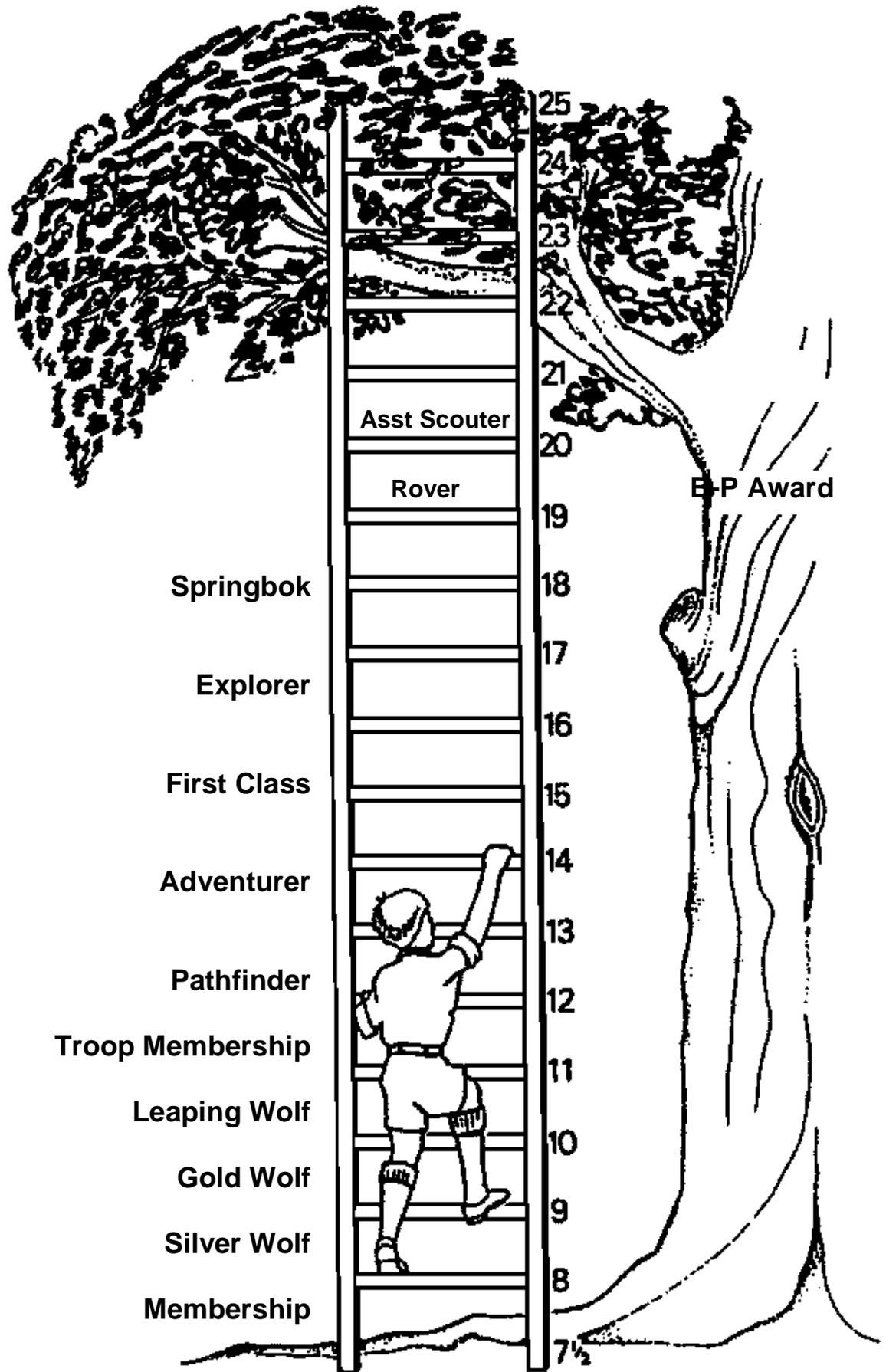
Working in small groups

- in Patrols to develop leadership, group skills, and individual responsibility.

Stimulating programmes

- progressive activities based on the interests of young people. Activities in contact with nature, a rich learning environment where simplicity, creativity, and discovery come together to provide adventure and challenge.

The Advancement Badges follow a progressive scheme:



The highest Scout Advancement Badge is the Springbok Scout Badge. The requirements for each badge are contained in handbooks called The Cub Trail (for Cubs) and The Scout Trail (for Scouts). In addition to listing the requirements for each badge, these handbooks also explain how to complete the requirements for each activity. Cubs and Scouts are encouraged to obtain a personal copy of the handbook that includes the Advancement Badge they are currently working towards.

Interest Badges cover a wide range of activities designed to broaden a Cub or Scouts outside interests. These badges can be earned at any stage and include sports, hobbies, useful skills etc. Requirements for each interest Badge are contained in the back section of The Cub Trail and in The Scout Badge Book. In addition, Challenge Awards (e.g. Bushman's Thong) are available to Scouts, to offer optional challenges to the enthusiast.

One of the greatest strengths of the Scout Movement is its success in developing leadership qualities in boys and girls - achieved by organising Cubs and Scouts into small groups, each usually six to eight in size. These are called Sixes for Cubs and Patrols for Scouts, led by a Sixer and Patrol Leader (PL) respectively.



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As a parent, you are automatically a member of the Group Parents' Association. One of its tasks is to select a Group Committee at its Annual General Meeting. The role of the Group Committee is to assist the uniformed members in several ways, including fundraising, administration, activities, badge examination, property etc. We do hope that you will join in the fun by becoming involved in some way in the Group's activities.

Finally, we know that your son or daughter will enjoy your support in all his Scouting activities. As a parent, your encouragement and enthusiasm are vital to every Scout's progress.

We trust that you are going to enjoy Scouting as much as your son or daughter is bound to do. Now that you know what we have to offer, please make the most of it.

WELCOME AGAIN! IT'S GREAT TO HAVE YOU WITH US!

Your son/daughter has joined the Six / Patrol
with the present leader being (Sixer / PL)

Phone

Email

The Cub Pack is headed by the Pack Scouter (PS) and the Scout Troop by the Troop Scouter (TS), while the Group Scout Leader is in overall charge of the Group. In our case, the Scouters are:

PS / TS

Phone

Email

Group Scout Leader

Phone

Email

Meetings take place at our Group Headquarters:

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Group website

Each member is required to wear the correct uniform. Certain items, such as the Group scarf, are obtained directly from your Group. The rest of the uniform, together with Scouting literature and outdoor equipment, is available from your local Scout shop at:

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Phone

Email