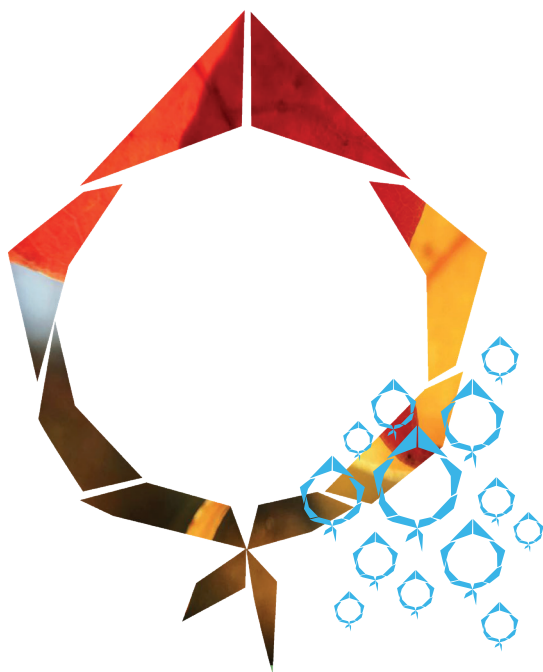




# THE CONSTITUTION OF THE GUIDES AND SCOUTS OF FINLAND



## **THE CONSTITUTION OF THE GUIDES AND SCOUTS OF FINLAND**

Approved by the biennial general assembly  
of the Guides and Scouts of Finland on 14.11.2020

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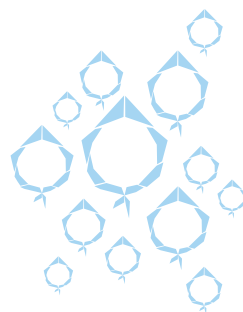
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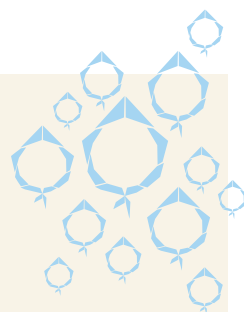
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## INTRODUCTION

# 1

This constitution outlines the principles that define the aim and fundamental values of the Guide and Scout Movement, steer the Movement's operating principles and the Scout Method in Finland, and define the role of the Guides and Scouts of Finland (Suomen Partiolaiset – Finlands Scouter). The Guides and Scouts of Finland is the sole representative of the Guide and Scout Movement in Finland. In this constitution, the activities of the Guides and Scouts of Finland refer to the Guide and Scout Movement in Finland. In this document, the terms “Scout” and “Scouting” refer to both girl guides and boy scouts.

This constitution defines and outlines all Scouting activity in Finland. The purpose of the Guides and Scouts of Finland is defined in this constitution and the rules and regulations of the organisation.

The rules and regulations of the organisation define all issues in compliance with the Finnish Associations Act, including the purpose and administration of the Guides and Scouts of Finland. In addition, the rules of procedure are used as internal guidelines that complement the rules and regulations and the constitution. The rules of procedure specify the duties and activities of the governing bodies of the Guides and Scouts of Finland.

The constitution is based on the constitutions of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) and the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM). Both World Organisations must ratify changes to the constitution of the Guides and Scouts of Finland.

## THE CONSTITUTION



## 2 THE AIM AND OPERATING PRINCIPLES OF THE SCOUT MOVEMENT

The Guide and Scout Movement is open to all who approve of its aim and fundamental values. Scouting is voluntary. In Finland, the target group of the activities is children and young people between 7 and 22 years of age. The activities are guided and supported by adults. Children under 7 years of age are able to participate in Scouting activities meant for the age group with a parent or guardian. For adults, Scouting offers opportunities for personal growth and development.

The purpose of the Guides and Scouts of Finland is to promote Scouting in Finland. The activities mainly take place in local groups. The Guides and Scouts of Finland assists its districts in supporting the local groups. The Guides and Scouts of Finland maintains and develops the Finnish youth programme as well as the adult resources and training system.

### 2.1 The Aim

Scouting is an educational Movement that aims to support the development of children and young people by taking their personal characteristics into consideration. The aim is to raise individuals who have balanced personalities and lifestyles and who are responsible, active and independent members of local, national and international communities.

## 2.2. The operating principles of the Guides and Scouts of Finland

The principles of openness and equality are applied in all Scouting activities and decision-making. The Movement aims for regional equality and to ensure that nobody is discriminated against based on age, gender, sexual orientation, language, cultural or ethnic background, religion, political opinion, socioeconomic status, state of health or other similar reason. In its activities, the Movement commits to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Guides and Scouts of Finland follows the principles of sustainable development.

The Guides and Scouts of Finland is a youth organisation and young people play an active role in its activities. At all levels, the organisation promotes the involvement of young people in decision-making in Finnish society and globally. The Guides and Scouts of Finland is independent and non-profit. The Movement is politically non-aligned. As an organisation, the Guides and Scouts of Finland can comment on political questions related to the values of the Guide and Scout Movement or issues that promote the position of the Movement. Guides and Scouts are encouraged to be societally and politically active as individuals.

The Guides and Scouts of Finland is not committed to any religion. The organisation follows the principle of positive freedom of religion. The Guide and Scout Movement embraces the seeking of a personal religion or other worldview and a positive relationship towards spirituality. The term “worldview” refers to an individual’s religious or non-religious view of the world. The Guides and Scouts of Finland can make cooperation agreements with different faith-based organisations. The purpose of the agreements is to promote the role of education related to religions and other worldviews as part of the education of the Guides and Scouts of Finland and agree on the principles of the cooperation. In addition, local groups may make agreements with faith-based organisations. Local groups that are affiliated with a faith-based organisation primarily provide religious education following that faith but paying attention to the diversity of beliefs and worldviews among the members of the local group. Local groups that are not affiliated with a faith-based organisation support its members’ growth in terms of their religions and other worldviews.

Scouting is arranged in Finnish and Swedish. The activities can also be offered in other languages. The Guides and Scouts of Finland and Finlands Svenska Scouter (FiSSc) have signed a cooperation agreement on the arrangement of national Scouting activities so that FiSSc manages activities in Swedish at the national and the district level.

Scouting is an international Movement that forms a unique international community. The Guides and Scouts of Finland is a member of both WAGGGS and WOSM and the only representative of the World Organisations in Finland. The Guides and Scouts of Finland promotes the aims of the two World Organisations and ensures that Scouting in Finland fulfils the principles and aim of the Guide and Scout Movement. The Guides and Scouts of Finland is actively involved in developing the World Organisations.





### 3 VALUES OF SCOUTS

The core values of Scouts are indicated in the Scout Ideals, the Scout Promise and the Scout Motto. The Movement's activities are guided by fundamental values defined by the two World Organisations. According to the values, human beings have a Duty to God, Duty to Others and Duty to Self.

The values refer to ideals and goals that we consider important and that guide activities and decision-making. They motivate participants to take action. The values of Scouts support achieving the aim of the Movement at the individual level. Scouting provides participants with tools to acknowledge the values and implement them in their life. The activities of the Guides and Scouts of Finland are also guided by the operating principles described above.

Scouts have a strong value basis that is defined in the Scout Ideals. The values are manifested in the Scout Promise, and each member commits to them when giving the promise. The Scout Motto describes the attitude in which values are included as part of activity in accordance with the aims of the Movement – Scouts are always ready to act in compliance with the values of Scouting.

The Scout Ideals are based on the founder Robert Baden-Powell's original Scout Law, and the Scout Promise has been derived from the original Scout Promise. The Scout Motto is the same all over the world and Scouts are known for it.

## 3.1 Scout Ideals

### ► To respect others

Scouts understand the diversity of individuals and promote equality. They recognise their prejudices and are ready to change them. Scouts defend equality also when it feels difficult. Scouts respect what is sacred for others as well as individual's freedom of religion, or irreligiosity. Scouts acknowledge that each person has inalienable human rights.

### ► To love nature and protect the environment

Scouts build and nurture their personal relationship to the environment. They find nature important and understand its intrinsic value. Scouts understand their impact on the environment and follow the principles of sustainability to maintain a vital and rich environment for future generations as well.

### ► To be trustworthy

Scouts are trustworthy friends who keep their word and take responsibility for their duties. Scouts build an atmosphere of trust and show their trust to others. Scouts are always ready to help other people.

### ► To build friendship across boundaries

Scouts have a positive attitude towards diversity. They want to get to know people, including those from outside of their regular communities, and build friendships with them. Scouts aim to build constructive dialogue and cooperation. Scouts work for peace everywhere. Scouts are part of the international Movement and see opportunities to change the world through the Movement.

### ► To acknowledge one's responsibility and take action

Scouts carry responsibility for their communities and society and do not hesitate to take action for the good of all. Scouts can act as members of different groups and lead the groups. Scouts are active members of society who follow their own principles in their actions.

### ► To develop as a human being

Scouts strengthen their self-knowledge by learning to recognise and develop their strengths and weaknesses. Scouts always aim to improve their knowledge and skills. Scouts acquire the skills to recognise their personal values and understand the importance of the values as well as how these values affect their actions.

### ► To search for truth in life

Scouts build their personal belief or another worldview. Scouts have a positive attitude towards different religions, other worldviews, and spirituality. Scouts accept that there is something greater than humankind. Scouts have a positive attitude towards the future. Scouts build their conceptions of right and wrong and act righteously.

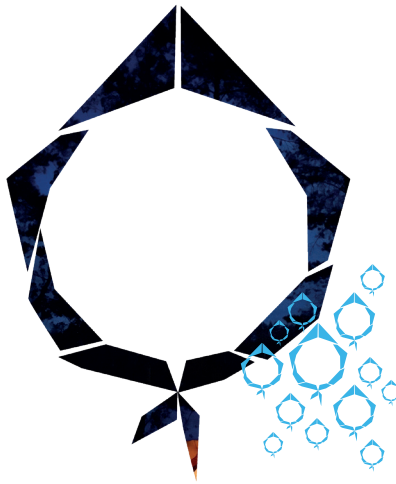
## 3.2 Scout Promise

I promise to do my best to live for the good of my country and the world, to develop in my spiritual beliefs and worldview and fulfil the ideals of the <age group> every day.

## 3.3 Scout Motto

Be prepared.





# 4

## EDUCATION IN SCOUTING

The Guide and Scout Movement strives towards the fulfilment of its aim through a goal-oriented and progressive education of children and young people, which includes the educational objectives, the Scout Method and the youth programme.

The educational objectives specify the aim of Scouting, which is achieved by using the Scout Method and implementing the programme activities.

### 4.1 The Educational Objectives

The Educational Objectives of the Guides and Scouts of Finland detail the aims of educating children and young people through the Scout Method and the youth programme. The Educational Objectives concretise the aim of Scouting and are connected to time, society and culture.

The aim of the youth programme is to educate individuals who act responsibly and actively in relation to themselves, other people, society and the environment. Scouting teaches knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that are useful in different sectors of life. Scouting supports the growth of children and young people while taking personal characteristics and stages of development into consideration. The Educational Objectives of different age sections are described in the youth programme.

### ► **Relation to self**

Scouts develop themselves as human beings and search for truth in life. They accept that there is something greater than humankind. Scouts explore their spirituality and live their everyday life accordingly. Scouts construct their identity related to a religion or another worldview. Scouts aim for an active and balanced life in which they accept themselves and their characteristics and follow a healthy way of living. Scouts are aware of their own skills and have the courage to engage in new and different situations and use their creativity. Scouts find functional solutions to different problem situations. They can give and receive feedback and make good use of it.

### ► **Relation to others**

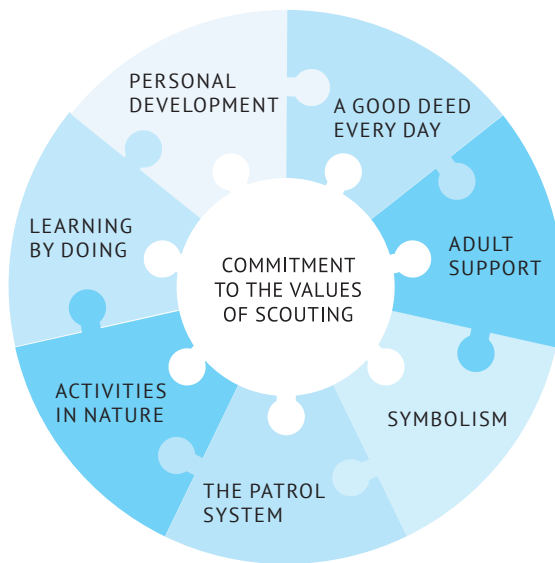
Scouts respect other people and can take them into account. Scouts can express their feelings and opinions in a way that is suitable for the situation. Scouts understand the diversity of people. They recognise their personal prejudices and are ready to change them. They help other people even if they would not personally benefit from it. Scouts are reliable friends who prevent bullying with their actions. Scouts are honest and you can trust their word.

### ► **Relation to society**

Scouts build peace and contribute to common issues. Scouts explore societal matters, influence and participate in decision-making and promote democracy. They notice incongruities and take action in order to correct them. Scouts are able to act in a group in various roles, either as leaders or members of the group. Scouts know their own culture and are interested in other cultures. They respect other people's convictions. Scouts see themselves as part of humanity and feel global responsibility for a better future. Scouts follow the principles of sustainable development.

### ► **Relation to the environment**

Scouts find nature significant and want to nurture it. Scouts can move and function in varying environments. They are interested in the welfare and comfort of their living and working environments. They work actively to preserve a vital and favourable environment for future generations.



## 4.2 The Scout Method

The Scout Method is a collection of methods the Guide and Scout Movement uses to achieve its educational objectives and, thus, fulfil the aim of Scouting. The Finnish Scout Method is based on the Guide and Scout Methods of WAGGGS and WOSM.

### ► Commitment to the values of Scouting

The Scout Promise, the Scout Ideals and the Scout Motto describe the values of Scouting. Scouts aim to act in accordance with these values.

### ► Symbolism

The Guide and Scout Movement's symbolism consists of objects, content, themes and ways of working that are commonly considered significant. Symbolism unites the group and supports the development of individual identity.

### ► Personal development

In Scouting, individuals develop themselves by being entrusted with suitably challenging tasks. The programmes of each age section promote growth and development.

### ► The Patrol system

Scouting activities take place in peer groups, in which decisions are made together and responsibility is shared. In these small groups, children and young people grow to operate as members of a group and learn leadership.

### ► **Learning by doing**

For children and young people, learning by doing is the natural way of learning. In Scouting, learning takes place through doing, experiencing and reflecting on one's own actions.

### ► **Adult support**

In Scouting, children, young people and adults work together. The adults support the growth and participation of the children and young people as well as their opportunities to have an impact.

### ► **A good deed every day**

In Scouting, you learn to take responsibility for yourself and for others. Scouts construct a better world, are active citizens and work in cooperation with others for the good of their communities.

### ► **Activities in nature**

Scouting takes place in nature, and through this, scouts construct a personal relationship to the environment. For Scouts, nature is an important working and learning environment that provides memorable experiences.

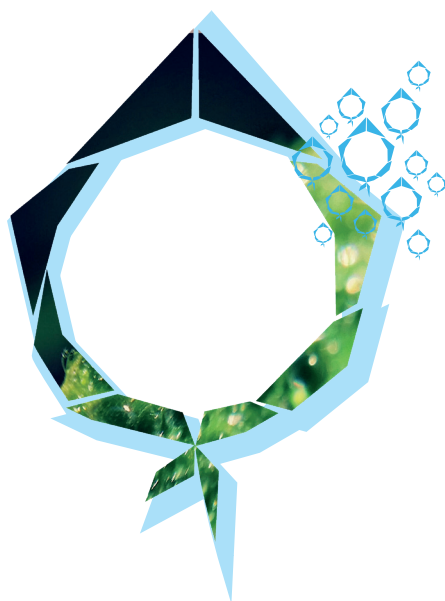
## **4.3 The Youth Programme**

The Youth Programme is the framework for practical education in Scouting. In Finland, the Youth Programme is developed and supported for the target group of Scouting. The Youth Programme describes the activities in accordance with the Educational Objectives and the Scout Method.

## **APPROVAL, ENTRY INTO FORCE AND AMENDMENT**

This constitution has been approved by the biennial general assembly of the Guides and Scouts of Finland on 14.11.2020 and replaces the constitution approved on 21 November 2010. This constitution enters into force immediately. The constitution has been ratified by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and the World Organization of the Scout Movement before the decision of the general meeting.

This constitution can be amended by a decision of the general assembly of the Guides and Scouts of Finland in accordance with the bylaws. The World Organisations must ratify any changes to the constitution before their entry into force.



GUIDES AND SCOUTS OF FINLAND  
2020