

# AUSTRALIAN SCOUTING'S INTERNAL COMPASS



UPDATED 2018

## ROVER SCOUTS



# SPIRITUALITY AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

The Scout program develops youth of all ages in the six SPICES areas. Those areas are Spiritual, Physical, Intellectual, Character, Emotional, and Social development.

Spiritual development is an area which many find challenging to create rich developmental programs. The **Internal Compass** offers a framework for youth and adults to understand spirituality and Spiritual Development in Scouting, and to create interesting programs that encourage personal growth in this area.

Before looking at the Compass itself, it's important to understand spirituality. While there are many different definitions and understandings, Scouts Australia defines spirituality in the following way:

*“Spirituality refers to the feelings or beliefs of a person regarding their purpose in life, connection to others and place in the world around them. These spiritual feelings or beliefs may change as a person develops and guide their actions throughout their life.”*

The diagram below demonstrates how Spirituality, Spiritual Development, and

the worldwide Scouting principle of Duty to God, are interconnected in the youth program.

The Internal Compass points to four different aspects of spiritual development that programs can focus on. Like a navigational compass, the Internal Compass can help us to set our direction in life.

The Internal Compass has four ordinal points: exploring beliefs, stopping for reflection, respect for others, and being thankful. A summary of these points is provided in this resource, along with some ideas for activities that might be undertaken with your section.

Don't forget, the Internal Compass should be used in conjunction with the Scout Method when designing your Scouting programs! Refer to the back page for a quick summary of the Scout Method.

Promise, Law, and Spiritual Development, resources can be found online:

- [resource.scouts.com.au](http://resource.scouts.com.au)
- [ypr.scouts.com.au](http://ypr.scouts.com.au)



This allows young people to develop, question and refine their **spirituality**.

Through making the Scout Promise, members commit to 'being true to' their spiritual beliefs (**Duty to God**)

**Spiritual Development** occurs in Scouting through:

- Exploring a connection with nature and the world around us
- Searching for meaning in life's experiences
- Learning about different religions and non-religious belief systems
- Learning about and respecting others spiritual beliefs
- Participating in Scouts' Owns, reflections or other activities

# A GUIDE FOR ROVER SCOUTS

“I AM ABLE TO EXPRESS BELIEFS ABOUT MY PURPOSE, RESPECTING THOSE OF OTHERS, AND UNDERSTANDING HOW MY BELIEFS INFLUENCE MY ACTIONS”

This guide aims to support leaders and older Rover Scouts to understand spiritual development in Scouting using the “Internal Compass” model, and to be able to plan, do, and review spiritual development activities to help youth achieve the educational objectives and Purpose of Scouting.

Each point of the Internal Compass has learning objectives. These objectives are written as “I statements”, to help youth members understand the objective and when they may have achieved them.

Each learning objective is accompanied by activity suggestions.

## EXPLORING BELIEFS

### **I engage in informed discussion on the role of religions in society**

- Invite speakers from a variety of faiths to attend a Crew meeting, and then hold a Crew debate or discussion
- Develop a research project that aims to find out how societies of many religions interact
- Visit places of worship or communities of a particular faith, and interview different people, young and old
- Observe or participate in activities from a range of faiths

### **I engage in informed discussion on the role of non-religious systems of spiritual belief in society**

- Invite a variety of community leaders from different organisations to attend a Crew meeting, and then

hold a Crew debate or discussion

- Develop a research project that aims to find out how different world views play a role in our societies.
- Observe or participate in community events that may have spiritual significance

### **I continue to explore and express my spirituality and understand how this influences my life**

- Look for opportunities to continue to live by your spiritual beliefs, such as:
  - Personal reflections
  - Active participation, assisting, and leading Scouts’ Owns
  - Conversations, debates, and discussions with fellow Rovers
  - Participate in community and family activities
  - Organise and run a spiritual activity for another section





## RESPECT FOR OTHERS

### **I contribute to a culture of understanding and respect towards religious and spiritual beliefs that are different from my own**

- Be conscious that people of different spiritual beliefs have different experiences and opinions on many issues, and remember to consider those differences when making claims
- Listen and be open to debates where points of view are opposing
- Help others to realise that different religions and spiritual beliefs can have opposing views on a matter, which is ok.
- Debate spirituality, informally or as a formalise Crew activity
- Complete a Scouts of World Award project

### **I contribute to a culture of understanding and respect towards societies and cultures that are different from my own**

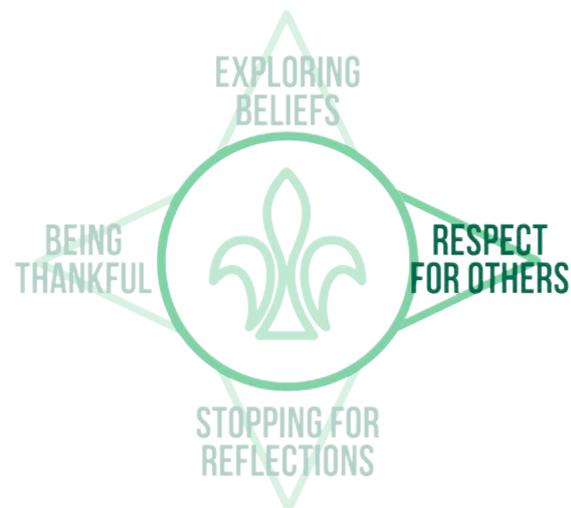
- Be conscious that people of different societies and cultures have different life experiences, which you take into

consideration when making claims

- Listen and be open to debates where points of view are opposing
- Help others to realise that different societies and cultures can have different views on a matter, which is ok.
- In some way, support an organisation that assists a society or culture in the minority
- Complete a Scouts of World Award project

### **I contribute to a culture of mutual understanding and respect in a multicultural community**

- Plan, Do, and Review Crew or Patrol visits to different cultural centres in your area, further afield, or abroad
- Help others to understand that cultural differences should be celebrated, as well as opportunities to learn from others
- Provide service to a community group that promotes mutual tolerance and respect
- Complete a local Messengers of Peace project



## BEING THANKFUL

### **I care for the natural beauty of the world through my actions**

- Plan, Do, and Review an expedition to a natural wonder of the world with a patrol of Rovers
- Explore our reliance on the environment and take practical steps to live more sustainably
- Participate in activities in nature and the outdoors with members of a younger section, to help them understand how to care for the environments they enjoy

### **I articulate how the relationships I have shape my life and express thanks to those who support me**

- Participate in memorial activities such as ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day services, Blue Ribbon day, and so on
- Provide service to an organisation that preserves cultural or spiritual heritage
- Reflect on your relationships and the impact they have on your life, with another Rover, your Crew, or on your own.

### **I provide opportunities for development and growth for others**

- Provide service to a community group that helps disadvantaged individuals to develop and grow
- Organise an event in which participants eat, sleep, and do activities that a disadvantaged person your age in a developing country might do.

## STOPPING FOR REFLECTION

### **I express the reasons I have arrived at my current spiritual beliefs and how these combine with the Scout Promise and Law to guide me through my adult life**

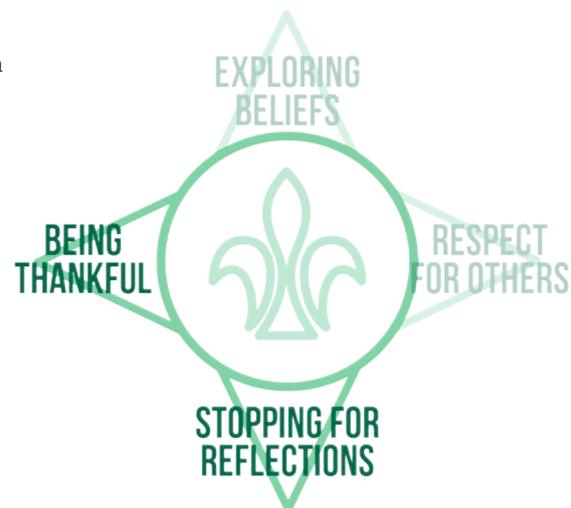
- Take time to write a personal reflection on your spiritual belief and the role of the Scout Promise and Law in your life.
- Create some hypothetical scenarios to play out with your Crew. They should encourage participants to explain how one would act in moral and ethical dilemmas, with reference to the Scout Promise and Law, and their spiritual beliefs

### **I articulate my plan for further developing and adhering to my spiritual beliefs in the future**

- Participate in a small group discussion that aims to help individuals to develop their spiritual beliefs
- Write a reflection and future plan for how you can better live up to your own spiritual beliefs, Scout Promise and Scout Law

### **I engage with others in gaining their own understanding of their connection with others and place in the world, and reflect upon how my understanding of this informs my actions**

- Plan, do and review a Scouts' Own for younger sections
- Participate in a group meditation, preferably in nature and the outdoors
- Organise a community service activity that aids disadvantaged young people



# THE PURPOSE AND METHOD OF SCOUTING

Scouting uses a particular educational method through which youth develop and learn in order to achieve the **Purpose of Scouting**.

*The purpose of the Scout Movement is to contribute to the education of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual potentials as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.*

It is the **Scout Method** that makes Scouting a truly unique experience for young people..

The Scout Method is made up of eight elements.

Not one element of the Method is more important than another, and different elements will feature more prominently through different activities and experiences.

The Method should be featured in all that we do, and its use should be made apparent to both adults and youth.

It is important that Scouts are aware of how Scouting is contributing to their personal development.

Take a moment to review the eight elements of the Scout Method on the right.



## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Active exploration of an individual's commitment and responsibility to their community and the wider world.

## LEARNING BY DOING

Learning through practical experiences and activities.

## NATURE AND THE OUTDOORS

The outdoors is the primary setting for learning and encourages a two-way relationship between the individual and the natural world.

## PATROL SYSTEM

A way to develop interpersonal and leadership skills through teamwork, responsibility and belonging.

## PERSONAL PROGRESSION

A learning journey focused on challenging the individual to do their best through a range of experiences.

## PROMISE AND LAW

Scouting values and ideals that underpin all activities and interactions.

## SYMBOLIC FRAMEWORK

A unifying structure of themes and symbols that facilitates the awareness and development of an individual's personal journey.

## YOUTH LEADING, ADULTS SUPPORTING

A youth movement, guided by adults, where youth are increasingly self-managing.