

Scouting Facts: Zimbabwe



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Scouting started in Zimbabwe, (or Southern Rhodesia as it was then), in 1909 as a Branch of The Scout Association. When Zimbabwe was granted political independence in 1980, The Boy Scout Association of Zimbabwe became an independent member of the World Scout Conference.

During the years of trouble 1960-1979, Scouting lost a large number of members in the outlying rural areas. Accordingly, the revival and expansion of Scouting in these areas is a prime target at this time.

At present the Association has two main training sections:

Cub Scouts - aged 8-11 years

Scouts - aged 11-17 years

The Rover Section has recently been revived but it is still being developed and expanded.

The programme is similar to that used in the United Kingdom. The Cub Scouts work for the Bronze, Silver and Gold Arrows and they can also choose to work for some of the interest badges that are available.

There is a Link Badge which allows a Cub Scout to qualify for the Basic Scout Standard before moving up into the Scout Troop.

In the Scout section there are four progressive badges; Basic Scout Standard, Scout Standard, Advanced Scout Standard and The Chief Scout's Award. For the older Scouts there is also the Venturer and Sable Awards which offer a special challenge.

The wide range of proficiency badges available for Scouts are divided into grades: Interest, Pursuit, Service and Instructor.

A special Community Service Badge, divided into three age stages, was recently introduced. One of the objectives of the badge is to promote self-help in the rural areas to prevent the drift of people to the already over-crowded cities and towns.

Motto:

Be Prepared

Scout Promise:

I promise that I will do my best

To do my duty to God and my country

To help other people and

To keep the Scout Law.

Cub Scout Promise:

I promise to do my best

To do my duty to God and my country

To help other people and

The Scout Association

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To keep the Cub Scout Law.

Scout Law:

- A Scout's honour is to be trusted
- A Scout is loyal to his country, his parents, his Scouters, his employers and to those under him.
- 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.
- A Scout is a friend to animals.
- A Scout obeys the orders of his parents, Patrol Leader or Scout Leader.
- A Scout has courage and is cheerful in all difficulties.
- A Scout is thrifty, he makes good use of his time and takes proper care of possessions and property.
- A Scout is clean in thought, word and deed.

Cub Scout Law:

A Cub Scout always does his best.

Thinks of others before himself.

And does a good turn every day.

Uniform:

All the sections., including the Leaders, wear a khaki shirt and shorts with khaki socks and a Group scarf. The Cub Scouts wear a cap and the Leaders and Scouts wear either the traditional Scout hat or a green beret.

Further information about Zimbabwe may be obtained from:

The Zimbabwe High Commission
Zimbabwe House
429 The Strand
London
WC2R OSA

The Commonwealth Institute
Kensington High Street
London
W8