

Scouting Facts: Belgium



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Guidisme Et Scoutisme En Belgique-Gidsen En Scouts In Belgie (G.S.B.) - (Guiding and Scouting in Belgium) is a Federation of four Associations. Scouting in Belgium started in 1908 but the Federation was not formed until 1937. The Federation co-ordinates all the four Associations' work on Extension Scouting and their co-operation with the Guides.



Federatie Voor Open Scoutisme (Federation for Open Scouting). This Association was founded in 1910 and became a Founder Member of the World Scout Conference in 1922. The members of the Association, both girls and boys, are Dutch-speaking and are of all religions. The programme emphasis is upon the study of nature.



Motto:

Steeds bereid (Always prepared)

Promise:

"On my honour I promise to do my best, to serve a high ideal (or) God, my country and the Troop, to live the Scout Law and to do a good turn every day".

Law:

1. A Scout tells the truth and keeps his word
2. A Scout respects others in their convictions
3. A Scout is useful
4. A Scout works on a team, offers his friendship
5. A Scout shows courtesy
6. A Scout knows how to obey
7. A Scout loves and protects nature
8. A Scout does not give in to discouragement
9. A Scout loves effort and never leaves a job half done
10. A Scout respects everyone's work and property

There are four sections:

Welpen - aged 7 - 11 years

Scouts - aged 11 - 15 years

Seniors - aged 15 - 18 years

Voortrekkers - aged 18 – 21½ years

The Scout Association

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Federation Des Eclaireuses Et Eclaireurs



(Federation of Girl and Boy Scouts).

This is a French-speaking Association and is open to boys and girls of all religions. The Cub and Rover sections are mixed and the Scout section has frequent joint activities with the Guides. A special department called 'Maigre tout' (Despite all) is devoted to Scouting with the handicapped, which is a strong point throughout all Belgium Scouting.

The sections in this Association are:

Louveteaux (Cubs) aged 7 - 12 years

Eclaireurs (Scouts) aged 11 - 16 years

Routivers et Aines (Rovers) aged 16 years on.

Uniform:

Cubs - Royal blue shirt, blue shorts and grey socks.

Scouts - Khaki shirt, navy blue shorts or grey trousers

Motto:

"Toujours pret" (Always prepared)

Cubs - "De notre mieux" (Our best)

Promise:

"I promise on my honour to do my best, to serve a high ideal, my country and the cause of friendship

among mankind, to help my neighbour at all times, to live the Scout Law"

Cub Promise:

"I promise to do my best, to observe the Cub Law and to do a good turn every day".

Law:

Except for one law is identical to that used in the F.O.S.

Cub Law:

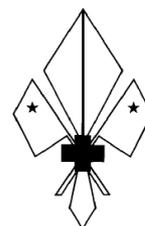
"The Cub shares his joy with others, draws his strength from the clan and follows his pursuits through to the end".

Federation Des Scouts Catholiques (The Federation of Catholic Scouts) (F.S.C.)

The members of this Association are French-speaking and are mainly Catholics. The aim is to allow each boy to choose his own programme. The F.S.C. uses a method which has three main

points: education by action, by participation in decision making and by personal development in and through the Group. The Cub programme is based upon play through which the boy can develop personally and sociably. Cub packs are mostly mixed with the Brownies. The boys in the other sections choose, carry out and evaluate their own projects with the maximum of freedom. There is some co-education.

Promise:



"On my honour and with the grace of God, I pledge to do my best, to do my duty to God and the Catholic Church, the King and Belgium, to help my neighbour in all circumstances, to keep the Scout Law

Law:

1. A Scout is loyal and trustworthy
2. A Scout is faithful to God, his country and his parents
3. A Scout's duty is to serve
4. A Scout is a brother to all for he is a son of God
5. A Scout is courteous and hospitable
6. A Scout loves nature and the work of mankind
7. A Scout obeys and never leaves a job half done
8. A Scout smiles and sings, even during difficulties
9. A Scout takes care of the property of others and wastes nothing
10. A Scout controls his body and soul

There are five sections in this Association:

Louveteaux - aged 8- 11½

Eclaireurs – aged 11 - 14

Scouts – aged 11½ - 17

Pionniers – aged 14 - 18

Jeunes en route – aged 17 onwards

Vlaams Verbond Der Katholieke Scouts
(Netherlandic, Catholic Scout Association)
(V.V.K.S.)

The V.V.K.S. joined with the V.V.K.M. (The Flemish Catholic Girl Guide Association) forming one Movement. All Scout Groups are free to work jointly with the Guides and about 7% of the Groups have all their activities mixed. The programs emphasis is upon teaching the boys constructive attitudes towards the society in which they live.

The V.V.K.S. was one of the first to introduce a pre-Cub age section know as "Kapoenen" (Little boys). They do not however have a Law or Promise and they do not wear a uniform, its aim is to offer a sound game scheme within the Scouting framework.

There are four sections:

Welpen - aged 8 - 11 years

Jong-Verkenners - aged 11 - 14 years

Verkenners - aged 14 - 17 years

Jins - aged 17 18 years

Motto:

"Weest paraat" (Be prepared)

Promise:

"With the help of God, I promise to do my best with my brother Scouts, to find a way in the world of men, to learn how to judge men and things soundly and to respond with a view to service. In my search I will be loyal to myself, to others and to God".

Information about Belgium may be obtained from:

Belgian National Tourist Office

38 Dover Street

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