

Scouting Facts: Finland



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Scouting started in Finland in 1910. In 1972 the Scout and Guide Associations merged to form Suomen Partiolaiset (The Guides and Scouts of Finland). This is now the largest youth Organisation in Finland and includes both the Finnish and Swedish speaking sections of the community. All the national and district level activities are merged and approximately 40% of all the units in all age sections are mixed.

The programme is divided into seven sectors which are repeated with each age section. These sectors are outdoor activities and sport, knowledge of nature and conservation, creativity and handicrafts. The fundamental idea of the programme is that the group can choose their own activities emphasising some special interest.

The programme is one which is designed to help the Scouts and Guides to become active members of society and to feel a responsibility for the future. Community development and service is practised throughout all age sections.

The programme is divided into three age sections which are united by common themes. In the Cub Scout section the boys follow a programme under the direction of their Leader. Methods used in training them are mostly based on play and games. At the age of 10 the Cub Scout will become a member of the patrol and from then on he will work and act in this group which is lead by a young person in his/her teens. After the patrol stage the Scout will join the Rover section whose

activities are designed to create future Leaders for the Movement.

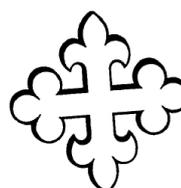
In practice many Scouts and Guides take part in First Aid groups and work with rescue teams on both sea and shore. The Scouts and Guides are also active in the blood donation service which was started in Finland due to Scout initiative.

Recently the Guides and Scouts of Finland have carried out a project to help The Girl Guides Association of Zambia. Funds were raised and a Toyota Land Cruiser was sent to help in solving their acute transportation problem. The Guides and Scouts of Finland will also pay for the vehicle's service and maintenance costs for a period of five years.

Sea Scouts and Guides carry out activities related to sailing and they undergo a training programme in seamanship with the emphasis upon safety. There are large on-the-water gatherings each year and a big Sea Scout Camp is held every fourth year.

Motto:

Ole Valmis (Be Prepared)



The Scout Association

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Promise:

LONDON

I will love my God and my neighbour my native country and mankind by fulfilling the Scout Ideals.

SW1

Scout Ideals:

(Law)

The Ideal of a Scout is

1. To develop himself as a human being
2. To respect other human beings
3. To help serve others
4. To acknowledge his responsibilities
5. To love and protect nature
6. To be faithful and reliable
7. To build friendship across borders
8. and to seek for the truth in life.

The three sections in the Association are:

Sudenpennut (Cub Scouts) aged 7 - 10 years

Vartioikaiset (Scouts) aged 10 - 14 years

Vaeltajat (Rovers) aged 14 - 20 years

The uniform of the Sudenpennut consists of a navy blue jumper, blue trousers and a blue scarf.

The Vartioikaiset and Vaeltajat wear a dark blue shirt (made of rather thick cotton material), blue trousers, scarf and beret.

Information about Finland may be obtained from:

The Finnish Tourist Office

Finland House