

Scouting Facts: Iceland



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Scouting was introduced to Iceland from Denmark in 1911 and in 1924 Bandalag Islenskra Skata (Federation of Icelandic Scouts) was formed. The Girl Guides joined the B.I.S. in 1944 and it is now a union of all the Scouts and Guides in Iceland.



During their national camp in 1974 the Scouts and Guides of Iceland celebrated the 1100th anniversary of the first Viking settlement in Iceland and they invited Scouts and Guides from around the world to join in the celebration.

In 1975 Iceland was one of the five hosts of the 14th World Scout Jamboree, Nordjamb '75, which was held at Lillehammer near Oslo. The Jamboree was attended by 17,250 Scouts from 91 countries.

Each summer several small Scout camps are held around the country and every fourth year the Scouts and Guides hold an International Camp.

Each year the Association sets up a special theme to supplement the programme. Troops can decide if they wish to participate or not, if they do so they receive a special badge, awarded by the President of Iceland.

There is no organised programme for the older age section and in some cases these Scouts form "Rescue Troops". These groups specialise in assisting during emergencies and national disasters. An example of the work that is undertaken are the patrols who rescue people from the Icelandic mountains.

There are four sections in the Association:

Cub Scouts aged 9 - 10 years

Scouts aged 10 - 14 years

Senior Scouts aged 15 - 17 years

Rescue Troops aged 17+ years

Motto:

Vertu Vidbuinn (Be Prepared)

Promise:

On my honour I will do my best, to do my duty to God and my country, to help others and to obey the Scout Law.

Law:

A Scout/Guide tells the truth and keeps his/her word.

A Scout/Guide is a loyal companion and friend.

A Scout/Guide is modest in thought, word and deed.

A Scout/Guide is obedient.

The Scout Association

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A Scout/Guide is cheerful.

A Scout/Guide is helpful to others.

A Scout/Guide is considerate.

A Scout/Guide is thrifty.

A Scout/Guide is well-mannered and respects the possessions of others.

All Scouts/Guides are Friends of nature.

Scouting/Guiding is designed to meet the needs of children and adolescents at each age level. The youngest age level is called little Scouts "leskatar" cubs or brownies. The next age level is called goal Scouts/guides "afangaskatar". The third age-level is called senior Scouts/Guides "drottskatar".

Cubs and Brownies start at the age of nine and work for a period of one year under the motto "Let us do our best" and the Law:

I wish to tell the truth.

I wish to be obedient.

I wish to help others.

Those who become Cubs and Brownies pledge the following:

On my honour I will do my best to obey the little Scout/Guide Law/ the Cub Law/the Brownie Law, and to do something every day to help and cheer others.

Scouts/Guides start at the age of ten or eleven and work for a period of four or five years under the motto "Always prepared". Goal Scouts/Guides adhere to the Promise and Law.

Senior Scouts/Guides start at the age of fifteen and work for a period of two or three years under

the motto: "Always prepared". Senior Scouts/Guides adhere to the Promise and Law.

Specialised Scouts/Guides can start at the age of thirteen under the motto "Always prepared" or "Once a Scout/Guide always a Scout/Guide". Specialised Scouts/Guides adhere to the Promise and Law.

Information about Iceland may be obtained from:

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