

Scouting Facts: India



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Scouting started in India in 1909 and for many years several Scout and Guide Associations existed. By 1951 the Associations had merged to form The Bharat Scouts and Guides.

The Rover Scouts have three training levels: Rover Aspirant, Rover in Training and Rover in Service. There is also the President's Rover Award, granted to Rovers who have achieved a certain standard.

There are three Sections in the Association:

The Rover Scouts can also earn Proficiency badges which include World Friendship, Civil Defence and Soil Conservation.

Cub Scouts aged 6 - 10 years

Scouts aged 10 - 18 years

Rovers aged 18 - 25 years.

The Association is involved in numerous community development projects which include digging wells, helping in adult literacy campaigns, poultry keeping, sowing, harvesting and organising schools in villages.

The award levels in the Cub Scouts are Tenderpad, - One Star and Two Star. There are also five groups of Proficiency badges: 1) Character 2) Physical Health 3) Handicraft 4) Service and 5) World Conservation. A special Golden Arrow award can be earned by a Two Star Cub Scout who has at least three Proficiency badges.

To motivate the Scouts to carry out projects in the community, a national competition called "The Prime Minister's Shield" is held. The Prime Minister presents the award to the winning team. Similarly, Upa-Rashtrapati (Vice President) Award has been instituted for the community development work being carried out by the Rovers/Rangers.

In the Scout Section the award levels are Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class. There is a President's Award which is awarded to a Scout who has earned a certain number of Proficiency badges and has also done some service in the community. A First Class Scout may wear different coloured cords after earning a certain number of Proficiency badges, a blue and green cord for six badges, a red and white cord for 12 badges, and a golden cord for having earned 18 badges and the President's Award.

As an act of service, the Bharat Scouts and Guides organise a Railway Service Day during which they assist passengers., clear railway stations and supply drinking water for passengers. Disaster Relief is always provided on a massive scale during floods, earthquakes and droughts.

The Scout Association

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Motto:

Cub Scouts - Koshish Karo (Do your best)

Scouts - Tajjar (Be prepared)

Rovers - Seva (Service)

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Promise:

On my honour I promise that I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country, to help other people at all times and to obey the Scout Law.

Law:

1. A Scout is trustworthy.
2. A Scout is loyal.
3. A Scout is a friend to all and a brother to every other Scout.
4. A Scout is courteous.
5. A Scout is a friend to animals and loves nature.
6. A Scout is disciplined and helps protect public property.
7. A Scout is courageous.
8. A Scout is thrifty.
9. A Scout is pure in thought, word and deed.

Additional information about India may be obtained from:

India Government Tourist Office

21 New Bond Street

London

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