

# AUSTRALIAN SCOUTING'S INTERNAL COMPASS



# SCOUTS



# SPIRITUALITY AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

The Scout program develops youth of all ages in the six (SPICES) areas. Those areas are Spiritual, Physical, Intellectual, Character, Emotional, and Social development. Spiritual development is an area for which many find challenging to create rich developmental programs. The Internal Compass offers a framework for youth and adults to understand spirituality and Spiritual Development in Scouting, and to create interesting programs that encourage personal growth in this area.

Before looking at the Compass itself, it's important to understand spirituality. While there are many different definitions and understandings, Scouts Australia defines spirituality in the following way:

*“Spirituality refers to the feelings or beliefs of a person regarding their purpose in life, connection to others and place in the world around them. These spiritual feelings or beliefs may change as a person develops and guide their actions throughout their life.”*

The diagram below demonstrates how Spirituality, Spiritual Development, and

the worldwide Scouting principle of Duty to God, are interconnected in the youth program.

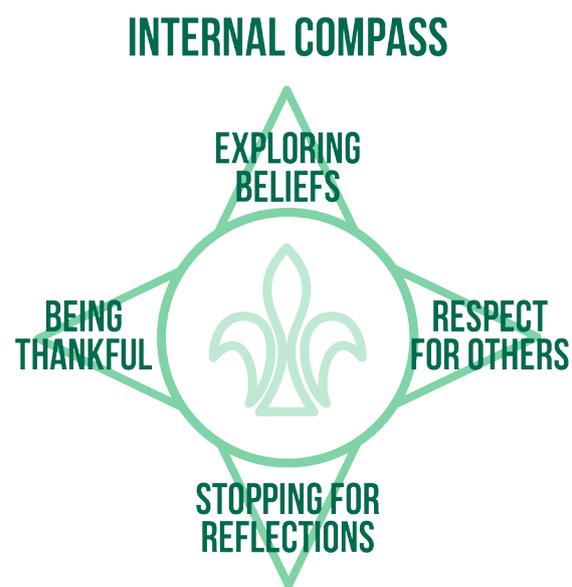
The Internal Compass points to four different aspects of spiritual development that programs can focus on. Like a navigational compass, the Internal Compass can help us to set our direction in life.

The Internal Compass has four ordinal points: exploring beliefs, stopping for reflection, respect for others, and being thankful. A summary of these points is provided in this resource, along with some ideas for activities that might be undertaken with your section.

Don't forget, the Internal Compass should be used in conjunction with the Scout Method when designing your Scouting programs! Refer to the back page for a quick summary of the Scout Method.

Promise, Law, Spiritual Development, resources can be found online:

- [resource.scouts.com.au](http://resource.scouts.com.au)
- [ypr.scouts.com.au](http://ypr.scouts.com.au)



This allows young people to develop, question and refine their **spirituality**.

Through making the Scout Promise, members commit to 'being true to' their spiritual beliefs (**Duty to God**)

**Spiritual Development** occurs in Scouting through:

- Exploring a connection with nature and the world around us
- Searching for meaning in life's experiences
- Learning about different religions and non-religious belief systems
- Learning about and respecting others spiritual beliefs
- Participating in Scouts' Owns, reflections or other activities

# A GUIDE FOR SCOUTS

“I AM BEGINNING TO EXPLORE DIFFERENT RELIGIONS AND BELIEF SYSTEMS, DEVELOPING A SENSE OF CONNECTION TO OTHERS, AND TAKING TIME TO STOP AND REFLECT”

This guide aims to support leaders and older Scouts to understand spiritual development in Scouting using the “Internal Compass” model, and to be able to plan, do, and review spiritual development activities to help youth achieve the program objectives and Purpose of Scouting.

Each point of the Internal Compass has learning objectives. These objectives are written as “I statements”, to help youth members understand the objective and when they may have achieved them.

Each learning objective is accompanied by activity suggestions.

## EXPLORING BELIEFS

### I understand how common religious beliefs can be applied in daily life

- Organise a visit from a religious leader from the local community,
- Visit a place of worship in the local community to witness or participate in a particular festival or celebration
- Create a resource, such as a digital fact sheet, that helps explain how different religious beliefs guide decision making

### I understand non-religious conceptions of the meaning of life, and how these can be applied in daily life

- Organise a visit from a non-religious spiritual leader, such as an Aboriginal elder
- Create a resource, such as a digital fact sheet, that describes different beliefs about the origins of the universe
- Organise a cultural night that highlights non-religious ideals that influence a community’s daily life.

### I question my feelings and beliefs regarding my purpose in life

- Take a moment to sit by yourself, without interruption, to reflect on your feelings and beliefs.
- Participate in a Scouts’ Own that reflects on the influences that different beliefs have on the purpose of life

- Find a trusting adult to share your thoughts and feelings on your purpose in life
- Actively participate in a respectful group discussion with your patrol.
- Engage actively with own spiritual beliefs and faith

## RESPECT FOR OTHERS

### I experience spiritual belief systems, religious or otherwise, other than my own

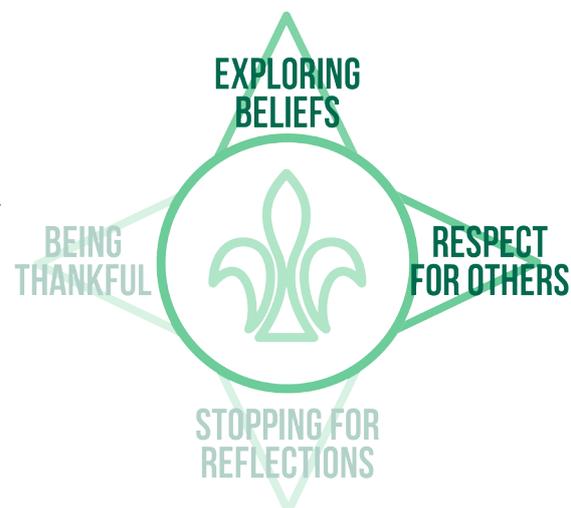
- Organise a visit from a spiritual leader, such as an Aboriginal elder
- Pay a visit to a place of worship

### I experience cultures other than my own

- Visit a community centre designed to support particular ethnic communities
- Visit a culturally significant place, such as an Aboriginal sacred site
- Visit a museum that specialises in a particular cultural story

### I explain the value of diversity in my community

- With your patrol, troop, or with your family, attend a community cultural event. Report back to the troop, describing the value that such events have to the community.





## BEING THANKFUL

**I explore beautiful places and reflect on nature’s magnificence, and know that it is worth preserving**

- Organise an expedition to an interesting natural formation and reflect on the natural beauty of the world and humans’ impact on it
- Start a natural wonders photo board in the Scout hall that anyone can contribute to
- Share your experiences of wonder in the outdoors around a troop or patrol campfire

**I understand my cultural and spiritual heritage, and how these have shaped my life**

- Participate in an event of cultural or historical significance, such as ANZAC Day service, and reflect with your patrol on how these events shape our lives
- Discuss your cultural or religious background with your family and share with your patrol as part of a cultural heritage night
- Do a good turn for someone who has helped you

**I understand that others may not have the same opportunities as I have had**

- Identify things we are thankful for as part of a Scout’s Own.
- Do a service project for someone less fortunate than yourself
- Participate in a fundraising activity for a charity

## STOPPING FOR REFLECTION

**I explain how my spiritual beliefs and the Scout Promise and Law guide my actions, and I understand the importance of surrounding myself with positive influences**

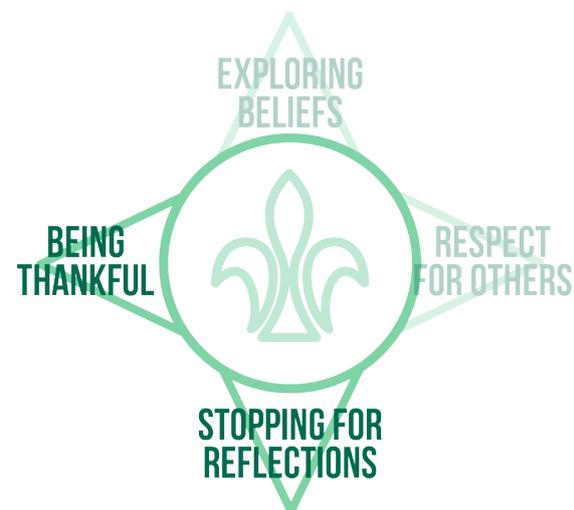
- After a patrol activity, take time to review the activity, thinking about the patrol’s positive and supportive attitude to it. Did everyone live by the Scout Law?
- Create some “hypotheticals” – scenarios in which the Scout Law, or each individuals’ beliefs, can be used to guide your actions. Share these with your patrol. Role play them.
- When role playing situations, identify the effects of positive and negative influences on the participants behaviours

**I understand how my spiritual beliefs guide my actions**

- Have a conversations with a trusted friend or your patrol about how your beliefs can guide you
- Create role playing scenarios and identify the influence of spiritual beliefs. Describe these influences on the participants

**I have an understanding of how I am connected with others and the world**

- Lead a Scouts’ Own with “connections to the world around us”, or something similar, as its theme.



# THE PURPOSE AND METHOD OF SCOUTING

Scouting uses a particular educational method through which youth develop and learn in order to achieve the **Purpose of Scouting**. It is the Scout Method that makes Scouting truly unique.

*The purpose of the Scout Movement is to contribute to the education of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual potentials as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.*

The Scout Method is made up of 8 elements. Not one element of the Method is more important than another, and different elements will feature more prominently through different activities and experiences. The Method should be featured in all that we do, and its use should be made apparent to both adults and youth. It's important that Scouts are aware of how Scouting is contributing to their development.



## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Active exploration of an individual's commitment and responsibility to their community and the wider world.

## LEARNING BY DOING

Learning through practical experiences and activities.

## NATURE AND THE OUTDOORS

The outdoors is the primary setting for learning and encourages a two-way relationship between the individual and the natural world.

## PATROL SYSTEM

A way to develop interpersonal and leadership skills through teamwork, responsibility and belonging.

## PERSONAL PROGRESSION

A learning journey focused on challenging the individual to do their best through a range of experiences.

## PROMISE AND LAW

Scouting values and ideals that underpin all activities and interactions.

## SYMBOLIC FRAMEWORK

A unifying structure of themes and symbols that facilitates the awareness and development of an individual's personal journey.

## YOUTH LEADING, ADULTS SUPPORTING

A youth movement, guided by adults, where youth are increasingly self-managing.