

# AUSTRALIAN SCOUTING'S INTERNAL COMPASS



## VENTURER 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 VENTURER SCOUTS

“I AM FORMING MY OWN BELIEFS ABOUT MY PURPOSE IN LIFE, AND IMPROVING MY SENSE OF CONNECTION TO OTHERS AND THE WORLD”

This guide aims to support leaders and older Venturer 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 different religions shape an individual’s worldview and the implications this has on society**

- Invite a religious leader from the community, or pay a visit to a place of worship.
- Take advantage of opportunities to travel to different countries with Scouting, and discover how dominant religions influence communities
- Conduct research into world views that can be used for a unit debate, discussion, or presentation. Take you debate into a public forum and involve others outside of Scouting.
- Participate in a Messengers of Peace international project

**I understand how different non-religious beliefs shape an individual’s worldview and the implications this has on society**

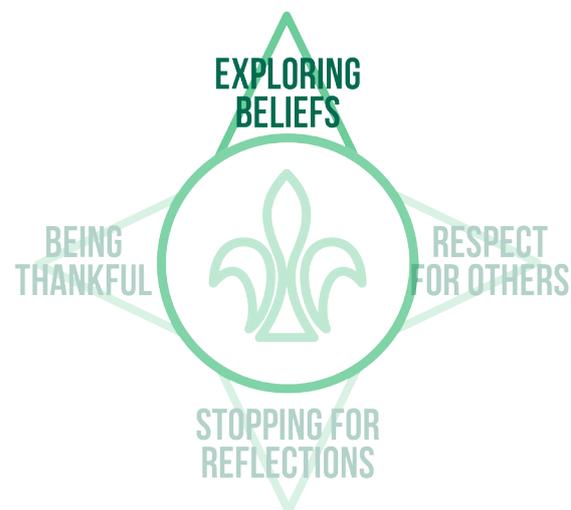
- Invite a leader from the community

from another inspirational movement to talk to the unit about world views

- Conduct research into world views that can be used for a unit debate, discussion, or presentation. Take you debate into a public forum and involve others outside of Scouting.
- Participate in a Messengers of Peace international project

**I possess a developing conception of my own spirituality**

- Regularly take a moment of personal reflection. Find different times and environments to inspire your thoughts.
- Participate as a reflective listener in a Scouts’ Own
- Share your thoughts in a discussion with a patrol of Venturers.
- Engage with your own spiritual, religious or non-religious, beliefs, customs, and celebrations
- Host a documentary night for your own and nearby Units





## RESPECT FOR OTHERS

**Experience spiritual belief systems in a deep way and explain spiritual beliefs systems other than my own to others**

- Make a documentary, blog, or podcast in which community leaders are interviewed
- Debate an aspect of spirituality
- Engage with your own spiritual, religious or non-religious, beliefs, customs, and celebrations

**Experience societies different to the one I am living in and show respect for those differences**

- Take opportunities in Scouting to travel to overseas destinations and experience life in different communities
- Organise an expedition into remote, rural, or urban community, join in a Scouting program, and experience life in those places
- Participate in the International Pen Pal Program or SISEP program
- Volunteer for an international NGO, or find out how you can help Scouting's Ticket To Life program
- Organise a Scouts of the World Award project

**I participate in inter-faith or non-faith spiritual community events**

- Take part in an inter-faith or multicultural event in your local area

## BEING THANKFUL

**I consider the impact of a deteriorating natural environment on those around me**

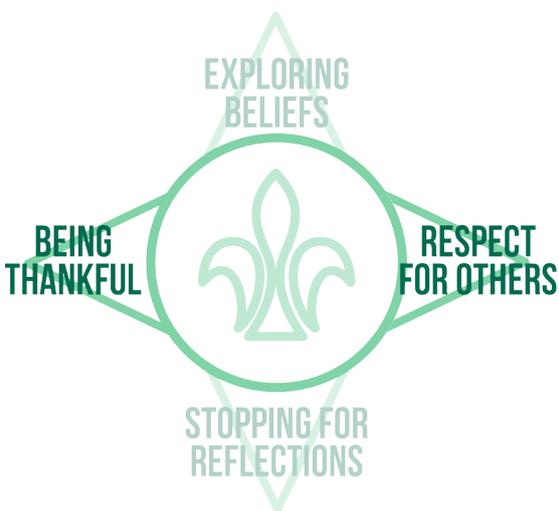
- Visit a natural disaster area or area that has been damaged by human activity (when it is safe to do so) and discuss our connection and reliance on the environment
- Create and adventure photo blog highlighting your environmental impact discoveries

**I understand the importance of acceptance and forgiveness in maintaining the relationships I have**

- Participate in an event of cultural or historical significance, such as an ANZAC Day service, and reflect with your patrol on how these events shape our lives
- Contribute to the efforts of a group that preserves cultural or spiritual heritage, such as community arts group, places of worship, ethnic museums, and so on.
- Listen and be present for others when they have troubles
- Plan and deliver a Scouts Own with the topic of acceptance or forgiveness.

**I am thankful for the opportunities I have had and start to help those who may not have the same opportunities**

- Identify things we are thankful for as a patrol reflection, such as around a campfire or when pausing on a hike
- Organise a fundraising activity for a charity
- Run a night/camp/activity where you eat/sleep/do activities that a disadvantaged person your age in a developing country might do



## STOPPING FOR REFLECTION

### **I express how my spiritual beliefs guide my actions in particular contexts and how they have developed over time**

- 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.
- Discuss with a trustworthy adult or with a patrol of Venturers your beliefs, how they influence you, and how they have changed over time

### **I express examples of when I have not lived up to my spiritual beliefs and explain how I can improve in future**

- Take moments to reflect on your actions over time, consider your

successes and times where you have not lived up to your expectations.

Consider what you might do differently next time.

- Discuss with a trustworthy adult or with a patrol of Venturers your beliefs, how they influence you, and how they have changed over time
- Participate as a reflective listener in a Scouts’ Own

### **I express my beliefs about my connections with others and place in the world**

- Actively participate, including listening to others, in discussions about our place in the world
- Participate in a community service project that aids the disadvantaged



# 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.