



Promise and Law - Discovery

Scouter's Edition

The Crean Award:

Discovery:

Gain an understanding of the Scout Promise and Law

Explain what the Promise and Law mean to you

SPICES

Social, Character, Emotional, Spiritual

The Activity:

Objective:

To explore the Scout Promise and Law; and, have Scouts demonstrate their understanding of it.

Activity Type:

Patrol/Troop Activity

Roles:

Activity Leaders





Plan...Promise and Law

Promise and Law

Part of what makes scouting unique is its Promise and Law. It is one of the things that unites all scouts across the world and has done so for over a century. Every one of them has made the promise.

It is very important that we realise the Scout Promise and Law are central to everything we do. They are a part of the Scout Method, the approach we take to running programme in Scouting. The Promise and Law are not just things that you read out at your investiture and forget about. They are important ideas that should be part of all your Scouting, and even your everyday life.

The activity leaders should look over the Promise and Law and make sure they are comfortable with the ideas involved. The activities should be as practical as possible and you should help the younger scouts work through what the Promise and Law mean to them. It is more important that the Scouts get an understanding of what is involved, rather than getting the 'right' or exact answer. So encourage and prompt the younger scouts, but avoid telling them what you think the answer should be! **Maybe have a discussion about the Promise and Law, and helping younger Scouts look at it, beforehand to help these activities run well.**





Do...Promise and Law: Exploring Ideas

Choices: Exploring Values

The Scout Promise and Law are all about values, what we decide is important. This is a simple activity that allows you to explore values in your troop. Have all members of a patrol/troop stand in a line in the centre of your meeting place. The activity leader reads a sentence (i.e. "I am a gushing spring or a placid lake"). Each scout then makes their own choice and stand on the side of the room representing their choice: To the right, the gushing springs, and to the left, the placid lakes. Ask different scouts to give examples of why they chose they side they did.

A few examples of sentences

- I am an athletic person or I am an intellectual
- I defend my point of view or I always agree
- I am intuitive or rational
- I am a hare or a tortoise
- I am a computer keyboard or a goose quill
- I am a shooting star or a light house at the top of a mountain
- I ride a motorbike or a bicycle
- I am a mountain or a valley
- I resemble honey or vinegar

I am a washing line or the tail of a kite

I am a sign bearing the inscription "No entry" or "public area"

I save money or I spend money

I like living in a city or in the country side

I prefer breakfast or dinner

I love summer or winter

I always pay attention or I am a dreamy person

I am a believer or I am not a believer

You can also come up with your own sentences. Also, you may have some people who can't decide, try to get them to respond instantly and not think too much about it!

Your game

Each patrol has to design a game to explore the importance of having a value system and doing your best. Give each patrol a selection of equipment (e.g. balls, sisal, spars) and a few minutes to design and trial a game which:

- Involves two patrols
- Has three simple rules, and
- Lasts under 3 minutes

Afterwards, discuss how important were the rules to your game? What happened when somebody broke the rules? Did you care more about the rules in your game or another Patrol's game? **Assist the patrols in creating the games and avoiding difficult games.**





Do...Promise and Law: Doing

Scouting is all about being active, especially in the outdoors. Here are some ways you can think about how the Promise and Law work in your programme throughout the year.

Doing Your Best

Advance a Stage in an Adventure Skill: work with another Scout who knows about an Adventure Skill you are interested in. If you have a Level 3 and you work for a Level 4, you will be challenged and will do your best.

Try out a new activity: As a patrol, take on a new challenge, something you might have tried before such as building a [Monkey Bridge](#), going [geocaching](#) or staying overnight in a [backwoods shelter](#).

Helping Others and Servicing your Community:

Projects: For your Crean Awards and Special Interest Badges you should be doing regular community projects. Think about something in your community that you can contribute to. As a patrol make out a plan and do it.

Natural Disaster: Think about ways you can help those suffering after natural disasters, such as the recent [Philippines disaster](#).

Troop Charter

A troop charter or code of conduct is a set of guidelines which explain to everyone in the Troop how they should behave and what happens if people do not following the charter. The Charter should be put together by everyone in the Troop with the help of the Patrol Leaders and Scouters.

- Have each patrol discuss the things which they think are important for the troop to operate and for everyone to be treated with respect. Perhaps you should write key words on pages and have the Scouts decide on whether they should be in the charter or not, and if so, try to rank them: eg. Bullying, attending all/most activities, respect, sharing jobs, doing your part.
- Create a draft Charter based on the kind of things you talked about. Keep it simple and direct, so everyone can understand.
- Look over the charter and decided on any changes you might like to make.
- Then, think about the consequences to those who ignore or intentionally break the charter. Remember that consequences are NOT punishments, but things which you think will help resolve any issues involved.

Check out the resource on [scouts.ie](#) for examples of [Troop Charters](#).

Work closely with the patrol/activity leaders in developing the Charter, perhaps guiding the discussions towards general, positive principles.





Do...Promise and Law: *A Reflection*

Promise and Law Reflection

This is a reflection on the Scout Promise Law. It is a simple exercise that can get everyone thinking about the means behind some of the words. It is important that everyone gets involved and that you try and take it seriously.

The activity leader reads out a section of the law and promise. This will be followed by a Scout reading out the accompanying piece which is intended to reflect an idea contained in that part of the law. Also, the activity leaders or scouts should look at making their own contributions by picking quotes, telling stories or acting out short sketches on a theme.

Scouts are Friendly

I'll be there for you, When the rain starts to pour
I'll be there for you, Like I've been there before
I'll be there for you, 'Cuz you're there for me too...
- *I'll Be There for You, The Rembrandts*

Scouts are Kind

A random act of kindness is a selfless act performed by a person or people wishing to either assist or cheer up an individual or in some cases an animal.

There will generally be no reason other than to make people smile, or be happier. The recent #Dare2DoGood initiative from Scouting Ireland is all about RAKs! Examples of RAKs are: give a compliment about a waiter/waitress to his/her manager; give up your seat for someone, not just an elderly person; Leave a copy of an interesting book on a train / bus.

Scouts are Honest

"If a person has ugly thoughts, it begins to show on the face. And when that person has ugly thoughts every day, every week, every year, the face gets uglier and uglier until you can hardly bear to look at it. A person who has good thoughts cannot ever be ugly. You can have a wonky nose and a crooked mouth and a double chin and stick-out teeth, but if you have good thoughts it will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely." — Roald Dahl, *The Twits*

Scouts can be Trusted

Once, an eagle tried to form an alliance with a lion, to their mutual advantage. The Lion replied, 'I have no objection, but you must excuse me for I need a guarantee of your good faith, for how can I trust anyone as a friend who is able to fly away from his bargain whenever he pleases?'





The Moral: No one can be a friend if you know not whether to trust or distrust him.

Aesop (620–560 BC), *the Fable of the Lion and the Eagle*

Scouts are Respectful, they care for themselves and for others.

“Yes,” said Hermione in a heated voice, “he sacked her, just because she hadn’t stayed in her tent and let herself get trampled—”

“Hermione, will you give it a rest with the elf!” said Ron.

Sirius shook his head and said, “She’s got the measure of Crouch better than you have, Ron. If you want to know what a man’s like, take a good look at how he treats his inferiors, not his equals.”

JK Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*

Scouts are Brave, they stand up for right and good.

Lettin' 'em know we're gonna stand our ground

So, lift your hands higher and wave 'em proud

Take a deep breath and say it loud

Never can, never will, can't hold us down

- *Can't Hold Us Down*, Christian Aguilera

Scout Promise

I promise that

Promise a lot and give even more.” - Anthony J. D'Angelo

I will do my best

“I have been impressed with the urgency of doing. Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Being willing is not enough; we must do.” – Leonardo da Vinci

to do my duty to God, (or to further my understanding and acceptance of a Spiritual Reality)

The material world is the realm of hard facts, observations, and objectivity. The spiritual world is the realm of emotion, ethics, beauty, and the meaning of life. Scouting wants people to accept the duties resulting from their spiritual principles, to be active doers, not just passive believers.

to serve my community,

Being homeless is more than about being without a roof over your head it's about a lack of security and safety, a lack of belonging and privacy. The experience of homelessness is arguably one of the worst violations of human rights in Ireland. Over 15,000 people are ‘homeless’ in Ireland.

to help other people,

Throughout the world when natural disasters, such as earthquakes, floods and tsunamis, destroy buildings and people’s lives, local scout groups are among those who help out and make a big difference to those suffering.

And, to live by the Scout Law.

In all of this, it is the spirit that matters. Our Scout law and Promise, when we really put them into practice, take away all occasion for wars and strife among nations. – Baden-Powell





Scout Promise:

I promise that I will do my best,
to do my duty to God,
to serve my community,
to help other people, and
to live by the Scout Law.

or

I promise that I will do my best,
to further my understanding and
acceptance of a Spiritual Reality,
to serve my community,
to help other people, and
to live by the Scout Law

Scout Law:

Scouts are...
Friendly, Kind, Honest,
Can be Trusted,
Respectful, they care for themselves
and for others.
And Brave, they stand up for right
and good.

Variation:

Friendly and Kind,
Honest to Trust,
Respectful and Brave,
Loyal and Just





Review "SPICES"

Social

- Relationships
- Communication Skills
- Other Cultures
- Community Involvement
- Promise & Law

Physical

- Eat Well
- Personal Hygiene
- Balanced Lifestyle
- How Body works
- Physical Limitations
- Health Choices
- Access Help

Intellectual

- Achieving Goals
- New Ideas
- Learn from Decisions
- Team Member

Character

- Promise & Law
- Friends & Friendships
- Plan before do
- Ensuring Fairness
- Respect
- Differences & Views
- Following Dreams
- Live the Scouting Spirit

Emotional

- Aware of feelings
- Asking/Giving Help
- Responsibility for Emotions
- Controlling Emotions
- Going Further
- Beliefs & Values
- Developing Talents

Spiritual

- Promise & Law
- Impact on Environment
- Reflection
- Changing Beliefs





Patrol Review

What went well?

What could have gone better?

What word comes to mind for when you think about the Promise and Law?

Patrol Review

What will we do next?





Review Summary

The main aim of this activity is to help the **Scouts completing their Discovery Award** to explore the Promise and Law. The review should focus on the how they gained an understanding of the Promise and Law, and their ability to explain what the Promise and Law means to them individually. It may also be helpful to have the Scouts refer to pages 17/18 of their scout book, *The Spirit of Adventure*.

The **Promise and Law reflection** is a good way of reviewing progress for this section. It focuses attention on each aspect of the Promise and Law and can be used to explore understanding. It may be helpful to split the patrol/troop in the small teams of three or four, with some scouts doing their Discovery and some older ones. Assign each group a section of the Promise and Law, such as to serve my community or can be trusted, and have them come up with a suitable example.

The younger scouts should come up with the examples or stories with encouragement from the older ones. They don't have to be very profound, in fact the more every day and practical the suggestions the better, eg. I'm trusted to walk my little brother home from school or I serve my community by cutting my neighbours' grass at the weekend. These examples can then be added to the Promise and Law reflection at the appropriate place.

Another thing you can do, is review a recent activity, but from the point of view of the Promise and Law. So talk about a kayaking adventure or a patrol overnight, but ask question such as, did everyone help? Were you respectful to everyone? Did you do your best? This reinforces the idea that the Promise and Law are always relevant, not just for this meeting!

