

OUR NEW SCOUT PROMISE

FACT SHEET

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Q. Why is the Promise changing?

Consistent feedback was received during the development of the Better Prepared Strategy & the Scout Law review from both young people and parents to contemporise our Scout Promise to better reflect today's communities and social norms.

The review process took 18 months and involved two consultations with the Movement, a scouting and youth development literature review and a final approval from both National Council and World Organisation of the Scout Movement.

Q. What is the Promise changing to?

	Used by	Proposed Promise
Scout Promise	All members except Keas	On my honour, I promise to do my best, To develop my spiritual beliefs, To contribute to my community, country and world, To help other people, And to live by the Scout Law.
Kea Promise	Keas only	I share, I care, I discover, I grow.

Q. What do each of the changes mean?

According to the World Organisation of the Scout Movement, a Scout Promise must contain three commitments:

1. **To spiritual development**
2. **To personal development**
3. **To others**

Below is an explanation of each commitment in our new Promise:

1. Spiritual Development

Represented by the line: "To develop my spiritual beliefs"

Spiritual development is recognised in the youth development sector as an important element of holistic youth development which helps young people to answer the 'big questions in life' for themselves.

As part of our new Youth Development Policy, SCOUTS has defined what spiritual development means for our programme:

Developing my understanding of personal beliefs, as well as the diversity of beliefs that makes up our communities (local, national, global) while practicing the art of reflecting and showing gratitude in a genuine way.

(Youth Development Policy, 2017)

As such, to meet the commitment to spiritual development expressed in the new Promise, members are encouraged to do four things:

1. **Exploring Beliefs:** Explore their own spirituality and think deeply about the purpose and journey of life.
2. **Respect for others:** Respect and acknowledge others peoples' beliefs and value and celebrate spiritual diversity.
3. **Reflection:** Pause for reflection upon the Scout Promise and Law, as well as individual beliefs, and consider the role they play in your life and connections with others.
4. **Gratitude:** Regularly express gratitude for the many gifts of the natural and human community.

Further support and programme materials for spiritual development will be released when the Youth Development Policy is launched.

2. Personal Development

Represented by the lines: "On my honour, I promise to do my best" and "And to live by the Scout Law"

Personal development and strong values based education is at the core of why SCOUTS exists and this element remains unchanged from our previous Promise.

All members are encouraged to always do their best, and to explore and uphold the values expressed in the Scout Law.

3. Commitment to Others

Represented by the lines: "To contribute to my community, country and world" and "To help other people"

Community: Being a part of a community and helping to make the world a better place have been central to SCOUTS since we were founded. The term 'community' means both local as well as extended communities such as neighbourhoods, schools, Scout Groups, ethnic societies and religious groups. Members are encouraged to consider their place and contribution to all the communities they operate in.

Country: The term 'country' was retained in our Promise to emphasise the importance of belonging to a country. Members are encouraged to explore and uphold the behaviours of good citizenship.

World: This brings a new international perspective to our Scout Promise. It is intended to help young people think about their place in the world and bring new focus in our Promise and programme on international peace, understanding and cooperation, while also reinforcing the global nature of scouting.

Q. What about The Queen?

"To the Queen and my country" has typically been explained to young people as representing the national community. While this is one element of our commitment to others, it was felt it did not adequately convey our wider commitment and contribution to both our local and global communities.

Furthermore, many young people identified that they did not understand how to carry out their "duty ... to the Queen", as the monarchy has become a relatively abstract institution in New Zealand society.

As New Zealand's Head of State, The Queen continues to be the patron of our top youth development Award, The Queen's Scout Award.

The Governor General of New Zealand was consulted on the changes to the Promise and their position as SCOUTS New Zealand's patron and Chief Scout remains unchanged.

Q. Why did the Kea Promise change?

During the review of our Scout Promise, the Review Team noted that our former Kea Promise ("I will try to share my fun and help others") only covers commitment to others, not Personal or Spiritual Development.

However, our Kea Motto ("I care, I share, I discover, I grow") covers more of the commitments required in a Promise, namely:

- To spiritual development ("I discover")
- To personal development ("I discover" and "I grow")
- To others ("I share" and "I care")

The consensus of our Promise Review Team, Programme experts and Kea Leadership team was that adopting the motto as our new Kea Promise was both more aligned to the intention of a Promise and an age appropriate commitment for young people in the section.

While the Kea motto has become the Kea Promise, members are encouraged to continue using the new Kea Promise in their programme and ceremonies as they did when it was the motto to help reinforce the promise.

Q. How does our new Promise link to the Scout Law?

As a Scout organisation, our primary reason for being is the personal development of young people. Scout organisations encourage the personal development of their membership by teaching, role modelling, and instilling in their members a set of enduring values which they can live by.

In SCOUTS New Zealand our values are described by our Scout Law. The Scout Promise is the formalised commitment all members must make to live by the principles and values of Scouting. As such, members are encouraged to consider the Promise and Law as a set when including them in section programmes.



Have Respect



Do What is Right



Be Positive

Q. How do I make the change?

Activities introducing our new Promise will be added to the National Programme soon. We encourage all our leaders to include these activities in this term's programme and help all our young people and adult leaders to move towards a more relevant and inclusive Promise.

