

AUSTRALIAN SCOUTING'S INTERNAL COMPASS



JOEY 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.

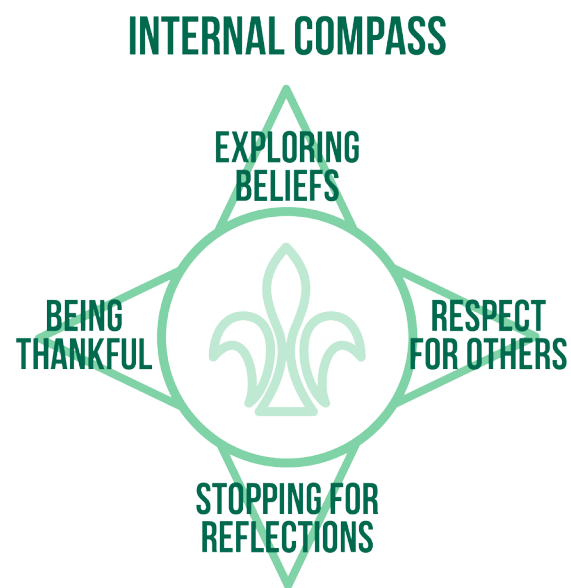
The Internal Compass points to four different aspects of spiritual development that programs can focus on. Like a navigational compass, the Internal Compass can help us to set our direction in life.

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
- 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 JOEY SCOUTS

“I APPRECIATE THE WORLD AROUND ME”

This guide aims to support leaders and older Joey 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 know if my parents have a belief system

- Have a chat with your parents
- Join in with community festivals and events
- Participate in religious or secular family activities

RESPECT FOR OTHERS

I know that others may have different beliefs to me about life

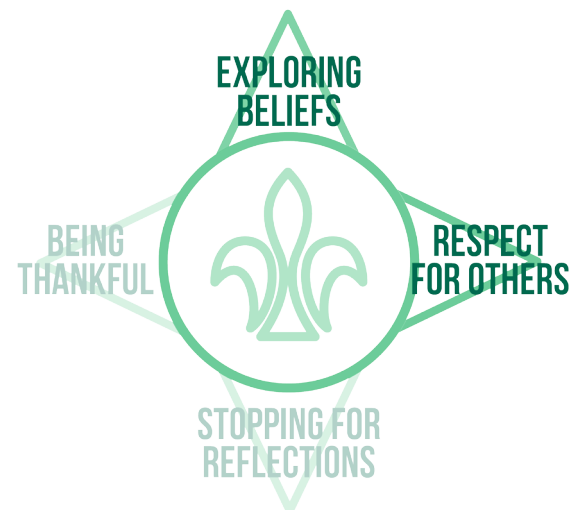
- Listen and reflect on a story about different spiritual beliefs
- Listen as others explain their own beliefs about life.

I know that others have different social and cultural backgrounds to me

- Participate in a group discussion about social and cultural backgrounds facilitated by an adult
- Organise a cultural night to explore food, festivals and faith of different cultures

I know that my community has many different people in it

- Participate in a group discussion about diverse communities facilitated by an adult
- Listen and reflect on a story that talks about the value of diversity
- Complete a local Messengers of Peace project with your mob.





BEING THANKFUL

I appreciate the complexity and awe-inspiring nature of the natural and human worlds

- Go on a guided nature walk and identify unique and interesting features of the natural world
- Create a giant Venn diagram to compare similarities and differences between two natural or man-made environments

I identify the people that are most important in my life

- Draw a picture of the people most important to you. Tell another Joey Scout about these people.
- Create a card to say thank you to your parents

I know that many opportunities are available to me throughout my life

- As a group, participate in a care and share activity for someone less fortunate

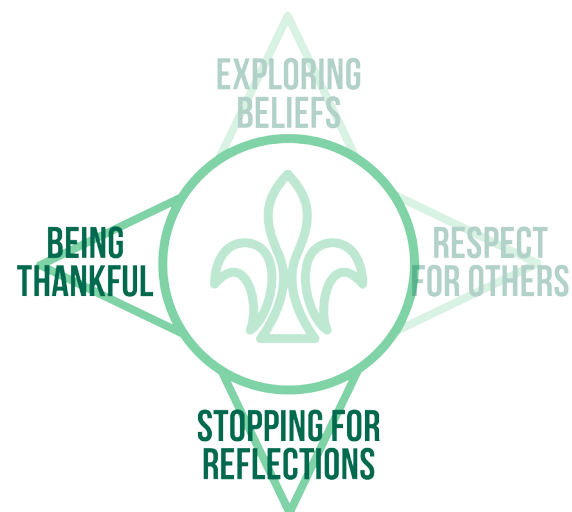
STOPPING FOR REFLECTION

I appreciate that the Scout Promise and Law should play a part in guiding my life

- Talk with someone about what your honour is
- Share what the three main elements of the Scout Law mean to you.
- Listen to stories that show how spiritual beliefs, and the Scout Promise and Law can guide life choices

I know that I am part of something bigger than myself

- Participate in a group meditation session in natural surroundings
- Stop and listen to your surroundings for a minute and describe what you hear.
- Connect your mob with a group from another country



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.