

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT IN SCOUTING



Scout training aims to develop young people mentally, physically and spiritually so that they may take a constructive place in society. In the Movement, spiritual awareness has implications wider than concepts of religion or a faith, although these are relevant. In fact, spiritual awareness in Scouting incorporates what may be considered as five factors of personal development.

1. Inner discipline and training. This includes setting and aiming for high standards of personal behaviour, appearance, hygiene and so forth in daily life as well as when involved with Scouting activities. Members are also encouraged to develop reasonable attitudes on such social issues as smoking, alcohol, other drugs and sex.
2. Involvement with others in corporate activities. Scouts are encouraged to participate in project work as members of a team rather than just individually. Involvement covers both demonstrating initiative and leadership as appropriate, as well as accepting leadership and direction as one of a team.
3. Understanding the natural world. By taking part in conservation and environmental projects, observation of weather and climatic conditions, expeditions and exploration outdoors, Members are helped to appreciate their individual responsibilities in such issues as wildlife preservation and pollution.
4. Creating a tolerant, caring society. Members are helped to understand issues of current importance with which they and others may have to cope nationally, internationally and, especially locally. There is a wide range of

opportunities for positive action through involvement in community projects.

5. Discovering prayer and worship. In a multi-cultured society such as ours, the existence of many faiths and religions has a powerful influence on relationships, family attitudes and integration of people of different creeds, colour and tradition.

Prayer, meditation and worship in various forms, both corporate and personal, are important in every culture. The Movement endeavours to help its Members to understand and experience in their own lives why this should be so.

Religious Consultants, appointed by the Movement, contribute to an understanding of their own faiths and beliefs on the part of others and in devising suitable acts of worship in keeping with the Aims of Scouting.