

Investiture and Promise & Law



Investiture

The first ceremony we all have in scouts is our investiture. It is the way we formally join the scout movement. It involves each person making a scout promise in front of others. In doing so, they not only are joining a scout troop, but they are also joining the over 600 million people who have made the Scout Promise since 1908.

Here are some general points to remember when organising an investiture:

- All those about to be invested should be prepared for it. They should have done most of their Discovery Crean Award.
- It's nice to have it on a camp or activity, or in an unusual location. This makes it memorable, especially for those being invested.
- Each person should make their promise individually in the company of their patrol/watch. The promises are available on the last page of this resource.
- There are three variations of the Scout Promise, beforehand each person should talk through which promise they would like to make, with their PL/WL or APL/AWL. It is important that each person is given the opportunity to make the promise that is best for them.
- Just before the investiture, the PL/WL should collect the neckerchiefs from those being invested. Once they've made the promise, the PL/WL puts the neckerchief on them.
- Have some form of celebration afterwards in recognition of this important event.

Exploring the Promise and Law

Objective:

To explore the Scout Promise and Law.

The Crean Award:

Discovery:

- Gain an understanding of the Scout Promise and Law
- Explain what the Promise and Law mean to you

Terra Nova

- Demonstrate how you apply the Scout Promise and Law in daily life.

Endurance

- Implement the Scout Promise and Law and lead by example to others.

Polar

- Have a Scout Law & Promise discussion with your Patrol

SPICES

Social, Character, Emotional, Spiritual

PLAN

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. 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.

DO

Here are some suggested activities to run in your patrol to explore the Scout Promise and Law.

Patrol Discussion

Have the patrol gather around two large pieces of paper, on one is written PROMISE and on the other LAW. Then have everyone write down ideas associated with those words. Then come up with your definition of a Promise and Law



In or Out

Have a moving debate around the idea of what topics are relevant to the Promise and Law. On one side of the hall have a 'YES' sign and opposite a 'NO' sign. Then, the organiser reads out a word or phrase and the scouts move to the appropriate sign. Discuss some of the ideas, especially when opinion is divided. Examples: Doing all your school work, recycling, washing regularly, messaging your friends back, making time to see your grandparents, having hobbies, saving money, staying up late.

Stories

Scouts prepare different stories about the Promise and Law to tell to their patrol on a camp.

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?

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

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/watch, make out a plan and do it.

REVIEW

Discuss in your patrol:

- What went well? What could have gone better?
- What comes to mind when you think about the Promise and Law?
- Have you a better understanding of the Promise and Law?
- How well do you apply the Promise and Law in your daily life?

Promise and Law – Endurance

For your Crean Endurance Award, you need to 'Implement the Scout Promise and Law, and lead by example'. This requires Scouts to act and lead according to the Promise and Law. It is something that should happen on all scouting activities and in everyday life. The best way to assess this for a Scout's Endurance Award is for them to sit down in a Patrol Corner with their PL/APL WL/AWL, or, if they are a PL/APL WL/AWL, at a Patrol/Watch Leaders' Council meeting, and discuss some practical examples.

Possible Activities

Here are a few ideas of activities that might be appropriate for you in helping complete this section of your Crean Endurance Award.

- Make out an energy and waste conservation plan for your home and Scout Group. Research how you can conserve on water and energy consumption and look at how you can reduce the amount of waste you produce. Help implement the plan.
- 'Adopt' a local natural area to maintain over a set time period, such as two to three months. You can help clean it up, plant trees, or ensure proper facilities. Get your patrol to help you. You could also work with local community groups.
- Carry out a natural habitat improvement project. Research different ways in which you can help improve the habitat conditions for wildlife in your area. Look at how additions, such as new plants or feeder boxes, could encourage and support animals and plant life. This would be a good project to carry out with an environmental or conservation organisation.
- Run a conservation activity with another section, such as the Beaver or Cub Scouts. You could do things like clearing up a local area; running an anti-litter campaign; planting native trees; or, making and maintaining a bird feeder or bird nesting box.



Scout Promise variations

On my honour I promise to do my best, to uphold our Scout Principles, to serve my community, to help other people and to live by the Scout Law.

Geallaim ar m'fhocal agus ar m'fhírinne, go ndéanfaidh mé mo dhícheall ár bprionsabail Gasóg a chaomhnú, fónamh a dhéanamh do mo phobal, cabhrú le daoine eile agus seasamh le Dlí na nGasóg.

OR the following variation,

On my honour 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.

Geallaim ar m'ónóir go ndéanfaidh mé mo dhícheall, mo dhualgas do Dhia a chomhlíonadh, fónamh a dhéanamh do mo phobal, cabhrú le daoine eile agus Dlí na nGasóg a choimeád.

OR the following variation,

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

Geallaim ar m'ónóir go ndéanfaidh mé mo dhícheall, mo thuiscnt agus mo ghlacadh den Réaltacht Spioradálta a chur chun cinn, fónamh a dhéanamh do mo phobal, cabhrú le daoine eile agus Dlí na nGasóg a choimeád.