

BANDALAG ÍSLENSKRA SKÁTA'S CORE VALUES



DISCLAIMER

This document is an English translation of the Bandalag íslenskra skáta's Core Values, by NSO staff. It's been thoughtfully translated to reflect the original text accurately but in the case that any article of this document can be interpreted in a different manner than the same article in the Icelandic version the version in the original language prevails.

INTRODUCTION

The Core Values of Bandalag íslenskra skáta consist of three types:

1. Social values inherent to the role of the scout movement:
 - a. The scout movement is a global youth and peace movement which promotes education for young people through self-education.
 - b. The scout movement is inclusive to all and free from political affiliations.
2. Ethical values reflected by:
 - a. The Scout Promise
 - b. The Scout Law
 - c. The Scout Motto
3. Methodical values embedded in the Scout Method and based on:
 - a. Progressive self-education.
 - b. A cohesive system of interacting key factors.
 - c. The Scout Motto.

The Fundamental Values of Bandalag íslenskra skáta form the common foundation that Scouting in Iceland is built upon and define its unique characteristics. Bandalag íslenskra skáta's by-laws are always built on the Fundamental Values of the association. The Fundamental Values are built upon the Constitution and By-laws of both world organizations of Guiding and Scouting – WAGGGS and WOSM. They are the foundation that Bandalag íslenskra skáta and all Scout groups in Iceland operate in accordance with.

Bandalag íslenskra skáta is a member of the global Scout organization, WOSM, and the global organization of girl Guides and girls Scouts, WAGGGS and operate according to their by-laws and constitutions.

SOCIAL FUNDAMENTAL VALUES

Goals of the Icelandic Scout Movement

The scout movement is a global youth and peace movement. Its goal is to aid the development of young people to make a better world where people achieve fulfillment as independent, active and responsible individuals in society. This is achieved by:



- Getting young people active in their developmental years with an informal developmental and educational system.
- Employing specific methods to make every individual the main actor in their own personal development.
- Helping young people develop their own value system based on ethical life values, social justice, and personal integrity in the spirit of the Scout Laws and the Scout Promise.

The Scout Movement is a youth movement with the support and participation of adults. Scouts of all ages need to be given the opportunity to participate in the decision making which affects their Scouting. Their responsibility for decision making and execution of projects increases with age.

The Icelandic Scout Movement is open to everyone

The scout movement is open of everyone who follows its goals, Fundamental Values and The Scout Method, irrespective of their race, skin color, gender, language, creed, political ideology or other ideology, nationality, origin, wealth, ancestry, sexuality, or other reasons. Ultimately the decision to participate or not is in the hands of each and every one person. The Scout Movement is not an exclusive movement of the favored. It is however clear that the Scout Movement can only properly accommodate individuals with significant special needs when conditions and manpower is sufficient to provide for those needs.

The Icelandic Scout Movement is independent of political affiliations and organizations

The Scout Movement is an independent organization and thus devoid of allegiances to any political party. However, nothing prevents it from taking a stance on specific issues as long as the stance is in accordance with its Fundamental Values.

Individuals are not permitted to affiliate themselves with any political parties when they speak on behalf of or represent the Scout Movement. No constraints limit members of the Scout Movement from working concurrently with political parties, if it is in their own name and not the scout movement's.

ETHICAL FUNDAMENTAL VALUES

The ethical values of the Scout Movement are found in the Scout Promise and The Scout Laws. Based on the precedent in the governing charters of the global scout organization. The wording, however, differs between nations, cultures and languages.

The Icelandic Scout Promise

The Scout Promise is a promise made by a Scout to themselves, a personal challenge of sorts, to do their best. When a Scout makes the promise, they take the first conscious step in their self-learning towards becoming an independent, active and responsible member of society. The Icelandic Scout Promise is as follows (Scouts can choose between god/conscience and country/community):

I promise that I will do my best to do my duty to *god/conscience* and to my *country/community* to help others and to keep the Scout Law.

The ethical values of the Scout Promise are often categorized in the following way:

- “The duty to god/conscience” – an individual’s relationship with the pursuit of life values that transcend their own existence.
- “Duty to others” – an individual’s connection and responsibility to their community.
- “Duty to self” – an individual’s responsibility to develop their talents to their fullest potential.

The Icelandic Scout Laws

The Scout Movement’s ethical values are systematically outlined in the Scout Laws. The Scout Laws, however, are much more than an organized system of ideas. They are a behavioral pattern which young people can follow and use to shape their own path forward in life. To be true to oneself, every individual needs to think and act in accordance with their own values.

The Icelandic Scout Laws are:

- A Scout is helpful
- A Scout is jovial
- A Scout is trustworthy
- A Scout is a friend of nature
- A Scout is considerate
- A Scout is honorable
- A scout is cooperative
- A scout is thrifty
- A scout is just
- A scout is independent

The Icelandic Scout Motto

The Scout Moto is: Always Prepared

The Scout motto constitutes that the Scout is always mentally and physically prepared to do his duty.

METHODICAL FUNDIMENTAL VALUES

Scouting is based on the ideology of self-education that progresses in harmony with age and maturity.

Through Scouting children and young people receive opportunities to pursue their goals by taking on fun projects and immersing themselves in adventure. It’s crucial that the Scouts themselves actively participate in choosing, planning, executing and reflecting on their projects, taking into account their age and maturity age and maturity – with guidance and support of adults.

In addition, the Scout Method is built on eight interconnected key elements.

Key Elements of the Scout Method:

- The Scout Laws, Scout Promise and Scout Motto
- The Patrol System
- Symbolic Framework
- Outdoor recreation and environmental conservation
- Games and learning by doing
- Helpfulness and community involvement
- Personal progression
- Adult support

Each individual key element has independent value to Scouts education and upbringing and each factor magnifies the others' effects. The cooperation of all key elements is essential for the system to function.

GOVERNANCE

The Fundamental Values of Bandalag Íslenskra Skáta were passed at Skátaping 2019. It is only possible to change the Fundamental Values of Bandalag Íslenskra Skáta with an approval rating of 2/3 of the votes at Skátaping for two consecutive years.