

# scouting in sa

## breaking through the myths



### **1. Scouting is for boys only**

Fact: SCOUTS SA opened up for girls in 2000. Currently over 48% of all membership are female.

### **2. Scouting is for white boys in affluent areas**

Fact: Scouting is run in all 9 provinces in South Africa. The majority of Scouting members reside in rural and disadvantaged communities. In 2000 Scouting opened for girls. Currently over 90% of the membership live in rural and township communities which implies a predominantly African membership. 48% of all members are girls. SCOUTS South Africa is Level 1 BBEE accredited.

### **3. Scouting doesn't exist anymore**

FACT: There are over 90 000 youth members and over 5000 adult volunteers nationwide. In 2012 SCOUTS South Africa rebranded and is working on promoting this unified branding nationwide to be seen more in local communities.

### **4. Scouting is for wealthy people / Scouting is expensive**

Fact: The majority of our membership live in rural and disadvantaged communities. The cost to participate depends on which community you live in and there is no fixed fee.

### **5. Scouts and the Voortrekkers are the same:**

Fact: The Voortrekkers are not Scouts. The Voortrekkers is an independent youth organisation that operates with its own constitution and programmes. Historically its origin correlates with South Africa's political history. Their programmes are based on a central set of values which is similar to Scouting.

### **6. Scouts and Girl Guides are the same:**

Fact: The Girl Guides are a sister organisation of the Scout Movement. There are global and local agreements in place as the two organisations have their foundations in the Promise and Law. The Girl Guides are an independent youth organisation that operates with its own constitution and programmes. It is a girl only organisation. Guides and Scouts partake in many combined activities and events.

### **7. In Scouts you tie knots and help grannies cross the road:**

Fact: A Scout is a Messenger of Peace that helps community members when needs are identified. That includes grannies. However it is much more than that. It is a deep rooted programme that empowers youth to make an actual difference in their own lives as well as that of others. The knots that are tied in Scouting are done so with the objective of achieving a bigger goal such as fine motor skills development, problem solving, the building of shelters, rigging of boats, building of stretchers to help the injured, etc.

### **8. Scouts bake cookies and sell door to door**

Fact: Scouts are not permitted to bake cookies and go door to door to sell and fundraise.

**9. You need to know all about the environment to join:**

Fact: No prior knowledge is required. Scouting's youth programmes are based on the learning by doing methodology where peers help peers grow under the supervision of adult leaders. Adults can tap into a number of training courses and receive support from mentors and fellow volunteers to hone their skills.

**10. Scouting is old fashioned and nerdy:**

Fact: SCOUTS South Africa's programmes were recently updated and offer a vibrant array of outdoor adventure and leadership development activities. Interest badges include drone usage, gaming and other. The idea of the boy in khaki tying knots is not aligned to the adventurous and progressive reality of the activities.

**11. Scouting is militaristic:**

Fact: Scouting's ceremonies are sometimes perceived as militaristic whereas they are actually used as tools to bring a moment of discipline and peace to the group of youth before or after a meeting or event.

**12. Scouting is difficult:**

Fact: Scouting might seem a little overwhelming at first but each members gets the opportunity to grow and learn at their own pace. When a youth or an adult struggles with a specific skills or challenge, there are always older peers on hand to help them master the skill and overcome the challenge.