

## **Sir Robert Baden-Powell Views on Religion and Scouting**

“By Religion I mean not just a formal homage tributed to a Divinity, but a deeper acknowledgment of God as a Being perpetually inside and around us, and the consequent higher level of thought and action in His service”

“Religion can only be 'caught', not 'taught'. It is not a dressing donned from outside, put on for Sunday wear. It is a true part of a boy's character, a development of soul and not a veneer that may peel off. It is a matter of personality, of inner conviction, not of instruction. The actions of a very large proportion of our men are, at present, very little guided by religious conviction. This may be attributed to a great extent to the fact that often *instruction* instead of *education* has been employed in the religious training of the boy.”

*Aids to Scoutmastership and Headquarters' Gazette, 1918*

“Many difficulties may arise while defining religious formation in a Movement such as ours, where many religions coexist; so, the details of the various forms of expressing the duty to God must be left to those responsible of each single association. We insist however on observance and practice of that form of religion the boys profess”

“If you really wish to find the way towards success, i.e. your happiness, you must give a religious base to your life. It's not simply attending church or knowing history or comprehend theology. Many men are sincerely religious almost without knowing it or having studied these things. Religion, briefly explained, means: First: know who God is Second: use to the best the life He gave us, and do what He expects from us. This means mostly doing something for the others.”

(Rovering to Success, 1922)

***The Scout Law was written in its current form on August 1, 1911 by Sir Robert Baden Powell and has always included that a scout has a duty to God.***

***Charter and Bylaws of the Boy Scouts of America maintain that no boy can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing his obligation to God. Scouting is absolutely nonsectarian in its attitude toward that religious training. The Boy Scouts of America does not define what constitutes belief in God or the practice of religion***

***"A Scout's Duty to God and Country," 1998;  
USSCOUTS.ORG***

**Scout is Reverent.**

**A Scout is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties. He respects the beliefs of others.**