

Welcome to

53rd St Barnabas

Scout group

53rd History

The 53rd started in 1958 by Mr George Beavers at the request of the boys in the school where he was then Headmaster. The first unit to appear was a Cub Pack with six cubs and gradually increased to twelve. It was necessary to start a Scout Troop as the original Cubs were now old enough to become Scouts.

At first, an old manor house was used by the Group as a meeting place and it was not until 1962 it moved to St. Barnabas Church. A Scout Hut was built for the 53rd next to St Barnabas Church. In September 1967, the Group moved to NAAFI complex in the form of a 40x18 feet Nissan hut. The Group closed when the Turks invaded Cyprus in 1974. It re-opened briefly after the Turkish invasion, becoming a multi-national Group running the British scheme and eventually closed in 1975. The Group was re-opened in 1981 by Ben Whelan and the group became the first mixed Scout group on the Island for boys and girls. The program included camps, Horse Shoe Hikes and challenging activities which set a trend for many years to come. The group followed the British Scout Scheme until 1986 and had a leading role in the WSBA District, the group also took part in activities with Cypriot Scouts in Limassol.

In 1986, two new Leaders were appointed by the Limassol District Scout Association to run the Group. They were succeeded by John Stavrinidies in 1988 who led the group with Peter Elton and Richard Vlamis, two old scouts trained by Ben Whelan. The group carried on meeting at St Barnabas Church until 1992 when it was asked to leave. Homeless, Richard Vlamis (the Group Scout leader) moved the Group to a new location next to the District building. Over the next few years, the Group obtained two containers and a room in the District Building. In 2001 a new Group Scout Leader was appointed, Alexi Chrysostomou. He led the group until summer 2004 when it closed. The Group was re-opened by Richard Vlamis in March 2005 and started growing steadily in numbers. In 2011 the group became homeless again. One of the containers was sold and the other moved to Yermasogia. Due to the growing member numbers the group relocated partly in Yermasogia and partly in Moutagiaka.

For more details, visit our website: <http://www.53rdscoutgroup.com>

The Story of Scouting

There are more than 40 million Scouts, young people and adults, male and female, in over 200 countries and territories. Some 500 million people have been Scouts, including prominent people in every field.

The scout movement was started by Robert Baden Powell also known as BP. and was born on 22nd February, 1857. He was not very good at school but he did enjoy drawing, acting and rifle shooting. He often went hiking and sailing. BP left school, joined the army, became a very good soldier and was promoted quickly. He trained his men with competitions and games. In 1889, BP and his men were surrounded by the enemy in Mafeking in South Africa. By using clever tricks and allowing the boys to carry messages, they survived the siege of seven months. When BP came back to England, he was a national hero.

BP wrote a book called *Aids to Scouting* about training the army. Many people were interested in his book so BP began to think that the same ideas could also be used to train boys. To try out these ideas, he held a camp for 20 boys on Brownsea Island, Dorset, in 1907. They swam, signalled, hiked and played games. BP wrote his ideas in a book called 'Scouting for Boys', which came out as a magazine in 6 parts. All over the country, boys formed themselves into Patrols and asked adults to lead them.

In 1909, 11,000 Scouts met at Crystal Palace to display their Scouting skills. BP became known as Chief Scout. In 1916 BP started the Wolf Cubs to provide fun and adventure for boys aged 8-11. Wolf Cubs learnt to light fires, use a compass, give first aid and keep themselves fit and healthy. In 1913 scouting began in Cyprus. By 1920, Scout Troops had been formed in many countries. A huge meeting of Scouts, 8,000 from 34 different countries, was held in London in 1920 in the first World Jamboree. At the closing ceremony, BP was acclaimed Chief Scout of the World. In 1929, BP became Lord Baden Powell of Gilwell. He travelled all over the world visiting Scouts. He died in 1941, in Kenya at the age of 80. The movement he started provided adventure for boys and girls of all ages. In 1967 Wolf Cubs had become Cub Scouts, but the fun and excitement of Cub Scouting stayed the same as ever. Cub Scouting is now 100 Years old and is as popular as ever.

100 years and beyond

In 2007 the Movement celebrated its centenary – 100 years of Scouting. What started as a small camp at Brownsea Island is today a growing Movement with members in nearly every country in the world. Through its unique combination of adventure, education and fun, Scouting manages to continuously renew and adapt itself to a changing world and the different needs and interests of young people across the globe. In doing so it continues to be an inspiration for young people to become active local and global citizens, helping them in creating a better world.

The Scout Troop and its organisation

The Scout section meets in a group called Troop. It includes boys and girls from the age of 10 up until 14 years old. The troop is divided into smaller groups called Patrols with usually 8 to 10 persons per Patrol. Each Patrol has a name of an animal/bird of prey, like Foxes, Lions, Eagles, Tigers and Hawks.

The Patrol is led by the Patrol Leader (PL) and an Assistant Patrol Leader (APL) which are usually older, more experienced Scouts. Their duties and responsibilities are: to welcome new members, to inform their members of upcoming activities, to run part of the meetings, to train and teach their members, to assist the Scout Leaders, etc. The role of the APL is, obviously to assist the PL and stand in his/her place in their absence.

The troop is led by the Scout Leader (SL) and his/her assistants. They are usually adults who have taken various courses in how to run the troop, organised and held by the Cyprus Scouts Association. Some of their responsibilities are: Ensure the safety and welfare of each all Scouts, to ensure the smooth and successful running of every meeting and activity that the troop undertakes, train and guide the PLs and APLs, Meet regularly with all the PLs to discuss problems and activities etc.

Flag Ceremonies

There is usually a Flag Ceremony at the beginning of the meeting. The whole Troop will face the Flags and the designated Scout will walk to the flag. For the opening ceremony the Scout will pull a string to 'raise' the flag (let the flag fly freely). Everyone then salutes the flag at the same time to show their loyalty to their country they are living in. For the closing ceremony the Scouts face the flag while standing at alert while it is lowered.



The Salute and the Scout Sign

All members of the Scout Movement use the same salute. The salute is made with the right hand and is only used when you are standing at Alert. It is used as a greeting and as a sign of respect. Scouts salute with three fingers to remind you of

....your promise to do your duty to your God, and to your country and to help other people....

The Scout Sign is similar to the salute but you hold your hand at shoulder height. It is only used when someone is making or renewing their Promise.

The Handshake

Scouts greet each other in a special way. They always shake hands with their left hand. The origins of this custom come from when Baden-Powell was a soldier in Africa. He saw lots of tribal chiefs who carried spears and shields. He noticed that it was a sign of great trust to offer your left hand when shaking hands. This is because if you shake with your left hand you will have to put down your shield while the other person still has a spear in their hand!



The Scout Motto

The Scout Motto is Be Prepared. Are you prepared for anything? Now that you are a Scout, you must be prepared to try new activities, learn new skills and make new friends. As you learn new things you will be prepared to look after yourself and to help other people.

The Scout Promise and Law

When you are invested as a Scout, you will have to know the Scout law and make your Promise in front of the troop. You must do your best to keep your promise and to obey the law every day. It is a good idea to learn them by heart.

The Scout Promise

*On my honour
I promise that I will do my best,
To do my duty to god and to my country,
To help other people,
And to keep the Scout Law.*

The Scout Law

- 1. A Scout is to be trusted*
- 2. A Scout is loyal*
- 3. A Scout is friendly and considered*
- 4. A Scout belongs to the world wide family of Scouts*
- 5. A Scout has courage in all difficulties*
- 6. A Scout takes makes good use of time and is careful of possessions and property*
- 7. A Scout has self respect and respect for others*

Your Investiture

You become a Scout when you are invested. To be invested you must fulfil the following requirements:

1. Know by heart the Scout promise and law.
2. Know a bit of the history of the 53rd and the scout movement.
3. Take part to at least one scout activity with the troop or your patrol.
4. Be in full uniform. (Without the knecker)

You will make your Scout Promise to a leader in front of the troop. You may be invested with a group or on your own. It is an important ceremony and you will need to practise it with a leader. The ceremony might go something like this.

Your PL will bring you to stand at the alert in front of the leader.

Leader: Do you want to be a Scout?

You: Yes I do.

Leader: Are you ready to make your promise?

You: Yes I am.

Leader: all invested Cubs and Scouts make the Scout sign.

(you repeat the Scout Promise after the leader. A little at a time. The leader then exchanges a left Handshake with you)

Leader: I trust you to do your best to keep this promise.

You are now a Scout and one of the worldwide brotherhood Scouts.

The leader will give you your group knecker. You then Salute the troop before returning to your place.

Congratulations you are now a Scout!

