

# Guiding and Scouting in Germany



**rdp**

Ring Deutscher Pfadfinderinnenverbände  
Ring deutscher Pfadfinderverbände





## Union of German Girl Guide Associations German Scout Federation

The **Union of German Girl Guide Associations** and **The German Scout Federation** represent the common interests of their member associations with approximately 200 000 members as to youth politics and stand up in public for children and young people.

Scouting is a **voluntary, non political educational movement** for young people. It is open to all and everybody. Important elements are to practice democracy, to live together on an equal footing, to be tolerant to others, to respect and get actively involved in the protection of nature and to assume responsibility.

Since it's foundation in 1907 scouting has become **the largest youth movement all over the world** with almost 40 million members. Incorporated into the structures of the two world movements we are committed to international youth work and youth politics and practice education towards understanding and solidarity.



**World Organization of the Scout Movement  
(WOSM)**  
Europe Region

**German Scout Federation (RdP)**  
Association of Girl Guides and Boy Scouts (BdP)  
German Saint George Scouting (DPSG)  
Christian Guide and Scout Association (VCP)



**World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts  
(WAGGGS)**  
Europe Region

**Union of German Girl Guide Associations (RDP)**  
Association of Girl Guides and Boy Scouts (BdP)  
Girl Guide Association of St. George (PSG)  
Christian Guide and Scout Association (VCP)

The German Scout Federation and the Union of German Girl Guide Associations are members of the German Federal Youth Council (Deutscher Bundesjugendring DBJR) and of the Child and Youth Welfare Association (Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Kinder- und Jugendhilfe AGJ).



# BdP

Bund der Pfadfinderinnen und Pfadfinder  
Guide and Scout Union

The **BdP** is the interdenominational member in the »Ringe« (German Scout Federation and Union of German Girl Guides Associations).

**Works on all levels of age.** The youngest ones between seven and eleven years of age are called cub scouts. Their focus is on basic scouting skills which are learned in a playful way. Girl scouts and boy scouts (age 12 to 16) develop wide-ranging interests and extend their capacities. Rangers and Rovers (as of 16 years) deal with society issues and get involved with others. Adults find their place within the BdP as experts, supporters and friends.

**Scouting is training for tomorrow.** Our work offers everybody and everyone the chance to develop their potential, to discover their talents and to learn for life. We want

- to develop practical, physical, artistic, social and mental skills;
- to develop personality and to strengthen self-confidence;
- to strengthen the living together as a group and improve the abilities to develop together with others solutions to problems;
- to encourage responsibility, critical faculty, openness and creativity;
- to prepare for a life within an international society.

The **local group** is called »stamm« (tribe). In the tribe young people and young adults work as volunteers. The members of the tribe participate in decision making processes such as activities of the group or the election of the tribe leaders.

Our groups are dispersed all over the country but form still one whole: Every for years when the **national camp** of the BdP is organised, 5000 girl scouts and scouts meet many guests from abroad at the camp.

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Deutsche Pfadfinderschaft Sankt Georg  
German Saint George Scouting

The **Deutsche Pfadfinderschaft Sankt Georg** is the association of catholic girl and boy scouts in the Federal Republic of Germany. It was founded in 1929.

Within the DPSG 95 000 girl and boy scouts experience adventure. Children and young people learn together with adults to assume responsibility for themselves and others within the group. Every girl and every boy is invited to contribute according her or his capabilities.

The yearly action » **Flinke Hände, flinke Füße**« (»Flying hands, flying feet«) is a brand mark of the DPSG. Since 1962 every year the members of the DPSG are out in a good cause. It all began with the construction of a recreation home for young people with special needs at the federal centre of the association in Westernohe (Westerwald). This start was followed by activities to support migrants, campaigns against xenophobia and HIV/AIDS, campaigns for peace in Near and Middle East, activities to build training centres in Bolivia and Rwanda and for the safeguarding of the creation. During the yearly action the members of the DPSG on one side deal with a certain subject and improve their knowledge and on the other side raise money for a specific project.

The DPSG has approximate 1400 tribes (local groups) all over Germany. Boys and girls from eight to ten years are cub scouts, as of eleven years that they become members of the younger scout troop. From 14 to 16 years they form the scout level, followed by the ranger/ rover level up to the age of 20 years. The association offers assistance as to methods and contents, information, trainings and consultancy to adults who work as group leaders within the DPSG.

### **The DPSG stands for**

We are specially committed to the co-operation of people with and without special needs within society. We promote encounters and partnerships with people of other nations and cultures. We are committed to international justice. We are committed to safeguarding the creation. We advocate that children and young people can actively participate in society and church.

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# PSG

Pfadfinderinnenschaft St. Georg  
Girl Guide Association of St. George

Since 1947 the **Pfadfinderinnenschaft St. Georg** is the catholic girl guide association in Germany and open to all girls and women regardless of origin and religion who like guiding and working with girls on the basis of personal experience.

Almost 10 000 girls and women unite in specific age groups, organised in tribes and open groups all over Germany in 18 diocesan associations and associations on Länder level. These associations have a democratic structure.

The **PSG places main emphasis** on the following issues: participation of children, conveying of values, integration of girls of migrant origin, commitment to nature and a fair society, international encounters and partnerships.

### **We are girl guides**

The »six elements of the guiding pedagogy« as well as other guiding methods such as promise, projects, working with specific age groups, participation of children, hikes, camps, living together in groups (regular group meetings, partly open groups, holiday camps) stem from our guiding concept of the human being.

### **We are girls and women**

Since 1947 we follow the tradition of work with girls and women. We understand this work as a work which meets the needs of girls and women done by and with girls and women. PSG speaks up for girls and women in society.

### **We are catholic**

Following our principle »Look at the girl« we focus on girls and women. We offer them a framework where together with others they can find, change and define their own position within the church and their faith.

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# VCP

Verband Christlicher Pfadfinderinnen und Pfadfinder  
Christian Guide and Scout Association

The **Verband Christlicher Pfadfinderinnen und Pfadfinder** unites protestant girls and boys, is open to other denominations or people with no denomination. More than 47 000 children and young people belong to our groups all over Germany, approximately 5000 mainly young people are committed to do volunteer work as group leaders. The young group leaders bear the different interests and needs of the different age levels in mind: children's level, girl scouts and boy scouts level, ranger and rover level.

Apart from hikes and camps at home and abroad socio-political commitment, protection of nature and environment, The Gospel as guideline, education towards tolerance and democracy form the basis of the scouting work within the VCP.

**Live democracy:** to plan and put the plan into practise together with others, to have one's own opinion, but also to accept different one's, to be open to new ideas, to respect other people and their ways of living and to experience them as enrichment.

Members on all levels show their **commitment:** such as to renature a small stream, to refurbish a children's playground locally, to collect money for the new building of a children's home in Rumania, to organise games for refugee children, the actual construction work for a youth club in Bethlehem or building schools in Africa in co-operation with UNICEF.

It is a tradition and a point of honour for the VCP to **work during the Church Days**. Every two years thousands of VCP members wear on top of their blue scarf a second one the »helpers' scarf of the Church Days« which identifies them as voluntary helpers at the Protestant Church Days.

**The federal camp:** Every for years 4000 to 5000 VCP boy and girl scouts get together with their guests from all over the world following a certain motto or a special topic of the federal camp. During the federal camp »100 PRO« young people realised more than one hundred projects for peace – ranging from the refurbishment of a local youth club to historic studies.

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