

# Shaping a Scout's own



We call these ceremonies a Scouts' Own because the original idea was that this was a Scout's own time for personal (or spiritual) reflection. Even today, these ceremonies and moments should be driven by young people – they should have the chance to plan and lead Scout's Owns for themselves and their friends.

It can be difficult to know where to begin, so we've put together some ideas to help you get started.

## When does it happen?

A Scouts' Own can take place anywhere, at any time. There are no strict rules here – it's all up to you.

They're often perfect additions to the end of days (or longer trips) away, especially if they've been filled with activity and moment to reflect on. Some people like to hold Scout's Owns around a campfire, others have them after dinner. Sometimes people use a Scout's Own to reflect on days like Remembrance Day, but you can also have them during the opening or closing (or even the middle) of your ordinary meetings.

## What does it look like?

Scout's Owns don't have to be long or complicated. They usually last about 15 minutes, but a little longer (or a little shorter) is also fine. It's up to you what you include – people might want to use readings, music, skits, stories, or short activities. You can use anything to incorporate a moral message or a reflective moment – the more creative the better.

One way to structure a Scout's Own might look like this:

1. Opening: someone introduces the topic and theme of the Scout's Own.
2. Reading: someone shares a short piece of writing (maybe a poem, story, saying, or song lyric) related to the topic and theme.
3. Activity: to help everyone engage and reflect.
4. Music: someone plays (or performs) some music that links to the topic or theme. This is a nice moment for people to reflect on everything they've spoken about or done.
5. Closing: finish with a quotation or question, to round up and give everyone a thought or message to take away.

## Choosing a topic

It can be tricky to choose a topic for your Scout's Own. You might want to think about things people have been talking about, or something you'd like to remind everyone about.

If you need some ideas to start off, you could think about hosting a Scout's Own around:

- The Scout Promise (including things such as doing your best, or helping others)
- The Scout Law
- Being prepared
- Being kind to yourself
- Making friends
- Being brave and courageous
- The Scout values (integrity, respect, care, belief, and cooperation)
- Being part of a family (this includes the worldwide family of Scouts)
- Looking after the environment
- Doing your duty as a local, national, and global citizen
- Finding peace (both in your own life and in the world around you)
- The history of Scouts (our [Heritage website](#) is bursting with information)

## Choosing a theme

You don't have to theme your Scout's Own, but you can if you want to. Themes might include The Jungle Book (especially for Cub Scouts), the theme of your camp (how about space, science, or computers), or a badge you're currently working on.

## Finding resources

Including readings, activities, or music in your Scouts' Own keeps it interesting, and introduces ideas for people to understand and explore.

- If you're looking for some proverbs (short, well known pieces of advice) matching your theme, take a look at [Creative Proverbs](#).
- A quick Google search for "songs about ..." will often turn up a variety of suggestions – make sure you listen all the way through (and think about the words) before sharing them with others.
- Search by tags on our programme planning tool to find activities related to your topic.