

Symbolic Framework



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Within the Catholic Scout Association of Portugal (herein referred to as CNE) each age based Section has its own symbolic atmosphere, that provides cohesion and consistency, where children and youngsters experience an Imaginary, that is, an environment translated by a unique spirit and language, with tales of heroes and symbols that involve them in such a manner conferring them with a sense of belonging to a group, and as such, permitting the transmission of values and principles.

Cub Scouts [6-10 years]

Jungle

As described by Rudyard Kipling in the 2 volumes of "The Jungle Book"

Scouts [10-14 years]

Explorer

the one that that discovers, goes further on

Venture Scouts [14-18 years]

Pioneer

the one that digs up, installs, builds and develops

Rovers [18-22 years]

No formal imaginary,

as young adults their actions are to put into practice in their daily routines

Simultaneously, each section is guided and experiences a specific mysticism, in other words, a theme and spiritual guidance with the objective of finding GOD in communion with the church.

Within the CNE, mysticism is based on a scheme of four sequential steps bearing in mind character formation and Christian values that unfold within the logic of a path to follow, thus constituting the itinerary for each scout as an individual and member of society.

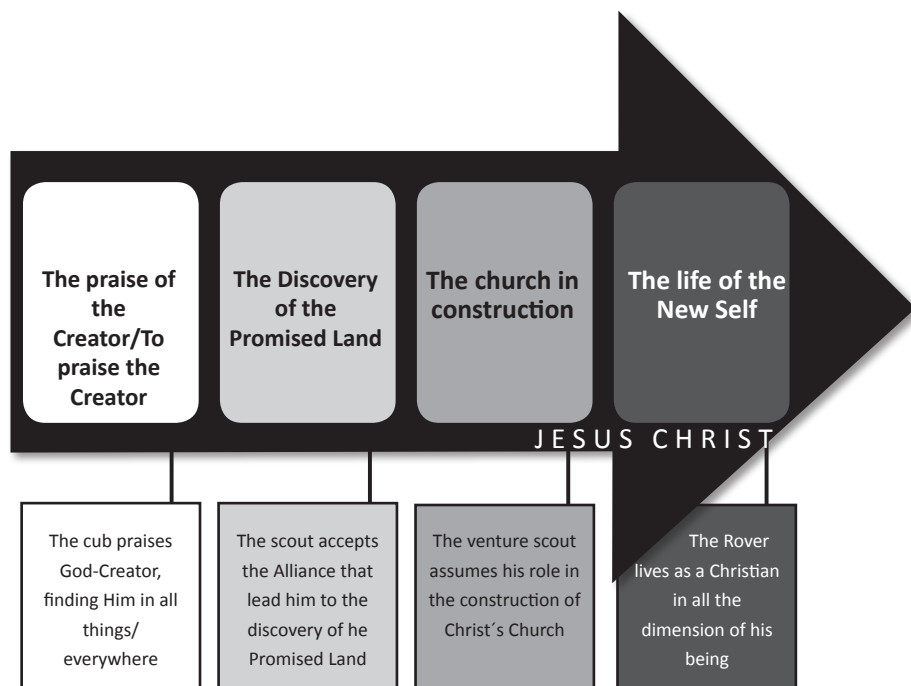
Within the suggested itinerary, the objective is that the Scout understands that his life is bi dimensional and both the spiritual and natural dimensions are intimately related: Christ, the Lord of Life, is not simply reduced to the spiritual and mystique aspect of Man, He is present in our daily life and throughout human existence. As such, He is a constant presence in the life of a Scout.



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With this perspective in mind, the proposed itinerary is centered in Christ, because the Lord is the centre and source of all meaning.



For this experience to be complete, there is a vast majority of symbols that help transmit and reinforce the ideal that is present in the Imaginary and Mystique. Each section has an identifying symbol, which may be a single one or integrated within a set of complementary symbols.

The CNE Educational Programme recourses to patrons – Saints or Blessed who during their life incarnated the plenitude of the virtues that we want to transmit through the Imaginary and Mystique of each section. To this effect a Protector has been chosen for each Section so that his /her life can serve as an example to the youngsters.

Holy Mary – Mother of the Scouts
 St. George – worldwide patron of the scouting movement
 St Nuno de Santa Maria – patron of the CNE

St. Francis of Assis – patron of the cub scouts
 St. St. James (the Greater) – patron of the Scouts
 St Peter – patron of the explorer scouts
 St Paul – patron of the Rovers

Each Section also has role models – figures of the Catholic Church, who similarly to the patrons, also incarnate the virtues and ideals of the Mystique and Imaginary of the Section, – historical figures – personalities who during their lifetime marked the history of mankind due to their actions, that express a vast range of possible ways of experiencing that Imaginary.



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