



Vienna, March 2018

Welcome to VISG88 and a new school term in scouting!

Dear Parents!

We would like to welcome you and your children to the new Scouting Year. We hope you had a pleasant summer and the kids enjoyed summer camp!

For the newcomers we would like to introduce Vienna International Scout Group and its members:

What does VISG 88 mean?

Vienna International Scout Group 88 (in short: VISG 88) was founded in 1980. Its aim is to enable children from all over the world who come to Austria, to either remain or become Scouts. Some of our members had been into Scouting before they came to Austria, and their experiences are valuable contributions to our Scouting traditions. Other children join Scouts in Austria for the first time, and they find a good opportunity of making friends and experiencing nature.

What is Scouting all about?

The pedagogical concept behind the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides has its origins with Lord Robert Baden-Powell. Based on the principle of "learning by doing", children and young people of roughly the same age gather in small groups to experience their world together. A 100 years after the creation of the first scout troops, many of the scouting movement's most typical approaches, such as camping, hiking and teamwork are more relevant and more alive today than ever before.

All scout leaders are volunteers. The Vienna International Scout Group follows the Austrian programme but has an international flavour! The leaders are a mix of Austrian trained guiders and scouters and internationally warranted guiders. The Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Association of Austria spend around three years training young adults to become youth leaders through a four-step program. The training focuses on methods of working with children and young people, personality development and the foundations of group dynamics.

What age groups does VISG 88 work with?

The umbrella organisation, the Pfadfinderinnen und Pfadfinder Österreichs, offers four age levels (Wichtel und Wölflinge/Cubs and Brownies, Guides und Späher/Scouts and Guides, Caravelles and Explorers, Rangers and Rovers). The VISG 88 is able to offer three of these:

The Cubs and Brownies...

Our youngest members are called Cubs and Brownies (aged 7-9). The children in this group develop their young personalities through team work and projects, all within the framework of a playful environment.

.. the Scouts and Guides...

The second age group is the Scouts and Guides (aged 10-13). The Guides (girls) and Scouts (boys) assume responsibilities within a small team, learn to recognise their own qualities and contribute these to the group. The adventures they enjoy such as camping and hiking are experiences which remain with them throughout life.

... and the Caravelles and Explorers!

Caravelles (girls) and Explorers (boys), aged 13-16, gather together in small groups that reflect their personal interests. Contributing their own ideas, these young people work more and more independently as they plan and implement their projects.

Camp life!

In 2017 we went on Spring Camp as well as on Winter Camp, where we could use all the Scouting skills we practised during the year.

Apart from those weekend activities we try to offer as many outings as possible.

We look forward to spending the Scouting Year with your child/children!

Yours in Scouting Spirit

*Babsi, Jochen, Kathia, Lara, Laurin, Madi, Magda, Maggy,
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(the Team of Leaders and Parents Board)