# Do something fun and meaningful

Be Spejder









# Friendship, nature and challenges

As guides and scouts we challenge ourselves together. And we find plenty of adventures to test us. We climb mountains in Norway and play Indians in our local hedge. We build our own shelters and sleep with the moon as our nightlight. We go walking and roast marshmallows.

And whatever we engage in, we do so together!













#### What is *spejder*?

Spejder is the Danish word for a guide and a scout. It is gender neutral, which means that all children and young people who are part of The Danish Guide and Scout Association are called spejdere. But spejder is also used about guiding and scouting as an activity.

#### We live outside

The outdoors provide the setting for our activities. Nature is where we cook, sleep and play. Here we enjoy open spaces with plenty of fresh air.

#### We learn by doing

You will learn to use a compass and a GPS, for example, while out there, in the forest, and not through instructions given back at HQ.

#### We cooperate

As a *spejder* you learn to assume responsibility for yourself as well as other people, And unique friendships are formed, which can last for many years.

#### We get challenged

Children and young people can achieve so much more than you may think. As *spejder* you will therefore be given responsibilities and challenges so you can grow and get to know yourself and other people.

You will be supported and guided by adults, of course, but with the purpose of learning to take charge of your personal development.

#### Facts about The Danish Guide & Scout Association

- We are a children and youth movement open to everyone.
- We have more than 35,000 spejdere in 'Det Danske Spejderkorps'
- Our core principles are outdoor activities, community and challenges.
- We prepare children and young people for life.
- We challenge them and enable them to grow.
- We leave impressions by making an impact.

And we have plenty of fun while doing so!

# Spejder 4 life

# You can start as a 3-year-old, continue into youth and adulthood



# Spejdere, 3-6 y.o.

Our youngest *spejdere* experience and sense nature through play and small activities.

Guides and scouts of this age are often called **mikrober** or **family spejdere** because parents partake in activities together with their children.

## Spejdere, 6-8 y.o.

At this age *spejdere* are given tasks that challenge their senses and creativity. A lot of time is spent playing, telling stories, and exploring the outdoors.

Nature is their playground and learning site, and they will explore it through listening, smelling, touching, looking and tasting. Spejdere at this age are often called **mikroer**.

# Spejdere, 8-10 y.o.

For children between 8 and 10 nature becomes the setting for exciting *spejder* adventures. They will sleep over in a wooden cabin or tent, do races, learn to use a compass and maps, practice tying knots and using their knives. Here friendship is at the centre, so everybody has fun while helping to solve shared tasks.

Spejdere at this age are often called: minier.

**Adult** guides and scouts also enjoy plenty of opportunities – just because you have grown older does not mean that your life as a *spejder* ends. Some become scout and guide leaders. Others organise challenging races or cool training sessions for young *spejdere*. And most stay in touch with *spejder* friends from around the country – and sometimes also from overseas.

# *Spejdere* , 10-12 y.o.

At this age *spejdere* are very active. They often go camping and try out new activities, learning to become independent and to look after nature. The 10-12 y.o. assume more responsibility, working together as a patrol. A patrol is a team of between four and eight *spejdere*, who engage in joint enterprises, stick together, and support one another when things get tough. Patrols work independently, supervised by more experienced *spejdere* and leaders. *Spejdere* at this age are often called **juniorer**.

## *Spejdere,* 12-16 y.o.

For young *spejdere* guiding and scouting centre on friendship, fun and challenging tasks solved collectively in patrols.

They will go away on camps, trekking expeditions, demanding training events, adventure races, canoeing or engage in pioneering projects such as building a primitive cable car.

Patrols decide and plan their own activities.

This means that they become responsible for making it both fun and challenging to be a *spejder*.

Spejdere at this age are often called tropsspejdere.

## *Spejdere*, 16-25 y.o.

For the oldest guides and scouts the key concerns are community and friendship.

This is *spejder* in its most challenging and independent form. *Spejdere* assume responsibility for developing and carrying out projects limited only by their imagination. *Spejdere* at this age are often called **seniors**.

# Scouting is value-based

As spejdere we like to make a contribution to making the world a better place for everybody















We are convinced that the quickest way to achieve this is through the development of those who represent our future: Children and young people. By having them meet positive expectations and by giving them responsibility we believe that children and young people will grow in spirit as much as height and thereby become prepared for life.

But first and foremost, spejder is about having fun, and it becomes really funny when it involves:

#### Big experiences

Spejdere engage in adventures a bit beyond what is normal. For only when our sense of comfort and security is challenged, can we truly grow as human beings.

#### Learning by doing

We reflect and talk – but, most importantly, we act together. For *spejdere* will quickly convert an idea into concrete action. We believe that you learn best when doing things yourself, by planning your own activities and assuming responsibility. Who cares if something did not go quite according to the plan? This presents an opportunity to become wiser, learning from your mistakes.

#### **Patrol life**

Guides and scouts use the word patrol for community. Patrols are small groups where *spejdere* work together, based on the idea that children and young people offer the best role models for their peers. Here they will challenge one another and learn to cooperate and lead together.

## **Outdoor life**

*Spejder* is about the great outdoors. Being outside offers plenty of challenges all year round. And we have no walls to block our imagination. In other words, we see the outdoors as the best environment for children and young people to develop individually and together.

# Ready to join in the fun?

Learn more at www.marselisspejderne.dk/international.html

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