OUR MASCOT

Meet *Scout*

Meet Scout! Scout is a young barn swallow with a shiny green coat, a purple throat, and a golden scout's neckerchief. He is curious and brave, he likes to fly out in front, and he never stops asking good questions. Scout's motto is the same as ours: raising thinkers, not followers.



Who is Scout?



Scout says: “Hi, I'm Scout! I love to fly ahead and peek around the next bend. Whenever I find something new, I ask: what is it, how does it work, and why? Being brave doesn't mean I'm never scared. It means I keep asking good questions, and I do what's right, even when the rest of the flock is flying the other way. Want to explore with me?”

Curious

He wonders about everything: clouds, bugs, old words, and how bridges stay up.

Brave

He tries new things, even when they feel a little scary, and he speaks up for what is true.

Leads the way

He likes to fly at the front, then circles back to help the little ones keep up.

Asks good questions

What? How? Why? Scout knows a good question is the first step to real understanding.

Thinks for himself

He listens to wise grown-ups, then thinks it through instead of just following the crowd.

Kind

He shares the best bugs, cheers for his friends, and says grātiās when someone helps him.

Scout's poses



Wave

“Hello, friend!”



Cheer

“You did it!”



Think

“Hmm, I wonder why...”



Point

“Look over here!”

Swallow facts

Scout is a barn swallow. Here is what real barn swallows can do. Every fact comes from a trusted bird expert, linked below it.

🌍 Long-distance flyer

Every fall, barn swallows fly thousands of miles to spend the winter somewhere warm. Swallows from Britain fly all the way to South Africa, about 6,000 miles, and swallows from North America fly to Central and South America. On the way they can cover more than 200 miles in a single day!

Source: RSPB: Swallow · Audubon Field Guide: Barn Swallow · BBC Wildlife: Do swallows return to the same nest?

🦟 Snacks in the sky

Swallows catch their food while flying: mostly flies, plus beetles, bees, wasps, moths and butterflies. They even drink and take a quick bath in mid-air by swooping down to touch the water!

Source: Cornell Lab, All About Birds: Barn Swallow Life History

🏠 Mud-ball builders

A mother and father swallow build their cup-shaped nest together, carrying little balls of mud mixed with grass in their beaks. Then they line it with soft grass and feathers. Building one nest can take about 1,300 trips to gather mud!

Source: Cornell Lab, All About Birds: Barn Swallow Life History · BBC Wildlife: Do swallows return to the same nest?

✂️ The forked tail

A barn swallow's long, deeply forked tail streams out behind it like two ribbons. No other North American swallow has a tail like it! The tail and pointed wings help make its fast, twisty, acrobatic flying possible.

Source: Cornell Lab, All About Birds: Barn Swallow Overview · Hinterland Who's Who: Barn Swallow

⚡ Speedy wings

The barn swallow may be the fastest swallow of all. One was recorded flying about 46 miles per hour! When they migrate, they cruise along at about 17 to 22 miles per hour.

Source: Hinterland Who's Who: Barn Swallow · RSPB: Swallow

🧭 Home again

Swallows often come back to the very same place each spring. In one study, about 44 out of every 100 pairs moved right back into the same nest. A good mud nest can be used for 10 to 15 years!

Source: BBC Wildlife: Do swallows return to the same nest? · Cornell Lab, All About Birds: Barn Swallow Life History

✨ Shiny feathers

A barn swallow's back glistens a deep, shiny blue that can shimmer with purple in the sunlight. Real barn swallows have a rusty-red throat. Scout's purple throat is a special touch to match The Unruly's colors.

Source: Cornell Lab, All About Birds: Barn Swallow Overview · RSPB: Swallow · Hinterland Who's Who: Barn Swallow

🏛️ A Latin name

Scientists call the barn swallow Hirundo rustica. Hirundo is the Latin word for swallow, and rustica means “of the countryside,” because swallows love open farmland.

Source: RSPB: Swallow (Hirundo rustica)

Swallows in the Bible

Swallows show up in the Bible too. These verses are from the King James Version, which is in the public domain.

Psalm 84:3 (KJV)

"Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O LORD of hosts, my King, and my God."

What it means: The writer of this psalm noticed little birds building their nests right at God's house, close to the altars. Even a tiny swallow found a safe home near God. It reminds us that God cares about small things, and that being close to Him is the best home of all.

Proverbs 26:2 (KJV)

"As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come."

What it means: A swallow darts and zigzags through the air and doesn't land just anywhere. Solomon says that an unfair curse, mean words someone hasn't earned, is like that: it won't land on you. What God says about you matters more than unkind words.

Isaiah 38:14 (KJV)

"Like a crane or a swallow, so did I chatter: I did mourn as a dove: mine eyes fail with looking upward: O LORD, I am oppressed; undertake for me."

What it means: King Hezekiah was very sick. He said his prayers sounded like the chattering of a swallow, and he kept looking up toward heaven, asking God to help him. God heard his prayer and gave him fifteen more years of life (Isaiah 38:5). Even small, shaky prayers reach God.

Jeremiah 8:7 (KJV)

"Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the judgment of the LORD."

What it means: Swallows know exactly when to fly away and when to come home, without a calendar! (The "turtle" here is a turtledove, a bird.) Jeremiah said the birds follow God's timing better than some people follow God's ways. Like the swallow, we can learn to pay attention to what God is showing us.