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Youth Advisors to the World Scout Committee (2005- 2008) Report to the 10th World Scout Youth Forum



**10th WORLD SCOUT
YOUTH FORUM**

**10e FORUM DES JEUNES
DU SCOUTISME MONDIAL**

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YOUTH ADVISORS TO THE WORLD SCOUT COMMITTEE (2005-2008) REPORT TO THE 10TH WORLD SCOUT YOUTH FORUM

INTRODUCTION

We, the Youth Advisors who have had the great honour and privilege of representing the young people of World Scouting at the World Scout Committee and serving the Scout Movement during the period 2005-2008 present to their brother and sister Scouts and Guides, the participants at the 10th World Scout Youth Forum, the following report on their activities during said period and recommendations for the future success of youth involvement in World Scouting.

Structure of the Report

This Report details activities undertaken by the Youth Advisors during their term of office in the following areas:

- The work of the World Scout Committee
- Educational Methods
- World Events
- Governance
- Branding & Communications
- Activities at Regional Level
- Finance
- Scoutpost
- External Representation
- Activities at other levels of Scouting

The Report closes by inviting the 10th World Scout Youth Forum to debate how the successes for Youth Involvement of the past triennium can be built upon in the future.

World Scout Committee

The Youth Advisors enjoyed a friendly and productive working relationship with the World Scout Committee during the triennium. Youth Advisors were invited to attend all of the Committee's regular meetings and indeed there have been Youth Advisors present at every single one of these meetings. Provision was made on the Agenda of the Committee for the Youth Advisors to make periodic reports on their contribution to the work of the World Scout Committee. The Youth Advisors presented a number of papers to the Committee over the triennium on Youth Involvement and other issues. Whilst especially advocating Youth Involvement, the Youth Advisors have also contributed to the Committee's deliberations on a wide range of issues such as Governance, Finance, Scouting's Centenary, World Events and Educational Methods. The Youth Advisors have played an active role in several of the task teams and subcommittees of the World Committee, the details of which are outlined below.

The Youth Advisors wish to thank the members of the Committee for working with them over the past three years and for their support to Youth Involvement during that time.

Educational Methods

Rod Abson served on the Adolescents and Young Adults Task Team and the Environment Education Task Team of the Educational Methods Committee. In April 2007 he was appointed as Unit Manager for Environment Education at the World Scout Bureau Central Office.

John Lawlor has written papers for the Educational Methods Committee on Youth Involvement in National Scout Organisations around the world and on the application of Scouting's Team System in youth work outside of Scouting. In April 2008, he served on a working group which met in Cairo to review the achievements of the Gifts for Peace initiative and work towards a proposed framework for the future for peace education in Scouting. He has assisted in the work of the Environment Education Task Team

Mehdi Ben Khelil served on the Education for All and the Spiritual Development Task Teams of the Educational Methods Committee. He actively participated in developing three sets of guidelines for NSOs : "Scouting for People with Disabilities", "Scouting for Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances" and "Guidelines on Spiritual Development for NSOs"

Ana Lorena Guidiño has supported the work of the Environment Education Task Team, sending information on national and regional experiences to develop the World Environmental Scout Program. She has worked to fortify environmental issues in the Inter-American Scout Region, and she worked on developing the programme for the World Conservation Badge in a pilot group in her National Association.

Ange Aye-Ake served on the Education for All Task Team and the Scouts of the World Technical Commission, Africa Region. He worked on collecting valuable information from the experiences of NSOs who operate programmes for disadvantaged children during events such as the Africa Scout Conference of 2007. He worked to promote the Scouts of the World Award in Africa.

Craig Turpie served on the Educational Methods Committee as well as the Adult Volunteers Task Team. He advised the Educational Methods Committee of the Recommendations arising from the 9th World Scout Youth Forum that required its attention.

World Events

Raymundo Tamayo, Johan Ekman and John Lawlor formed part of the World Scout Bureau support staff during the 21st World Scout Jamboree in the United Kingdom in July 2007. They worked at the World Scout Centre, developing and delivering fun educational activities for Jamboree participants.

Craig Turpie participated in the 21st World Scout Jamboree as part of the Jamboree Organising Team, working in Guest Services. During the event he, along with other participants that attended the 9th World Scout Youth Forum, met to discuss progress since 2005 in implementing the Recommendations. Craig also attended and helped to facilitate a workshop session at the World Scientific Congress.

Lorena Guidiño supported Rod Abson with equipment for the Global Development Village during the 21st World Scout Jamboree in the United Kingdom in July 2007.

In July 2008, Raymundo Tamayo, John Lawlor and Ange Aye-Ake will form part of the World Scout Bureau support staff for the 38th World Scout Conference at Jeju Island, Korea.

Edward Cook was invited to serve as MC for part of the 37th World Scout Conference in Tunisia in 2005.

In November 2007, John Lawlor worked on the organising team for the Youth Event which preceded the World Scientific Congress in Geneva. He also attended the Congress as a Scout Contributor and delivered a paper on Youth Involvement.

Raymundo Tamayo and Manabu Hiratsuka attended both the World Scientific Congress and the preceding Youth Event.

Governance

The Youth Advisors were surveyed as part of the World Scout Committee's self evaluation process and made contributions to the Governance Review debate during meetings of the World Scout Committee.

In February 2008, Johan Ekman attended a meeting in Paris, France on the issue of the Governance of WOSM.

Branding and Communications

Edward Cook worked with the Branding and Communications Task Force on developing the new brand for World Scouting.

Activities at Regional Level

Craig Turpie continued to serve as a member of the European Regional Committee during his time as a Youth Advisor and in 2007 was elected as the Committee's chairman. Etienne Genet is now the Youth Advisor from Europe and participated in the February/March 2008 meeting of the World Scout Committee. Etienne is an active member of the European Policies Support Group (EPSG) in the European Scout Region. He also participated in the 9th World Scout Youth Forum in Tunisia in 2005.

Edward Cook was elected as chairman of the Young Adult Members' group in Brunei in 2004 by the 4th Asia Pacific Regional Youth Forum). He has been the youth representative on the Asia Pacific Regional Committee. In this role he chaired the 5th Asia Pacific Regional Scout Youth Forum in Tokyo in 2007.

Ana Lorena Guidiño was elected as coordinator of the Interamerican Youth Network and Youth Advisor for this Region during the 22nd Interamerican Scout Conference held in San Salvador, El Salvador in August 2004. She participated in several meetings of Interamerican Scout Committee. During her term as coordinator of the Youth Network, she developed two documents: "Ideas to develop a youth network at national level" and "Information on the Interamerican Youth Network" so as to to can give support National Associations in promoting youth involvement. She co-ordinated and directed the 4th regional meeting of the Youth Network during the 23rd Interamerican Scout Conference. The Youth Network has been working towards establishing a partnership between the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Interamerican Scout Region.

Manabu Hiratsuka is the Regional Youth Advisor for the Asia Pacific Region. In October 2008, 6 scouts were elected from Asia Pacific regional Scout Youth Forum. These 6 scouts work with the regional committee as youth representatives and are involved in several regional sub-committees. These 6 scouts are responsible for organising the next Regional Scout Youth Forum. They communicate regularly with each other by e-mail and Skype. Currently they are trying to launch a social service project involving Rover Scouts from around the Region.

Daniel Corsen was elected in November 2007, during the Interamerican Regional Conference held in Quito, as the new coordinator of the Interamerican Youth Network and the youth advisor for this region. In February 2008, he participated at the Interamerican Scout Committee's first ordinary meeting that was held in Costa Rica. Together with the coordination team of the Youth Network, he has developed an ambitious plan of action to be carried out by all NSOs integrated in the network. This plan is a result of discussions and debates held during the Network's meeting in Ecuador where participants set some priorities and direction of the network. Together with the Youth Network's coordination team, he is engaged in a task force to help organize an inter-American youth forum during the regional Moot to be held in Bolivia in December 2008.

In Africa the Secretary of the Africa Youth Forum together with the Chief Commissioner, Deputy Chief Commissioner and other Scouts from Ghana went out to assist flood victims in the Northern Province under an initiative "Operation Northern Star.

Paul Musembi planned and coordinated the activities of "Africa Scouts Day" on March 13th 2008: The Regional Office Staff visited a children's home, Ghana Scouts had a radio talk show in one of the leading broadcasting stations discussing issues affecting Youth, Kenya Scouts visited the internally displaced persons in one of the camps following the post election violence and assisted in cleaning the camp and offering help. The Chairman and Secretary of the Africa Youth Forum are developing a Youth Directory for the African Region.

In August/September 2007, Ange Aye-Ake was a guest of the World Scout Bureau Africa Office at the Africa Youth Forum and Africa Scout Conference in Kigali, Rwanda.

Finance

John Lawlor served on the Registration Fee Task Force in devising a new system of fee collection for World Scouting.

Scoutpost

As established by the World Scout Youth Forum Guidelines:

"In order to allow participants to the World Scout Youth Forum to stay in contact before, during and after the World Scout Youth Forum, an internet discussions web forum was established, with the name of ScOutPost. (www.scoutpost.org)

This web forum includes facilities for "chat" and mailing boards. Technical support and maintenance of the web forum, including registration of members, are the responsibility of the World Scout Bureau.

Participation in ScOutPost is through registration. All participants at the World Scout Youth Forum and the Regional Scout Youth Forums (or equivalent) shall be invited to become members. At each Youth Forum (World or Regional), past members of ScOutPost coming from that event shall be thanked for their contributions and their membership terminated. Participants at the current Youth Forum shall then be offered the opportunity to register.

Youth Advisors shall be responsible for discussion animation and coordination. Youth Advisors may delegate sessions to other volunteers who wish to run discussions."

Several stimulating discussions took place over the course of the triennium between past WSYF participants on topics such as what Scouting can do to combat racism and promote tolerance, service projects, integration of sexual minorities into NSOs and youth involvement. Participants also shared information regarding events such as World Environment Day as well as activities and ideas from their own NSOs.

However several challenges were faced in effectively drawing benefit from Scoutpost. These include:

Already high levels of "cyber-scouting", between WSB collaborative software, National and Regional online networks, sites such as Facebook and Bebo and regular email.

Language difficulties on the part of Scoutpost members for whom English was not their first language. However ScOutPost does have the facilities to communicate in other languages (e.g. Spanish discussion took place during the triennium)

Low levels of participation on the part of registered Scoutpost members.

The Youth Advisors recommend that the participants at the 10th World Scout Youth Forum should thoroughly discuss and come to a consensus to remain in regular contact following the conclusion of the Forum, thereby drawing maximum benefit from the Forum experience.

External Representation

In February 2006, John Lawlor, Rod Abson, Ange Aye-Ake and Abdullah Al-Nuzha were hosted as guests of the Saudi Arabian Boy Scouts Association at its International Scout Peace Event in Jubail City, Saudi Arabia. This was the first international Scout event held by the Saudi Arabian Boy Scouts Association. The Youth Advisors represented the youth of World Scouting on official visits to the King and Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia and the Centre for National Dialogue in Riyadh.

The Secretary to the Africa Scouts Youth Forum, Nikitta Adede, represented the Forum at the United Nations Population Fund Conference in the United States and is a member of the advisory board.

Functions at other levels of Scouting

John Lawlor served as Scouting Ireland's National Commissioner for Participation during 2006/7. He currently serves as a member of Scouting Ireland's International Team and as a Rover Scout Leader with his local group in Dublin, Ireland. He is currently Project Leader of The Rainbow Challenge – a Rover Scout service project in aid of orphaned street children in Kolkata, India.

During his time as a Youth Advisor, Rod Abson was also a Cub Scout Leader in his local Scout Group; Chairman of the National Rover Council and member of the National Team of Scouts Australia; National Adviser for Environment for Scouts Australia; and contributed generally to Scouting in other ways.

Edward Cook is a Venturer Scout leader. He has been involved in the National Programme and Training Committee and the National Executive Committee of Scouting New Zealand. He has worked on brand, communication and delivery strategies. He was recently awarded the second ever Distinguished Service Award by Scouting NZ for his work in the APR Region and as a Youth Advisor to the World Scout Committee.

Mehdi Ben Khelil is a Cub scout leader with his local group and a technical district commissioner for cub troops. He also serves as a member of the National Cub Scout Committee and as part of the International team of the Tunisian Scouts. Since November 2007 he has served as chairman of the Tunisian- Danish partnership committee running a 5 year partnership program between the Tunisian Scouts and the YMCA Scouts of Denmark.

Daniel Corsen is a scout leader in his local Scout Group, deputy coordinator of the local youth network, assistant JOTI organizer and a member of the Adolescents Program Development task force.

Ana Lorena Guidiño is a National sub-commissioner for Environment and sustainable development with the Association of Scouts of México. In 2004 she developed the National Scout Environment Programme. She founded the Environmental Scout Network. She is the National Focal Point of Global Environment Outlook (GEO) for the UNEP youth programme (Tunza). She liaises between UNEP and the Association of Scouts of México. Currently she is supporting the Interamerican Scout Committee in promoting environment education in the Region.

Ange Aye-Ake is the Projects Co-Ordinator for Scouts Catholiques de Côte d'Ivoire with the UN system in Côte d'Ivoire (UNICEF, UNAIDS). He is also the delegate of Scouts Catholiques de Côte d'Ivoire to the Council of NGOs in combat against AIDS in Côte d'Ivoire (COSCI). Since 2006 he has been the Secretary General of the Council of NGOs in combat against drugs in Côte d'Ivoire (CONAD-CI) and the treasurer of the National Coordination of Volunteers in Côte d'Ivoire (CNVCI).

Concluding Remarks

The triennium 2005-2008 brought many successes for Youth Involvement. The Youth Advisors were respected and welcomed by the members of the World Scout Committee for the particular insight they offered on many issues and were afforded the opportunity to develop their own skills through their work with the Committee and in its task teams and subcommittees.

How can the successes for Youth Involvement be built upon in the future? Is the present structure of Youth Advisors the most appropriate means to promoting Youth Involvement at institutional level of World Scouting? How can the Youth Advisors bring the institutions of World Scouting closer to young people throughout the Movement? These questions and more should be debated thoroughly by the participants of the 10th World Scout Youth Forum to whom the Youth Advisors commend this Report.

ANNEX

The Youth Advisors to the World Scout Committee (2005-2008)

Youth Advisors elected at 9th WSYF, Tunisia (2005-2008)

Rod Abson (Australia)*
Ange Aye-Ake (Côte D'Ivoire)
Mehdi Ben Khelil (Tunisia)
Johan Ekman (Finland)
John Lawlor (Ireland)
Raymundo Tamayo (Mexico)

Youth Advisors elected or appointed at Regional Level (2004-2007)

Abdullah Al-Nuzha (Saudi Arabia/Arab)
Edward Cook (New Zealand/Asia-Pacific)
Florence Epodoi (Uganda/Africa)
Nozima Nurmukhamedova (Tajikistan/Eurasia)
Ana Lorena Guidiño (Mexico/Inter-America)
Craig Turpie (United Kingdom/Europe)

Youth Advisors elected or appointed at Regional Level (2007-2010)

Daniel Corsen (Curaçao/Inter America)
Etienne Genet (France/Europe)
Manabu Hiratsuka (Japan/Asia-Pacific)
Paul Musembi (Kenya/Africa)

Role of Youth Advisors

Responsibilities of Youth Advisors

The World Scout Committee:

Referring to Strategic Priority Number 1 "Youth Involvement"; and Resolution 11/05 World Scout Youth Forum, adopted at the 37th World Scout Conference.

Defines the role of the Youth Advisors as following:

Increasing youth participation in decision making and strengthening youth involvement within the Scout Movement is a key issue for the World Scout Committee. The system of Youth Advisors has been created in the spirit of strengthening youth participation in World Scouting, and is considered as an interim measure in achieving that goal. The Youth Advisors have the responsibility to individually work for WOSM as a whole - not only the young members of the organisation - however bearing in mind that the Youth Advisors elected at the World Scout Youth Forum have a responsibility towards their constituency.

Responsibilities of the Youth Advisors to the World Scout Committee

Youth Advisors should be able to help the World Scout Committee whenever requested by the Committee. Given the current working structure of the World Scout Committee, this may include attending meetings and undertaking tasks for the working groups.

* In April 2007 Rod Abson was appointed as Unit Manager for Environment Education at the World Scout Bureau Central Office. Upon taking up this professional position within Scouting, Rod accordingly retired from his voluntary commitments as a Youth Advisor and Chairman of the 10th World Scout Youth Forum. The 5 remaining Youth Advisors elected by the 9th World Scout Youth Forum elected Johan Ekman (Finland) to replace Rod as Chairman of the 10th World Scout Youth Forum.

Through the working groups, the Youth Advisors should be able to bring to the reflections and debates of the World Scout Committee the genuine opinion, views and proposals of young members of WOSM.

Youth Advisors should as often as possible be invited by the World Scout Committee to participate in its sessions. Within the sessions the Youth Advisors have the right to speak and make suggestions.

Youth Advisors should be encouraged to assist the World Scout Committee by joining any task forces and/or commissions set up by the World Scout Committee for specific purposes as individuals.

The Youth Advisors present an ideal possibility to include young volunteers in the external representation of WOSM.

Responsibilities of Youth Advisors to other young members of WOSM

The Youth Advisors form the Planning Committee of the next World Scout Youth Forum in accordance with the Youth Forum Guidelines. They shall plan and recommend to the World Scout Committee for approval, the main content of the programme and agenda of the following World Scout Youth Forum.

Youth Advisors shall report regularly to ScOutPost.

The Youth Advisors shall present a report of their activities over the past triennium to the World Scout Youth Forum.

The Youth Advisors shall present regular reports on their work to the World Scout Committee.

The Youth Advisors shall present a final summary report of their work over the triennium to the World Scout Committee.

The 6 Regional Youth Advisors shall present a report of their activities over the past triennium to their respective Regional Committees.

Support and management

The Youth Advisor group will be supported by a World Scout Bureau Employee. This employee is responsible for support, liaison and co-ordination of all matters pertaining to the Youth Advisors.

Travel and accommodation expenses are covered for meetings of the Planning Committee, attendance at World Scout Committee meetings and for the Youth Forum Committee to attend the World Scout Youth Forum.