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Scouts of the World Award and the Millennium Development Goals



**10th WORLD SCOUT
YOUTH FORUM**

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SCOUTS®
Creating a Better World

SCOUTS OF THE WORLD AWARD AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The agenda of the 10th World Scout Youth Forum has two main themes: 'Scouting in the New Century' and 'Creating a Better World'.

One of the focal areas for creating a better world is the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were established by the United Nations in 2000 and targeted for achievement by 2015. The MDGs played a key role in the 9th World Scout Youth Forum and, as a set of long-term goals, has application for you as participants of the 10th World Scout Youth Forum.

The Scouts of the World Award is based on young people (15 to 26 years old) supporting the achievement of the MDGs and is broadly themed under peace, environment and development.

During the World Scout Youth Forum you will have the opportunity to learn more about the MDGs, reflect on how these relate to Scouting in your country and share your experiences with others. The keynote speech presentation of the MDGs and Scouts of the World will be presented in the morning of Wednesday 9 July and in the afternoon the community services provide an opportunity for further educational experiences by learning, thinking and responding. This reflects the structure of the Scouts of the World Award and will provide an opportunity to experience how the MDGs are being applied in Korea.

The content of Document 5 helps to describe the Scouts of the World Award and Document 6 provides further content for the Millennium Development Goals. This information can be used for your time at the World Scout Youth Forum and provide food for thought for your Scouting following your experiences in Korea.

SCOUTS OF THE WORLD IN BRIEF

Challenges for the future of the world

The future of our small planet is threatened by many challenges:

- By 2025, 2 out of 3 people will not have enough water for their basic needs.
- A billion people do not have access to clean drinking water.
- Polluted water affects the health of 1.2 billion people.
- Desertification affects over a billion people.
- Soil degradation affects a third of the world's land.
- 375 km² of forest disappear every day.
- Two billion people do not have access to electricity.
- 3.1 million people died from HIV/AIDS in 2002, 42 million are infected.
- 25% of the world population live in wealthy countries and consume 75% of energy.
- Over the past years, numerous conflicts led to 10 millions of deaths.

In September 2000, one hundred-eighty-nine UN member States adopted the UN Millennium Declaration:

"We will spare no efforts to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty, to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected... We believe that the central challenge we face today is to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people... For a while globalization offers great opportunities, at present its benefits are very unevenly shared..."

The Millennium Declaration refers to universal values that are also those of Scouting: freedom, tolerance, equality, solidarity, respect of nature, shared responsibility.

The Millennium Declaration and the Scouts of the World Award identifies three main challenges for the future of the world:

- Peace, security and disarmament;
- Development and poverty eradication;
- Protecting our common environment.

What is the Scouts of the World Award?

• Definition

The Scouts of the World Award has been launched in order to encourage a stronger involvement of young adults in the development of society by giving them the skills and opportunities to face the challenges and problems in the world.

It concerns global citizenship-preparation for young adults and emphasises three core-themes demanding understanding, skills and knowledge, for life on a small planet:

Peace, Environment, and Development.

This Award is simple and flexible:

- First, it invites young people to explore the main challenges of today's world and become active global citizens by preparing the Scouts of the World Award.
- Secondly, it provides young people with the opportunity to join the Scouts of the World Network in order to share their efforts and their experiences and help each other to make the world a better place.

The Scouts of the World Award is open to young adults (Scouts and non-Scouts) between the ages of 15 and 26 years, regardless of ability, race, faith or location. That provide a great opportunity to the National Scouts Organizations to increase their membership at local and national level, given the possibility to invite non-scouts persons (in the age cover by the Rover section) to participate in the Rover Programme, and to encourage them, after complete the Scouts of the World Award, to be part of the Rover section.

• Why this is important in Scouting

The Scouts of the World Award is a key part to achieve the objectives on the Rover Section.

It attracts, empowers and engages youth in action of world importance. That action is based upon universal values - freedom, tolerance, equality, equality, respect for nature, shared responsibility - respected in any culture and enshrined in the UN's Millennium Declaration. Scouting has promoted those same values for more than 100 years. It affords rare opportunities for young adults to work in multi-cultural international teams. It makes Scouting more attractive as a mechanism for young adults to join an international network and make a difference in their communities at the local, national and international level.

The Scouts of the World Award help the NSOs to develop partnerships with other NSOs and with specialized agencies, with whom WOSM has signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

• Purpose

The Scouts of the World Award aims to:

encourage young adults to acquire skills and experience in the fields of environment, sustainable development and peace and contribute to innovative projects serving the local communities;
recognise and promote these projects to foster the involvement of young adults in the development of society;
encourage NSOs to develop more educational opportunities for young adults to become active "citizen of the world".

• Educational objectives

The Scouts of the World Award is aimed at helping young adults to achieve the following educational objectives:

- Ability to explain the main challenges of today's world.
- Ability to live and take action in an intercultural context.

- Sense of solidarity and community spirit.
- Aptitude for finding and analysing information.
- Autonomy and leadership.
- Aptitude for using negotiation, mediation and problem-solving techniques.
- Aptitude for developing and managing collective projects.
- Aptitude for initiating, carrying out and completing innovative projects that have an economic, social or cultural impact, particularly in the fields of environment, development and peace.

A three-step process

In accordance with the principle of learning by doing, which is part of the Scout Method, the Scouts of the World Award is an educational approach based on the active participation of young adults in a three-step process:

• Exploring

Active discovery of a specific issue through explorations, investigations, interviews, etc. in one of the three main areas: environment, sustainable development or peace.

• Responding

Activities enabling a young adults to develop an individual response to the information collected. In this step, young adults are invited and helped to express the way in which their communities and themselves are affected by the issue. Most of the time, this will be through activities of expression and communication, such as: preparing an exhibition, producing a newsletter or a video, designing a website, preparing and performing a play, etc.

• Taking action

Exploration activities need to be adapted, on the one hand, to the social, cultural and economic context of each country and region in which the young adult live and, on the other, to the age of the young adult. They need to arouse the interest of the young adult and gain their commitment, whilst at the same time enabling them to discover the problem facing their communities.

Based on their explorations and discoveries, the young adult are encourage to prepare and carry out practical projects so as to contribute, at their own level, to solving these problems.

It is a participatory process whose aim is to develop and carry out a project which the young adults have decided upon themselves.

Components

The Scouts of the World Award comprises two components:

- The Scouts of the World Discovery ("*Exploring*" and "*responding*")
- The Scouts of the World Voluntary Service ("*Taking action*")

The Scouts of the World Award is granted to individuals having successfully accomplished a "Scouts of the World Discovery" and a "Scouts of the World Voluntary Service".

Young adults having obtained the Scouts of the World Award are invited to join the Scouts of the World Network.

● **The Scouts of the World Discovery**

The SW Discovery is an adventure lasting several days with a focus on environment, development or peace.

The SW Discovery comprises as well the three steps process:

1. Exploring ("What is it about?"): active discovery with a focus on environment, development or peace (aspects of the Millennium Development Goals), for example:

- Hiking with rangers in a forest threatened by pollution.
- Visiting an ethnic community suffering from prejudices and racism.
- Visiting a refugee camp.

2. Responding ("What does it mean for me?"): processing the collected information and developing a feeling of personal commitment towards the issue through a process of critical thinking about the causes and the consequences.

3. Taking action ("What can I do?"): helping young adults to develop a personal project of action (the Scouts of the World Voluntary Service) in order to increase community's awareness about the issue and contribute to solving the problem.

● **The Scouts of the World Voluntary Service**

Taking action: a young adult willing to obtain the SW Award has to do carry on the project that they started to plan at the end of the SW Discovery.

Young adults are expected to undertake a significant voluntary service project on a part-time or full-time basis in their communities or abroad. The Scouts of the World Voluntary Service must clearly fall within the framework of the objectives set for the Scouts of the World Award and contribute towards solving problems relating to the environment, sustainable development or peace in a local community.

The SW Voluntary Service must determine that the future Scouts of the World has shown initiative, taken on responsibilities and made a regular commitment over a substantial period of time.

Find more information in the chapter "How to organise and evaluate a SW Voluntary Service", in this book.

● **How to get the Scouts of the World Award**

Any young person between 15 and 26 years old, member of the Scout Movement or not, can obtain the SW Award following the next steps:

- Contact the National Scout Association and ask for information on the SW Award, and inquire as to where to accomplish a SW Discovery and how to register it.
- Register and accomplish a SW Discovery in order to acquire more knowledge and skills and prepare a SW Voluntary Service.
- Do a SW Voluntary Service either individually or within a team project.
- Complete an evaluation process and record his/her experience in the SW Passport, and send it to a SW Base or to the Provincial/National Headquarters.

If the recorded experience fulfills the requested criteria, the SW Award is granted.

Scouts of the World Bases

Around the world, there are thousands of Scout centres and campsites. They are invited to become Scouts of the World Bases and play a key role in the development of the programme.

Temporary SW Bases may also be created during International or National events. Rovers involved in local community projects may also share their experience with other young adults by creating a SW Base.

SW Bases are recognized and accredited by the National Scout Organizations. Find more information in the chapter "How to setup a SW Base", in this book.

The Scouts of the World Bases are committed to:

- Promote the Scouts of the World Award;
- Organize Scouts of the World Discoveries;
- Offer opportunities for Scouts of the World Voluntary Services;
- Organize exchanges with other SW Bases;
- Grant the SW Award.

The Scouts of the World Network

• Definition

The SW Network is open to Scouts having obtained the Scouts of the World Award. Its mission is to:

- Develop friendship and solidarity among all Scouts and young people around the world;
- Encourage and support projects to contribute to building a better world;
- Encourage and support young people willing to prepare the SW Award;
- Encourage support between SW Network members and other members.

• How to become member of the SW Network

To become a member of the SW Network, a Scout has to send a copy of his/her SW Passport to the World Scout Bureau (more information: www.scoutsoftheworld.net).

The Scouts of the World Partnership

The SW Partnership is formed of National Scout Organisations having adopted the Scouts of the World Award. It is supported by the World Scout Bureau Central and Regional Offices.

It has the following mission:

- To facilitate contacts and exchange of experiences and resources between NSOs engaged in the Scouts of the World Award;
- To organise co-operation and exchanges between the various Scouts of the World Bases in order to provide young adults with a broader range of SW Discoveries and Voluntary Services;
- To support the SW Network at the international level.
www.scoutsoftheworld.net