



SCOUTS[®]
Creating a Better World

World Organization of the Scout Movement
Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout
Всемирная Организация Скаутского Движения
Organización Mundial del Movimiento Scout
المنظمة العالمية للحركة الكشفية

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To: International Commissioners

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31 May is World No Tobacco Day

Dear Colleagues,

Tobacco use poses serious health risks, not only to smokers, but also to non-smokers in smoking environments. Tobacco is the second major cause of death in the world and hundreds of thousands of non-smokers die each year from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke. The dangers associated with exposure to second-hand smoke requires the protection of people's right to clean, smoke-free air.

On 1 January 2007, the World Scout Bureau instituted a No Smoking policy, making the WSB (Central and Regional offices) a smoke-free environment. I urge our National Scout Organizations to follow our example and take this important step to protect people's health, extending the policy to all their offices and Scout meeting places and also making both indoor and outdoor Scouting activities smoke-free in all age sections. This is our educational responsibility and leaders must be conscious of the vital role of their example.

I also encourage NSOs to help celebrate the World Health Organization's (WHO) World No Tobacco Day on 31 May. The attached document contains information from the WHO about the dangers of tobacco smoke and the benefits of smoke-free environments. There is also information Scouts can use to undertake projects to raise awareness about the threats to health posed by tobacco use.

WOSM and the WHO are both highly interested in learning about Scouts' health-related and Tobacco Free Initiative projects. I welcome you to share with the world and other Scouts your activities in this area, to demonstrate Scouting's active commitment to make a better world by tackling important health issues. Please send your health project description, outcomes, and other information such as pictures or videos to Arturo Romboli, at aromboli@scout.org. Also, be sure to explore the WHO's website (www.who.int/tobacco/wntd) for more information and to register your projects for a listing on the WHO's Tobacco Free Initiative web page.

Together, with these efforts, we can help to make our world a healthier and safer place for all.

Sincerely yours,

Eduardo Missoni
Secretary General