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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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World Scout Centres and WOSM Recognition of International Scout Centres

Dear colleagues,

Resolution 19/05 of the World Scout Conference held in Tunisia in 2005, stated:

The Conference

- *having received the paper "World Scout Centres and WOSM Accredited International Scout Centres" submitted to the Conference*
- *encourages the World Scout Committee to develop a policy and procedures concerning the issues raised in the paper, and urges the World Scout Committee to form a task force composed of the relevant stakeholders*
- *encourages National Scout Organizations to send detailed comments on the paper to the World Scout Bureau to assist the task force and World Scout Committee in drawing up its policy and procedures to be presented for approval at the next World Scout Conference.*

The task force established by the World Scout Committee (WSC) has now produced a report and recommendations to the WSC, which will be considered at the next WSC meeting. A copy is attached.

National Scout Organizations are invited to send comments on the report to the World Scout Bureau **prior to 15 February 2008**, so that these may be taken into consideration by the WSC when it considers the report.

Yours in Scouting,

Luc Panissod
Acting Secretary General WOSM

WORLD SCOUT CENTRES AND WOSM RECOGNITION OF INTERNATIONAL SCOUT CENTRES POLICY PAPER

INTRODUCTION

Considering the significant number worldwide of structures and services that identify themselves as "Scout Centres" and their use of the denomination of World Scout Centres or International Scout Centres, or their request to the WSB to be authorised to do so, the 37th World Scout Conference in 2005 felt the need for WOSM to establish a clear policy on the issue. The following resolution was passed:

19/05 World Scout Centres and WOSM Accredited International Scout Centres

The Conference

- having received the paper "World Scout Centres and WOSM Accredited International Scout Centres" submitted to the Conference
- encourages the World Scout Committee to develop a policy and procedures concerning the issues raised in the paper, and urges the World Scout Committee to form a task force composed of the relevant stakeholders
- encourages National Scout Organizations to send detailed comments on the paper to the World Scout Bureau to assist the task force and World Scout Committee in drawing up its policy and procedures to be presented for approval at the next World Scout Conference.

The same World Conference also approved the process toward a new Communication strategy (Resolution 9/05), including the promotion and the protection of the Scout brand worldwide. The link between the branding strategy and the need for an appropriate denomination of Scout Centres that intend to value their "international" or "world" characteristics, is self-evident.

The recognition of the service that existing Scout Centres can offer to international Scouting and its integration, coordination and networking under the auspices of WOSM, aims at improving the service that the World Organization offers to Scouting worldwide, optimising the use of existing Scout resources and contributing to Scouting's world corporate identity and image quality.

While general principles, objectives and type of activities may not differ substantially, two different denominations are envisaged according to a Scout Centre's link to WOSM:

- one for Centres that, through their specific operational and governance characteristics, fall partially or entirely under the responsibility of WOSM's governing bodies: "World Scout Centres";
- the second for totally independent Centres (i.e. with no link to WOSM's governing bodies) whose contribution to Scouting is internationally shared among NSOs, but in whose governance and administration WOSM plays no role: WOSM list of Scout Centres of international relevance.

1. WORLD SCOUT CENTRE

Definition

A Centre may be recognised by the World Scout Committee as a "World Scout Centre" if it responds to world level educational needs or offers services otherwise related to the promotion and development of World Scouting **and** one of the following applies:

1. The Centre is a property of WOSM, its management is responsible to the WSB and its activities are integrated in the Global and Yearly Operational Plan and budget approved by the World Scout Committee, to whom a written report is presented annually. In addition, any long-term, medium-term and short-term development plans, relating to the improvement of the infrastructure and the development of its programme, are presented to the WSC for consultation and information.
2. The Centre belongs to a third party controlled by WOSM, which has the majority of votes in its governing body, which are exercised through the supervision and control of the WSB. Its Yearly Plan is presented for information and advice to the World Scout Committee, to whom a written report is presented annually.
3. The Centre is of historical and worldwide relevance to the Scout Movement because it was established by the Founder, the World Scout Committee is represented on the board of the executive body and the WSB has a voice in the appointment of the CEO of the Centre. Its Yearly Plan is presented for information and advice to the World Scout Committee, to whom a written report is presented annually.

The relevance of World Scout Centres should extend beyond a limited Scout environment; they should gain social recognition (hence support) for the service offered, including by the local community in which they operate.

2. WOSM list of SCOUT CENTRES of international relevance

Why should WOSM produce a list of "International Scout Centres"?

The idea of an International Organization using national institutions for international purposes dates back to the days of the League of Nations. Specific policies were adopted later by UN and its agencies, in some cases recognising the comparative advantage of coordinating and making use of the activities of existing institutions, rather than establish similar centres under their own auspices.

These centres are generally indicated as collaborating centres and form part of an inter institutional network set-up by a UN Programme or Agency in support of its programme at the country, regional, inter-regional or global levels, as appropriate.

Considering the tremendous wealth of Scout Centres existing around the world offering a variety of services ranging from accommodation and camping facilities, to training, research, documentation and others, WOSM intends to apply a similar but simplified approach in order to increase its capacity to serve the Movement and to promote those facilities and services in benefit of all the Scout community.

In fact, the relevance of the services offered by existing Scout Centres, whether directly owned and managed by NSOs or not, may often extend to regional or international level and their inclusion in a wider WOSM coordinated programme, hence their worldwide promotion, may represent an enormous contribution to the development of the Scout Movement and an important support to the thriving of those Centres.

To this purpose a specific policy is proposed for the operation of a specific world programme for the listing by WOSM of Scout Centres offering services of high standard and of international relevance.

The following criteria and procedures for the recognition of such International Scout Centres have been developed. Specific tools (such as application forms, evaluation grids, etc.) will be developed later if appropriate.

General principles

To be listed by WOSM as International Scout Centres, these should:

- have a Statute consistent with WOSM's principles and criteria and of an acceptable standard
- contribute to the implementation of WOSM's policies and fulfil one or several essential functions in support of WOSM's programmes and priorities;
- refer to specific terms and conditions, including detailed description of the services offered and their educational or otherwise Scout related relevance;
- ensure the maintenance of specified quality standards;
- ensure that provided information is regularly up-dated.

WOSM however would have no right to intervene in the steering or management of the listed International Scout Centres (besides the obvious possibility to cancel them from the list if terms and conditions should cease to be applied).

WOSM will maintain a full, regularly updated list of Scout Centres of International Relevance, their classification and promotion for the benefit of Scouting worldwide.

Definition

By definition, a Scout Centre registered in the WOSM list of Scout Centres of International Relevance (SCoIR) forms part of WOSM coordinated network of resources promoting Scouting nationally and/or internationally.

A SCoIR must offer services related to the international promotion and development of Scouting (such as camping facilities linked to educational programmes; documentation and information; research; training and others).

Whenever appropriate, due to the characteristics of the Centre, this must obtain license of operation from competent local and/or national authorities.

The Centre is recorded in the WOSM list on request of the concerned National Scout Organization, after this has verified the conformity of the Centre with the required characteristics. Listing does not imply any financial support being given to the SCoIR by WOSM, nor any financial or legal liability deriving from the operation of the SCoIR.

If desirable and appropriate, WOSM may however decide to give assistance to recognised centres, integrate them in strategic or functional teams, as well as special projects and facilitate a joint

sponsorship with partner UN agencies or other international organizations working in corresponding fields.

Functions of Scout Centres of International Relevance

The functions of the SCoIRs are manifold. According to some known experiences they can be logically grouped under a few major headings:

1. Camping and other accommodation linked to specific educational programmes (Scout youth programme)
2. Training
3. Information, documentation and technical services
4. Research

The SCoIRs should be willing to provide services to WOSM in support of programmes of global interest.

Camping and other accommodation facilities should be offered by a SCoIR in conjunction to one or more high standard specific educational programmes (adventure, sailing, mountaineering, environment, cultural heritage, peace education, social development, vocational skills training, etc.).

The SCoIRs may play an essential role in transnational training of Scout leaders as well as for Scouts of the older age sections (Venture, Rover) in new areas of interest for Scouting in the 21st century. With the emphasis we need to put on the strengthening of NSOs, especially in the developing countries, this role appears all the more important.

Information and documentation may include Scout libraries, museums and specialised collections of international relevance, as well as virtual "centres" such as organised groups of experts providing specialised services including software development, translations, editing, publishing, etc.

The research function of the WOSM listed SCoIRs could play an important role in the development of knowledge about the different aspects of Scouting. These may range from historical research, to pedagogical ones and others more related to the governance of Scouting and its social impact; here evidence-based information is essential to enhance the profile of Scouting. Considering the scarce resources normally available at the WSB level for research purposes, SCoIR's may become the keystones of collaborative research efforts developed under WOSM coordination at all levels.

Whenever appropriate, services offered by an SCoIR should normally be open to the non-Scout local/national/international community as a way to facilitate the social integration and image of the Scout Centres, and witness the open and constructive contribution of Scouting to society.

In conclusion, a SCoIR contributes to increasing cooperation with and among NSOs by providing them with additional educational opportunities, information and documentation services, and by stimulating and supporting research and training, in line with WOSM policies and priorities that their plan of work should reflect.

Criteria for the selection of SCoIRs

As a rule, SCoIRs must be selected in fields that are relevant and contribute to the implementation of WOSM's mandate and programme activities. They must fulfil one or several essential functions in support of WOSM's programmes and strategic priorities. Within this context, the criteria to be applied in selecting a Centre for recognition as an SCoIR are as follows:

- The educational, historical, scientific, technical relevance of the Centre and its activities to WOSM's mandate and its strategic priorities.
- The place the Centre occupies in the country's Scouting activities and its relations with the NSOs concerned, in terms of its contribution to the development of Scouting and the enhancement of its profile
- The quality of its leadership, the number and qualifications of its staff (volunteers and professionals), and the adequacy of its equipment, premises and other facilities.
- The Centre's prospective stability in terms of personnel, activity and funding.
- The working relationship which the Centre has developed with Scout associations and other relevant organizations and institutions in the country as well as the intercountry, regional and global levels.
- For a research Centre, the scientific and technical standing of the Centre concerned at the national and international levels, with particular reference to its recent record of achievement and its ongoing activities.
- The Centre's ability, capacity and readiness to contribute, individually and within networks, to WOSM's programme activities, including international collaborative schemes.

- The Centre's will, where appropriate, to develop its potential in collaboration with WOSM
- The ability and readiness of the Centre to provide services over a sufficient period of time and not only for a single, limited task.

Procedures for registering a SCoIR

The registration in the WOSM list of SCoIRs is proposed by the competent NSO to the WSB. The NSO provides the WSB with appropriate information about the prospective centre, in particular concerning:

- a) the strategic priority and programme requirements to which the prospective Centre is expected to respond and the functions it will have to perform
- b) the suitability of the Centre concerned, on the basis of the criteria laid down in these regulations and further developed and updated by the WSB
- c) the preliminary evaluation of existing or potential collaborative activities with the proposed Centre
- d) the NSO's certification of the Centre's declared characteristics and its agreement to be listed.

An ad-hoc committee may be established at world level to support the WSB in verifying and updating listing procedures and criteria.

Title and use of World Scout Emblem and WOSM logo on letterheads

Once registered in the WOSM list of SCoIR, the Centre can use the title of "Scout Centre of International Relevance", these words being followed by a concise indication of the sphere of activity covered by the Centre, for example, "Scout Centre of International Relevance for adventure experience".

A SCoIR may use the World Scout Emblem and brand in its letterhead under the conditions set forth below.

- a) The World Scout Emblem and brand must respect WOSM's brand policy and regulations, and are to be used solely for correspondence related to the Centre's activities as an SCoIR.
- b) If the language used by the Centre for its letterhead is a language other than the official languages (English and French) or working languages (Arabic, Russian and Spanish) of WOSM, then one of these five should also be included.
- c) Any letterhead using the World Scout Emblem and/or brand should include the title under which the Centre has been listed, .

All other uses of the World Scout Emblem and brand require the Secretary General's prior approval.

Management and Evaluation

The management of collaboration with a SCoIR is the responsibility primarily of the competent WSB Regional Office and/or department. Interaction between WSB Offices ensures that the SCoIR's collaboration is available to the whole Organization.

When appropriate (in consideration of the nature and specialization of the Centre and of the type of collaboration to be developed with the WSB), particular attention is paid to the joint preparation of the SCoIR's terms of reference and work plans that will be reflected in WSB's yearly operational plans. This should involve the SCoIR, the Regional Office and the unit concerned at Central Office. The work plan should comprise clearly defined objectives and expected results, explicitly related to WSB's activities as set out in its global plan. The executives concerned at both Central and Regional Offices bear the main technical responsibility for the collaboration with a SCoIR.

To facilitate management, cooperation and networking, a specific "conference" area will be opened in WOSM intranet, and for global promotion the WOSM list of SCoIRs will be developed to be publicly accessible worldwide through the WOSM website (scout.org).