PRESS RELEASE

In global first, Scouts spend one billion hours making the world a better place

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: Scouts have now contributed more than one billion hours to making the world a better place, becoming champions of community development, the environment and local peacebuilding and proving the collective and transformative power of the Movement.

Through the Messengers of Peace initiative, Scouts have been working on projects throughout the world, from helping villages devastated by natural floods and earthquakes in Haiti, to peace-building in DR Congo, interfaith dialogue in Indonesia and helping to make refugees in Germany, Turkey or Australia feel welcome. Through these actions, Scouts are recognised by local governments, international NGOs and UN agencies and communities as a vital workforce for development and emergency response.

"One service project at a time, Scouting is making communities stronger and more resilient, proving that impactful change comes from the actions individuals take on a daily basis," said Ahmad Alhendawi, Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM). "As Scouts, we have made a promise to do our best to help others. All these individual actions add up to an amazing global impact!"

The hours of service that each Scout performs have been logged on scout.org since 2012 when the Messengers of Peace initiative was launched. Each hour represents the time each local Scout group took to solve a problem in its community. An analysis of these projects shows that each of the UN’s 17 “Sustainable Development Goals” - better known as the SDGs - has been positively affected by the work Scouts have done.

With this contribution, Scouts have probably now made the largest global contribution to the SDGs - the global plan for a better world.

Messengers of Peace is the flagship initiative of the World Scouting Movement and was launched with the support of His Majesty King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia and His Majesty the King of Sweden, the Honorary Chairman of the World Scout Foundation. The programme is designed to inspire Scouts throughout the world to make a difference to their communities, contributing to the overall peace and stability of the world, and to help Scouts in small communities wherever they are in the world understand the power of collective action and their global reach.
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About WOSM
Scouting is one of the world’s leading educational youth movements, engaging millions of young people around the world to be active citizens and create positive change in their communities. Founded by Lord Baden-Powell in 1907, WOSM is a federation of 169 National Scout Organizations in a network of over 50 million Scouts in at least 224 countries and territories worldwide. The organisation is headquartered in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Find out more at www.scout.org
ONE BILLION HOURS: SCOUTS HELPING CHANGE THE WORLD

Menstrual hygiene, Madagascar

Safidy Randriamitantsoa has spent the past three years working to break the silence surrounding menstrual hygiene and reproductive health in Madagascar where sanitary pads and tampons are too costly for many women, and the issue remains taboo. The project involves the manufacture of washable sanitary towels, as well as raising awareness about proper menstrual hygiene.

Hurricane Matthew, Haiti

When Hurricane Matthew hit Haiti in October 2016, Benjamin Antoine and fellow Scout Steeve Pauleus spent ten days in Jérémie, one of the worst-affected areas, restoring damaged communication links that were vital for relief agencies to coordinate an effective response to the disaster. Local Scouts, meanwhile, were on the ground too, creating a register of all those affected, providing first aid where needed and delivering food and essentials to those without water or shelter.

Helping refugees and asylum seekers, Europe

Time to be Welcome is a collaborative partnership between 10 youth organisations, six of which are European Scouting organisations. The idea is to provide refugees and migrants with language classes and fun activities to help them settle into their new homes. The project is led by young people from seven European nations, and will run until the end of 2018.

Supporting orphan girls, West Bank, Palestine

A female-only Scout group in the Palestinian West Bank worked with orphaned girls in Nablus to promote the spirit of giving, showing the children how they could become change agents as well as active citizens.

Turtle conservation, Singapore/Malaysia

Marine turtles on Malaysia’s east coast are struggling to survive amid climate change, harmful fishing practices and local people’s continued appetite for turtle eggs. Since 2009, Rover Scouts from Singapore have been travelling to the area to work with local villagers and WWF-Malaysia on turtle conservation.