

# So you're going to a World Scout Youth Forum

## *A simple informal guidance to prepare the national delegation<sup>1</sup>*

July 2017

The National Scout Organisations (NSOs) while preparing their delegations to participate in the World Scout Youth Forum (WSYF), they have tons of questions. Here is a simple guidance in a Q&A format that could start tackling some of them, assist in preparing delegations and ultimately ensure a better quality of decisions.

### Introduction

- What is the WSYF and what you can get from it?<sup>2</sup>
  - WSYF is an **educational tool** to support the process of developing youth involvement in partnership with adults.
    - So, be prepared for a simulation of decision making process that help young people to understand the concept in the model of „learning by doing“
  - WSYF is an event that empowers and inspires young people through a participatory approach, helping them to develop skills in decision-making which can be used within Scouting and in society.
    - So, there are tens of learning opportunities for your young people
    - Ideas for community development and active citizenship will be available.
  - WSYF is a place for information sharing, training and the concrete experience of discussing and acquiring a deeper understanding of various issues.
    - So, prepare something to share and be ready to learn from others
  - WSYF is a source of inspiration, providing contact with new people, fresh ideas, innovative thoughts, different experiences and working methods
    - Networking is a given factor in the WSYF
  - WSYF hosted every three years prior to the World Scout Conference (The Conference) by the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) and a Host NSO
    - Interested in hosting? Look out for the circular next triennium for hosting the coming events.
  - WSYF is not constitutional, but rather an intrem tool on Youth Involvement
    - So, keep an eye on the changes of every WSYF.
- Why is prepping the national delegation important?
  - You'll make better informed choices, and this is how world structures can better benefit the work NSOs do as well

### Getting started: the run-up to the WSYF

- Where do you get up-to-date info?
  - WOSM Channels (Circulars (on the [intranet](#) of scout.org which requires to be registered to the ScoutPak communication as well), scout.org, WOSM Social Media).
  - The Conference and WSYF website and Social Media
  - The informal networks/subregions –  
All these channels are important for
    - a) understand the background/context/reason of motions/persons
    - b) get other NSOs comments on the topic to generate a more inclusive understanding of a topic
    - c) get an idea what is still in the pipeline and will come up during the WSYF

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<sup>1</sup> Thanks to Chrissy Pollithy from Germany, who started the idea and WSYF planning committee produce it and is testing it this year.

<sup>2</sup> The WSYF guidelines and its annexes might answer most of these questions already. We advise that you read it (link to the Forum Document [page](#)).

- How to put your delegation together
  - Who should you register in your national delegation to the WSYF?
    - There is no formula but there is a pool of usual suspects, e.g. national Scout youth council, National Rovers Council, young members in the bora or working groups ... etc.
    - We stress the importance of carrying of WSYF participants to the Conference.
  
- How to register your delegations:
  - Wait for the initial WOSM circular on registration which explain exactly what to do.
  - Be early as much as you can to avoid Visa issuing challenges and high cost flight.
  
- Running into money issues:
  - There are always ways to fund delegations costs, especially if they are young. National and regional grants are available everywhere, but it needs some early starts.
  
- Preparing your delegation
  - How to start:
    - Have regular in-person (physical) meetings and/or skypes
    - Start with basic topics (depending on knowledge/experience of your group) and prepare your delegation for a "different type of a Scouting event" (hotel, more setting, official, ... etc.).
    - Use your region/sub-region for information support, and simulation on existing events for your preparation
    - Make sure you're a team so invest in some team building – you will spend a bit of time together
  - Laying the foundation: Basics of working in WOSM
    - What is WOSM's [mission and vision](#)
    - What is the WOSM [Constitution](#) (in brief)
    - What is the WOSM [Structures](#)
    - Highlights on the WSYF Rule of Procedures ([RoP](#))
  - Evaluating your NSO priorities:
    - Know your NSO's position on the topics to be discussed in the WSYF (refer to the Forum [Agenda](#))
    - Is your NSO part of a youth council or any other entity shaping policy for young people? Be aware of how this relates to your own positions as well
    - Which aspects/dimensions are important to your NSO when it comes to choosing candidates? Examples:
      - regional proportion
      - diversity
      - qualification
      - topic focus
      - team structure
  - Reading up on topics and old resolutions
    - Use the library on scout.org
  - Read the new decision proposals and do your research (draft resolutions, triennial plan ... etc.)
    - Try to learn about the context and back story of each proposal to better understand the motivations
    - Talk to other countries about their perspective
  - Define the expectations of your delegation members & how you will link the WSYF experience back to the Scout work at national and local level.
    - define personal and group expectations. Examples:
      - punctuality
      - level of commitment
      - how you behave at the WSYF itself (e.g. self-care: it will be stressful, so agree on rules how people can communicate if it is becoming too much for them, remind everyone to eat and sleep during the conference)
    - make a content plan for what is supposed to spill over to your NSO

- make a press coverage plan so you will communicate with purpose and spread awareness of global Scouting if you wish to do so.
- Organise how you will interact during the WSYF
  - Daily meetings are helpful
  - What communication modes will you use during the conference? Don't rely too much on the wifi.
  - Which platform will you use to share documents or drafts?
  - How are decisions made? Who can make decisions/speak on behalf of the delegation?
  - Divide topics and responsibilities! You cannot juggle all the balls so unless you want to feel overwhelmed, give the team members tasks and responsibilities.
- What to pack
  - Power outlets and power bank
  - Business cards
  - Host present
  - Scout items from your country to share and/or swap
  - Items for the international evening (cultural night) ... normally there is one (or similar)

### At the WSYF

- Shaping the WSYF
  - Putting forward formal proposals
    - Explain the advocacy cycle: how do you see an idea through from inception to implementation? Remember: proposal writing is not the biggest chunk of work
    - Be aware of the proposal timeline and its types
    - Try to get global NSOs on board and consider various perspectives
    - Make sure that you know how to actually write proposals (normally there is workshop on these)
    - How will they be discussed at the WSYF: explain the mode of "presenting", "defending" etc.
- Who the delegation will run into at the WSYF/Roles at the WSYF
  - Youth Advisors Candidates
  - Chairs
  - Tellers
  - Key people in WOSM (link to discussion about structures)
  - Who to turn to and when?
- What the delegation will do at the WSYF (normally just follow the Forum Agenda)
  - Different types of sessions:
    - Plenary
    - Breakout groups
    - Voting
      - Are you a federation? What about split votes if you feel like it
  - Communication stuff
    - Blogs, mobile app. Social media ... etc.
  - Scrambling over languages
    - Translation and interpretation

### After the WSYF:

- Follow-up to make sure the learning and experience have transferred to the NSO
- Reflect and collect feedback from your delegation
- Start preparations for the next WSYF
- Feedback WOSM as well (it is so important for continuous improvement)

### Additional Preparation Ideas

- Better together: improving cooperation skills in your delegation
  - How to negotiate (so you know yes/no are not your only options in discussions; don't use the word but something like "contributing to content")
    - [ZOPA and BATNA](#) (negotiation theory)
    - [Ladder of consensus](#) (you don't always have to burn with passion for a decision but if you can carry it, that's already a lot)

- Intercultural issues at WSYF: how to deal with different cultural sensitivities
- Preparation Workshop suggestions
  - Speech training
  - Formal Proposals writing
  - Intercultural issues
- Glossary + language tools
  - What is an amendment
  - What is a resolution
  - How to English/French: phrases to use during the conference/resolutions, especially for non-Native speakers

**General Notes:**

- This guidance is a collection of ideas that we think it might help you. Don't rely only on it, but make your own accordingly.
- This guidance is designed for more than one member delegations. If you participate with one person to the WSYF so adjust the guidance to this situation.