



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

PRESS RELEASE

World Scouting's Biggest Moot Concludes

2 August 2017, Reykjavík, Iceland: The 15th World Scout Moot created World Scouting history by drawing 5,000 participants from nearly 100 countries to Iceland from 25 July to 2 August 2017.

Organised by the Icelandic Boy and Girl Scout Association, the wild Icelandic nature and historic Reykjavík city provided the perfect settings for a diverse and exciting spectrum of educational and fun activities.

Participants embarked on a string of adventures ranging from hiking on the biggest glacier in Europe, visiting Iceland's biggest island, swimming in the cold Lake Úlfjótuvatn, bathing in natural hot rivers to rock climbing and bridge-jumping.

The week began with group expeditions across the breathtaking countryside followed by visits to programme villages featuring themes such as arts and innovation, lifestyle and health, Icelandic history and environmental conservation.

Through the Althingi programme, participants were given a chance to debate World Issues and share how they would like to see the world. Some had their first experience of dialogue which allowed them to understand the diversity of faith and beliefs of people around the world.

In his opening speech, World Scout Committee Chairperson, João Armando Gonçalves reinforced the roles of young adults as a powerful and crucial force for change, "...not only because of your energy, creativity and expertise, but because you are in the very centre of the phenomenal changes the world is going through..." and encouraged them to step up and make the world a better place.

The Moot also included activities that allowed the participants to engage and interact with local people. They had a fun time creating a dance flashmob in the centre of the capital city, spending time with young people with disabilities, sampling traditional food, helping to create and clear walking trails and planting trees, all while enjoying the changing weather.

On the second day of the Moot, the president of Iceland, Mister Guðni Th Jóhannesson visited the main camp and the Better World tent which showcased the positive impact Scouts are making around the world.

At the closing ceremony, WOSM Secretary General, Ahmad Alhendawi thanked the participants for their contributions and challenged them to be more courageous agents of peace and development.

“Courage means doing what your heart tells you is right... And courage means not backing down even when you face difficulties...” he remarked before sending them off to create an even greater Scouting legacy.

The Moot was made possible with the help of around 700 volunteers, the International Service Team, most of whom had flown across the globe to support the young people at the Moot.

World Scout Moots are held every four years to enhance Rovers’ understanding of their roles as active citizens of the world, and to allow them to experience the international dimension of Scouting. The next edition of the Moot will be held in 2021, in Ireland.

Ends

About the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM)

Scouting is one of the world’s leading educational youth movements, engaging millions of young people around the world to be active citizens to create positive changes in the communities they live in. Founded by Lord Baden-Powell in 1907, WOSM is a confederation of 167 National Scout Organizations in a network of over 40 million Scouts in at least 224 countries and territories worldwide. As it has been doing for more than a century – creating a better world – it will continue to do so, and even better with the many Messengers of Peace across the globe.

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