CIRCULAR NO.08, series of 2015

To: Chief Commissioners
    International Commissioners
    Chief Scout Executives

17 March 2015

Youth Involvement

Dear Colleagues:

Greetings!

Further to WOSM Circular No. 2/2015, providing national Scout organizations (NSOs) with a copy of the World Scout Youth Involvement Policy which was adopted at the 40th World Scout Conference, (Slovenia, August 2014 - Conference Resolution 9/14), and arising from APR Scout Conference Resolution No. 5/12, we would like to encourage national Scout organizations to organize seminars and workshops to further develop understanding of Youth Involvement strategies that include a balance of and dialogue between young people and adult leaders.

We take this opportunity to highlight that the World Scout Youth Involvement Policy presents three levels of youth involvement, as follows:

1. On Unit Level

This is normally associated with the Patrol (or Team) System, one of the elements of the Scout Method, which is a system for involving young people in decision-making, throughout all age sections. In fact, the WOSM Constitution defines it as “… progressive discovery and acceptance of responsibility and training towards self-government directed towards the development of character “…

2. On Institutional Level

One of the things mentioned in the Policy, Youth Involvement at Institutional Level is also referred to as the representation of young adults in decision-making bodies of the national Scout organization, as well as in delegations at Regional and World Scout Conferences.

Further to the APR Scout Youth Guidelines, “participants of the APR Scout Youth Forum should represent the NSO well and therefore, participants should ideally be elected from a National Youth Forum or equivalent institutional structure like a National Rover Council. Some NSOs have young people in their National Executive Board. They, too, are ideal participants of the Youth Forum.”

Therefore, we would like to encourage national Scout organization to hold a national Scout Youth Forum to select participants who can properly represent your national Scout organization in this event.
3. On Community Level

This is associated with Scouting’s commitment to “help build a better world,” which is an indirect outcome of contributing to the education of youth. Thus, society benefits from the Scout Movement in two different ways: One is the education of young people and the other - their empowerment as responsible and committed citizens. This is consistent to World Scout Conference Resolution 14/14 - Advocating for a Better World.

In the next triennial plan (2015-2018), the Asia-Pacific Region is planning to organize a regional seminar/workshop on Youth Involvement. We are inviting national Scout organizations, who are interested to host this regional event to signify their interest and contact us by the end of July 2015.

We therefore encourage national Scout organization, through your National Programme Commissioner and her/his team, to study the revised World Scout Youth Involvement Policy for implementation.

Thank you and best regards.

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Regional Director
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