Celebrating International Day of Peace – 21st September 2016

Dear Colleagues,

The International Day of Peace is observed around the world each year on 21 September, since the United Nations declared it as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations.

Some National Scout Organizations took part in the global celebration in 2015. This year, the Asia-Pacific Support Centre urges NSOs to actively join this celebration in the spirit of “Building Blocks for Peace” as the theme.

As Scouts we bear the identity of being Messengers of Peace, and in response to the International Day of Peace, we can initiate peace actions that could inspire and make significant impact on communities.

What is our goal for International Peace Day 2016?

Although activities may vary from country to country, our aim is to produce a record of the highest number of service hours within a day contributed by young people and reflected in the scout.org service hour tally.

For proper documentation of this event, we encourage participating groups to document the number of participants, to be supported by photos and videos, and uploaded on scout.org so they could be counted on the service hours tally.

How can NSOs be involved?

NSOs can organize teams to coordinate local activities across the country. Here are some suggested activities.

1. Peace Run – a charity event to promote peace awareness, inviting Scouts and non Scouts to participate and ensuring community support.

2. Trees for Peace – This supports the sustainable development goals, and encourages young people to be aware of their environmental and act on conservation efforts for the earth.

3. Youth Speech for Peace – Organize a local community gathering to listen to young people share their stories on Messengers of Peace projects to inspire and engage them in contributing to peace.
4. Peace Pledge – Encourage Scouts to take selfies holding the sign “Peace Starts with Me” and post it onto Scout.org with their peace message. At the same time, encourage Scouts to visit scout.org and see peace actions happening around the globe.

5. Good turn – Encourage Scout groups to do good turns not for a day but throughout the year. You may launch this project on 21st September with the goal of setting a world record of the largest number of young people doing good work for others.

If you need any support please don’t hesitate to contact your NSO Messenger of Peace Coordinator for more information.

Yours in Scouting,

J. Rizal C. Pangilinan
Regional Director

jrcp/sps/npl
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