



DIVERSITY IN SCOUTING

The concept of diversity encompasses recognising people as individuals, understanding that each one of us is unique, and respecting our individual differences.



Recognising diversity in Scouting involves valuing and having regard for people who are different and using those differences to create cohesive and diverse local, national and global communities. These differences may be based on age, gender, ethnicity, race, socioeconomic status, philosophy, abilities and disabilities, language, religion, sexual orientation, geographical areas, experiences, viewpoints, health status and backgrounds.

Diversity forms part of the principles and values of Scouting and is a core component of key policies and guidelines of our organisation. Scouting strongly opposes all forms of prejudice and discrimination.

Encouraging diversity in Scouting promotes respect for different ideas and perspectives as well as an understanding of differences that can impact on others. As a movement, we aspire that our membership reflects the diversity of young people and adults in countries and local communities where Scout groups exist. Therefore, recognising the diversity within Scouting is also important as this brings different opinions, and strengthens the capacity of our movement.

Scouting is an inclusive movement that values diversity of thought, backgrounds, experiences, cultures and national contexts. The defining of the specific aspects of diversity should be done by each National Scout Organization (NSO).

It is essential that NSOs demonstrate actively that diversity is something that is valued and practised within Scouting, by being an open and inclusive movement and promoting access to Scouting for all people. By having a membership which is diverse, our young people and adults' learning experiences are maximised and this helps us to achieve our goal of creating a better world.



One of the principles of the Youth Programme is to “be open to all”. The Youth Programme should meet the needs of all young people and must be designed with the necessary flexibility to adapt to each society’s culture, society, economy, race, religious diversity and gender. It should also include people with disabilities.

World Youth Programme Policy, 2015

A special effort must be made to improve the diversity of adult leadership with a strong emphasis on reaching out (to offer Scouting to all segments of the society) in line with WOSM’s priorities.

World Adults in Scouting Policy, 2011



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