



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why does the Scouts of the World Programme advocate the notion of 'Award'?

A. Adolescents and young adults need society to acknowledge their capabilities and competences. Granting young people the SW Award is a way of showing that they have acquired the knowledge, skills, attitudes, motivations and values needed to become real 'world citizens'. This should be acknowledged by universities, private companies, social organisations, and public authorities.

Q. Doesn't the notion of 'Award' imply competition or elitism?

A. No. The only competitive aspect of the SW Award is competition with oneself. All young people who join the programme and have experiences which meet the criteria explained in these Implementation Manual will receive the SW Award.

Q. Can an NSO adopt the SW Award Programme to replace its Senior Section Programme?

A. The SW Award Programme cannot replace a Senior Section Programme. It is designed to complement such a programme by adding elements related to development, peace, and the environment, and preparing for world citizenship. The international dimension of the SW Award also makes the Senior Section Programme more attractive to young people.

Q. Are Messengers of Peace and the World Scout Environment Programme competing with the SW Award Programme?

A. They are all linked because they are all world Scout programmes contributing to a Better World through a service dimension but they do not compete with one another. However, the SW Award is unique because it embraces three fields for action (development, peace, and the environment); it has a strong element of world citizenship (discovering global issues and acting locally); it is the only Award proposed by World Scouting for young members of Scouting and non-Scouts (aged 15–26); and, finally, it is particularly strong in educational terms (with a complete project approach comprehending needs identification, project planning, partnerships, project implementation, evaluation, valorisation and networking, acquisition of knowledge, skills and attitudes).

Q. Which benefits can an NSO gain from the SW Award Programme?

A. By offering opportunities for young people to contribute to the development of society, the SW Award Programme provides an NSO with ready-to-use elements to enrich its Senior Section Programme. Moreover, it enables the NSO to set its programme within a global context and to develop rewarding exchanges with other NGOs, UN bodies, associations, and WOSM bodies. Through the SW Award Partnership, NSOs can share their contacts and help each other to develop projects. Therefore, the SW Award Programme can structure existing volunteering and service activities of Scouts; it brings recognition for the impact of Scouting on society while highlighting the importance of partnerships.

Q. Isn't the SW Award Programme complicated to implement?

A. For young people, the SW Award comprises three elements: active participation in the SW Award Discovery, completion of their projects within the SW Award Voluntary Service framework, and the evaluation process. The normal structure of the Senior Section can easily provide the support needed to complete these elements. The WSB provides all the necessary documentation. Furthermore, NSOs are encouraged to start small with a few Scouts pursuing the SW Award, and doing their SW Award Discovery together in the first permanent SW Award Base. When that works, then another base can be opened, or a second SW Award Discovery can be organised to scale up the programme.

Q. Have NSOs been involved in the process of developing the SW Award or has it

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been imposed on them from above?

A. The SW Award Programme has been developed by an international network involving several NSOs and representatives from various Scout Regions. Each organisation interested in the SW Award Programme can join the network to contribute to the development and evaluation of the SW Award. The programme is not fixed once and for all, but will evolve gradually and be enriched through everybody's experience and contributions. Furthermore, the 2014 update of these Implementation Manual has been done based on comments made through an qualitative evaluation survey addressed to various SW stakeholders (awardees, SW Award Programme Coordinators, Rovers, etc.).

Q. Since the programme is implemented by each NSO, does it really have an international and global dimension?

A. At world level, the WSB, with the support of young people, is responsible for evaluating the programme on an ongoing basis, based on reports, ideas, comments, and feedback from NSOs and the Regions. They suggest improvements and developments to be presented to the network of partner associations. This evaluation and support system ensures that the programme's international criteria are maintained and developed. In addition, the SW Award Partnership and the SW Award Network encourage and support international cooperation which takes the concrete form of planning SW Award Discoveries and international SW Award Voluntary Service opportunities. The SW Award Programme is also presented at regional and world events such as Jamborees and Moots.

Q. Why is the SW Award reserved for young people aged 15–26?

A. Post-teenagers and young adults face the difficult challenge of preparing for their integration into adult life as active, responsible citizens. Nowadays, this means understanding the major international challenges which include fair and sustainable development, peace-building, and smart environmental management. In order to fulfil its mission, Scouting has to help young people to realise the importance of these issues and to identify opportunities open to them.

Q. If a young person starts their SW Award Discovery when they are 26 can they still complete their SW Award Voluntary Service after that and be awarded the SW Award?

A. No. They must have completed all parts of the SW Award before their 26th birthday.

Q. Where on the uniform should the SW Award badge be placed?

A. This decision has to be made by the NSO according to their uniform regulations. What is important is to show the badge uniquely on the uniform. Some practices is showing it on the right pocket or the right arm. It should be the same for the SW Award national team members, to wear the blue badge according to the NSO regulations.

Q. Can a young person wear the SW Award badge on their Scout uniform after they have turned 26?

A. This is a decision for the NSO to make according the policy. We encourage that there should be exceptions as it is the only award WOSM offer to young people and it is something that they should be proud of.

Q. Does the awardee need to pay for the SW Award badge and certificate?

A. This is a decision for the NSO to make.

Q. How can the SW Award Programme be adapted to the different age section systems used by NSOs?

A. Most NSOs set age 15 as the limit between young teenagers (the Explorer Section) on the one hand, and post-teenagers and young adults (the Venturer and Rover Sections) on the other hand. Some NSOs only have one age section after age 15 (Rovers), whereas others have two (e.g. Venturers from 15 to 18 and Rovers from 18 to 22). The SW Award Programme is designed for young people over 15 in



general, whether or not they are members of the Scout Movement.

Q. How can the SW Award Programme be integrated into NSOs' existing Senior Section Programmes?

A. The SW Award Programme is designed in such a way that it does not compete with NSOs' programmes. Its elements (SW Award Discoveries and SW Award Voluntary Services) can easily be integrated into existing programmes to complement the aspect of active citizenship education with the international dimension.

Q. If a young person does their SW Award Discovery in one country and their SW Award Voluntary Service in another, which NSO will they receive their SW Award from?

A. It is up to the NSOs involved and the young person. If both NSOs involved have adopted the SW Award then it would be up to the young person as to whether they have a preference and what the NSOs policy is. Sometimes however only one of the NSOs would have adopted the SW Award and it would then have to be awarded by that NSO.

Q. Doesn't the SW Award Programme focus excessively on the individual dimension at the expense of the collective dimension?

A. In Scouting, there is collective action but personal progression. In fact, as Baden-Powell explicitly stated, there is no real education which is not individual. The SW Award is granted to individuals. This is because the real issue at stake is to increase the Movement's ability to motivate tens of thousands of young people each year and provide them with the necessary competences to meet the key challenges in the world today: community development, lasting peace, and environmental protection. As a result, the Movement should receive greater public recognition for its achievements. The quality of an SW Award Voluntary Service undertaken by a team of young people could be acknowledged by giving it an SW label. Nevertheless, what really counts for an SW Award is the personal contribution made by each young person to achieving this project. Indeed, this cannot be done alone and the help from peers is needed.

Q. Are the criteria for obtaining the SW Award realistic?

A. Currently, around the world, there are young people working on their SW Awards; some are just 15 and others are verging on 26. Experience during the last few years has shown that the SW Award is not only attractive to young people, but also that the quality of the projects they are running is indeed creating a better world. The project that they choose to complete is designed to challenge them and build on their skill level. The SW Award is designed to be adapted for them to reach their full potential not to eliminate them before they even begin.

