



# SCOUTING IN AFRICA

Empowering young people to play  
a constructive role in society



**SCOUTS**<sup>®</sup>  
Creating a Better World

## OUR MISSION



The Mission of Scouting is to contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law, to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society.



## THE SCOUT MOVEMENT

Scouting is the world's largest educational youth movement engaging 50 million young people, adult leaders and volunteers in 170 National Scout Organizations from 224 countries and territories worldwide. As a growing Movement, Scouting is deeply embedded in the context of local communities and able to respond to the diverse needs and aspirations of young people.

Since its founding by Robert Baden-Powell in 1907, Scouting has engaged young people in transformative education, training and learning opportunities. Through the core Scout Youth Programme, and guided by the Scout Promise and Law, Scouting offers young people a unique non-formal educational experience that directly contributes to their growth and development.

Scouting is all about learning by doing. By taking part in educational activities that build skills for life and through local acts of community service, Scouts develop the emotional, intellectual, physical, social, and spiritual skills needed to become leaders and active members of society. Scouting also teaches young people how to be agents of positive change in tackling some of the most pressing social, environmental, and economic challenges facing our planet. Find out more at [scout.org](https://www.scout.org)

## FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

The Scout Movement is based on the following principles, as enshrined in the Scout Law and Promise:

**Duty to God:** A person's relationship with the spiritual values of life, the fundamental belief in a force above mankind.

**Duty to Others:** A person's relationship with, and responsibility within, society in the broadest sense of the term: his or her family, local community, country and the world at large, as well as respect for others and for the natural world.

**Duty to Self:** A person's responsibility to develop his or her own potential, to the best of that person's ability.



**Try and leave this world a little better than you found it, and when your turn comes to die you can die happy in feeling that at any rate you have not wasted your time but have done your best.**

- Lord Baden Powell, Founder of Scouting



## OUR VISION



By 2023 Scouting will be the world's leading educational youth movement, enabling 100 million young people to be active citizens creating positive change in their communities and in the world based on shared values.



## WHO WE ARE

### A Social Force

An agent of development, Scouting constitutes a social force at local, national and international levels. Working together with its partners, both public and private, Scouting responds to the needs of society. Without social awareness, it cannot exist. An educational movement for young people, Scouting is an active member of society.

### A Constructive Contribution

Scouts contribute daily towards creating a better world, to find ways to be constructive, and not to leave society only to the care of others, when they themselves can be helpful. Every Scout commits to using their competencies to help others, to share their knowledge, and to improve community life.

### A Culture of Peace

Open to all and built on friendship, Scouting encourages a culture of peace through personal commitment of its members and the collective commitment of the movement. Contributing to the spirit of peace, Scouting promotes respect for others and the environment, diversity of cultures, as well as intercultural training around the world.

## OUR STRENGTHS

### Involving

Through the Promise, Scouts are committed to creating a better world. The Promise is based on the Scout Law, a simple text of ten articles that helps guide a Scout's choices. Scouts unite for justice, equality and integrity. One can count on the word Scout.

### Exciting

Innovation is the tradition of Scouting. Through attractive activities, the movement offers a framework of recreation, exploration and impassioned experiences, enabling young people to develop their sporting, artistic and solidarity skills.

### Empowering

In Scouting, young people are given every opportunity to explore their decision-making capacities. By providing an educational framework where one can take initiative, Scouting makes it possible for young people to acquire and develop leadership qualities.



## SCOUTING IN AFRICA

The Africa Scout Region is a branch of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM). Its purpose is to assist WOSM in fostering the Scout Movement in the Africa region.

The Region consists of Sub-Saharan countries and has 40 member National Scout Organizations (NSOs) and 7 potential members. Of the over 40 million members worldwide, youth and adults, boys and girls, over 5 million are part of the Africa Scout Region.

In Africa, Scouting started in 1908 in South Africa. On 13th March 1963, Scout Leaders from around the region met for the first time in Lagos, Nigeria to discuss the organization of the Africa Scout Region. It is also for this reason that, while recognizing the contribution of Scouting in educating and moulding young people as well as in training adults and providing invaluable services to local communities, the 62nd ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of the Africa Unity (now Africa Union) meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 21-23 June 1995, declared 13th March the Africa Scout Day.



## GOVERNANCE

The Africa Scout Committee, which is made up of eight elected and two ex-officio members is the executive organ of the Africa Scout Region elected by the Africa Scout Conference. The committee is responsible to the Conference for the implementation of resolutions and functions as outlined in the Constitution of the Africa Scout Region.

The Regional Scout Youth Forum also elects six Youth Advisors to the Africa Scout Committee, aged 18-26 at the time of election and all from different countries, for a three-year term. Youth Advisors act as representatives of the voice of young people at the meetings of the Regional Scout Committee providing input on matters directly affecting the youth. They also help in the preparations of the next Africa Scout Youth Forum.

## WORLD SCOUT BUREAU



World Scout Bureau offices are located in:

- Nairobi, Kenya
- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Geneva, Switzerland
- Cairo, Egypt
- Makati City, Philippines
- Kiev, Ukraine
- Brussels, Belgium
- Panama City, Republic of Panama



## **WORLD SCOUT BUREAU AFRICA SUPPORT CENTRE, NAIROBI**



The World Scout Bureau (WSB) is the Secretariat of the World Organization of the Scout Movement with a number of constitutionally defined functions. The Bureau is directed by the Secretary General of WOSM. WSB comprises of professional staff, based in 8 locations around the world.

The WSB Africa Support Centre is located at the Rowallan National Scouts Camp and Training Centre in Nairobi, Kenya since 1992 when it was relocated from Lagos, Nigeria. It is headed by the Regional Director.

As the secretariat of the World Organization, the World Scout Bureau has a number of constitutionally defined functions:

- It assists the World and Regional Scout Conferences, and the World and Regional Committees and their subsidiary bodies in the fulfilment of their functions. This includes the preparation of meetings and the provision of the necessary services to implement the decisions of the various bodies.
- It provides services for the promotion of Scouting throughout the world.
- It maintains relations with National Scout Organizations (NSOs) and helps them develop Scouting in their country.
- It promotes the development of Scouting in countries where it does not exist.
- It supports the organization of international and regional Scout events such as World and Regional Jamborees.
- It maintains relations with international organizations whose activities are concerned with youth matters.

## WORLD SCOUTING



Scouting is the world's largest educational youth movement engaging 50 million young people, adult leaders and volunteers in 170 National Scout Organizations from 224 countries and territories worldwide.





## MEMBER COUNTRIES

The Africa Scout Region comprises of National Scout Organizations and National Scout Associations from the following member countries:

- |                                  |                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Angola                        | 31. Seychelles   |
| 2. Benin                         | 32. Sierra Leone |
| 3. Botswana                      | 33. South Africa |
| 4. Burkina Faso                  | 34. South Sudan  |
| 5. Burundi                       | 35. Swaziland    |
| 6. Cameroon                      | 36. Tanzania     |
| 7. Cape Verde                    | 37. Togo         |
| 8. Chad                          | 38. Uganda       |
| 9. Comoros                       | 39. Zambia       |
| 10. Democratic Republic of Congo | 40. Zimbabwe     |
| 11. Ivory Coast                  |                  |
| 12. Ethiopia                     |                  |
| 13. Gabon                        |                  |
| 14. Gambia                       |                  |
| 15. Ghana                        |                  |
| 16. Guinea                       |                  |
| 17. Guinea Bissau                |                  |
| 18. Kenya                        |                  |
| 19. Lesotho                      |                  |
| 20. Liberia                      |                  |
| 21. Madagascar                   |                  |
| 22. Malawi                       |                  |
| 23. Mauritius                    |                  |
| 24. Mozambique                   |                  |
| 25. Namibia                      |                  |
| 26. Niger                        |                  |
| 27. Nigeria                      |                  |
| 28. Rwanda                       |                  |
| 29. Sao Tome and Principe        |                  |
| 30. Senegal                      |                  |

## POTENTIAL MEMBERS

Scouting organizations in the following countries are being supported to join the global movement:

1. Central Africa Republic
2. Congo (Brazzaville)
3. Djibouti
4. Eritrea
5. Equatorial Guinea
6. Mali
7. Somali

## SERVICES TO OUR MEMBERS



### Strengthening the Scout Movement for the Future

The WOSM Service Platform is our one-stop shop to support and strengthen the ability of National Scout Organizations (NSOs) to deliver better Scouting activities and programmes to more young people worldwide. Through this new digital platform, we offer high-quality and effective support via 12 WOSM Services related to the core areas of Scouting - everything from the Adults in Scouting and Safe from Harm to good governance and partnership development.

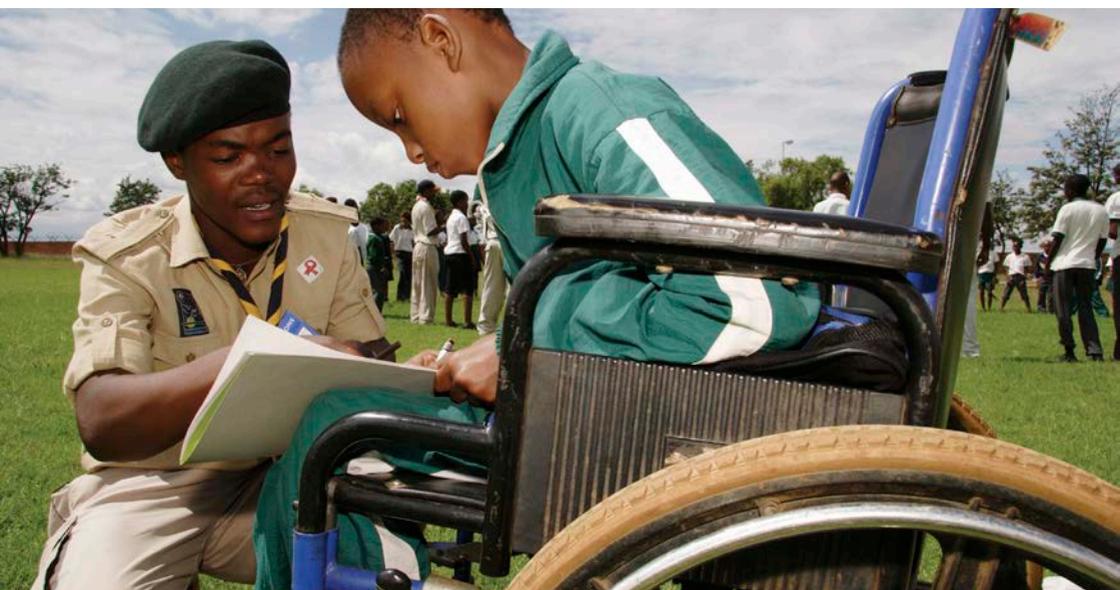
The services are:

1. Youth Programme
2. Youth Engagement
3. Adults in Scouting
4. Diversity and Inclusion
5. Better World Framework
6. Safe from Harm
7. Spiritual Development
8. Scouting and Humanitarian Action
9. Global Support Assessment Tool
10. Good Governance
11. Communications
12. Partnerships

- **Tools and Resources:** Each of the 12 WOSM Services includes a range of new resources, policies, toolkits, and guidelines that have been developed and designed with the needs of NSOs in mind.
- **Custom e-Learning Courses:** A series of newly-developed and innovative e-learning courses provide an introduction as well as basic training for the 12 WOSM Services.
- **One-on-One Consultation:** NSOs can request in-person support from our pool of consultants or volunteers with expertise in the 12 WOSM Services.

To learn more about the dedicated services and support designed for NSOs supported with funding from the Messengers of Peace programme, visit [services.scout.org](https://services.scout.org)

## BETTER WORLD FRAMEWORK AND SCOUTS CONTRIBUTION TO SDGs



The Better World Framework (BWF) is a set of coordinated programmes, campaigns, calls to action, partnerships and events designed to develop the competencies of young people to become global active citizens by taking action around issues related to sustainable development.

The BWF helps National Scout Organizations (NSOs) align their educational objectives related to active global citizenship and community development with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals

NSOs can use the Better World Framework to connect community development initiatives with specific SDGs and competencies for sustainable development. In doing so, NSOs will be part of a common monitoring and evaluation system to measure Scouting's total contribution to the SDGs.

Find out more at [scout.org/better-world-framework](https://scout.org/better-world-framework)

Some of the key initiatives under the Better World Framework and Scouts contribution to SDGs are presented below:



## Messengers of Peace

### Messengers of Peace

A flagship educational programme that engages Scouts in building a global culture of peace and justice through millions of individual and community service actions. Developed in partnership with Alwaleed Philanthropies.

More at [scout.org/messengersofpeace](https://scout.org/messengersofpeace)



### World Scout Environment Programme

An educational programme that connects young people with nature and enables them to take action to protect the environment, tackle climate change, and provide support following natural disasters. Developed in partnership with the World Wildlife Fund.

More at [scout.org/environmentprogramme](https://scout.org/environmentprogramme)



### Scout of the World Award

A voluntary service award programme that engages Scouts aged 15 to 26 years old in a local project to explore and take action around a social, environmental or economic issue impacting their community.

More at: [scout.org/swaward](https://scout.org/swaward)



### Dialogue For Peace

An educational program that invites Scouts to become ambassadors and advocates for peace through intercultural, interreligious, intergenerational, intergender and social dialogue. Developed in partnership with KAICIID.

More at: [scout.org/dialogue4peace](https://scout.org/dialogue4peace)

## Scouts go Solar

An educational programme to raise awareness about affordable and clean energy, and equip Scouts with the skills to build a more solar-powered world. Developed in partnership with SOLAFRICA and Greenpeace.

More at: [scout.org/scoutsgosolar](http://scout.org/scoutsgosolar)



## HeForShe

A campaign that invites Scouts to become advocates for gender equality and make the HeForShe commitment to take action against gender bias, discrimination and violence. Developed in partnership with UN Women.

More at: [scout.org/heforshe](http://scout.org/heforshe)



## Patrimonto Scout Badge

A programme designed to raise awareness and mobilise young people around World Heritage preservation and promotion, challenging young people between the ages of 15 and 26 to carry out their voluntary service at a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Developed in partnership with UNESCO.

More at: [scout.org/patrimonto](http://scout.org/patrimonto)



## Scouts for SDGs

An unprecedented mobilization campaign that aims to engage 50 million Scouts to make the world's largest coordinated youth contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 with a plan to deliver two million local projects and a total of four billion hours of service for the SDGs. More at [sdgs.scout.org](http://sdgs.scout.org) and some resources at [sdgs.scout.org/guidelines](http://sdgs.scout.org/guidelines)



## Tide Turners Plastic Challenge Badge



The aim is to encourage children, teens and young adults to earn a Plastic Tide Turners Challenge Badge and lay the foundations for a new way of dealing with our addiction to plastic. This is a collaboration between UN Environment and the British government to harness this youthful activism by working with Scouts, Girl Guides, university students and the Junior Achievement movements in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Ghana, with India and Mauritius to be the next countries to come on board. Download the

[Plastic Tide Turners Challenge Badge Toolkit](#)

## Food for Life



The Food For Life (FFL) Project was conceptualised to respond to the food crisis facing many countries in Africa. The solution lies in the population being able to produce enough food for their families amid scarce resources such as water and land and relying on the natural weather patterns. The FFL Project was initiated in 2003 in South Africa and spread to 11 countries with the aim of contributing to the fight against hunger in Africa by equipping the youth (6 to 18 years old Scouts) with agricultural skills to produce their own food.

More at [scout.org/foodforlife](http://scout.org/foodforlife)

## U-Report



U-Report is a system for communities to voice their opinions about issues they care about. Their data is analysed in real-time allowing leaders to keep their finger on the pulse of the nation and make decisions. U-Reporters join through SMS, Facebook and the U-Report app to participate in weekly polls on topics such as education, health and social policy. Data is made available through the U-Report website.

More at [scout.org/ureport](http://scout.org/ureport)



## AFRICA SCOUT FOUNDATION

The Africa Scout Foundation was established in 1995 to provide Africa Scout Region with financial support needed for the growth and development of Scouting. The Foundation aims at continually accumulating capital fund through donations, grants, membership contributions and other legal methods of fund-raising, to enable it carry out its mission of promoting of Scouting to enable more young Africans to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes that will enable them to be responsible, self-reliant citizens and dependable leaders of the future.

Find out more at [www.africascoutfoundation.org](http://www.africascoutfoundation.org)

## WORKING WITH SCOUTS

We invite partners who share the belief and confidence in the Scout Movement as social force for creating a better world to join us in educating and empowering our young people to become active citizens and contribute to the betterment of themselves, their families and communities through:

- Outreach to a global network of over 50 million young people worldwide
- In-country collaboration with over 170 National Scout Organizations
- Development and delivery of educational programmes for young people
- Contribution to the sustainability of the movement through investing funds in youth development



## KEY EVENTS IN THE REGION

### Founder's Day

Africa Scout Region takes pride in being the last home and the final resting place of the Founder of the Scout Movement, Lord Baden Powell (Born on 22 February, 1857), and his wife, Lady Olave Baden-Powell (Born on 22 February, 1889), who are both buried in Nyeri, Kenya. Scouts and Girl Guides worldwide commemorate their birthday on 22 February every year. This annual pilgrimage-like event is celebrated in Nyeri at his tomb and at his last house PAXTU, at Outspan Hotel.

### Africa Scout Day

The Africa Scout Day is celebrated on 13th March every year across the region. Historically, its on 13th March 1961, in Nigeria, that Scout leaders met for the first time to discuss the formation of the Africa Scout Region. It is on this backdrop that the Council of Ministers of the then Organization of African Unity (OAU) – now African Union (AU), meeting in its Sixty-Second Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, from 21st to 23rd June 1995, created this day created through resolution (CM Res 1607 (LXII)) in recognition of the achievements and contributions of Scouting to the development of Africa.

### Africa Scout Jamboree

The Africa Scout Jamboree is the largest regular event organized by the Africa Scout Region every four years, gathering thousands of young people from all over the continent and beyond. It is above all an educational event to promote peace and understanding. The Africa Scout Jamboree includes a wide variety of activities and also places great importance on the everyday life and interaction on the campsite.

### Africa Scout Conference

The Africa Scout Conference is the governing organ of the Africa Scout Region. It takes place every three years and formulates the general policy of the region through resolutions. It elects members of the Africa Scout Committee – the executive organ of the Africa Scout Region.

### Africa Scout Youth Forum

The Africa Scout Youth Forum takes place every three years in conjunction with the Africa Scout Conference. The event provides an opportunity for youth members of Africa Scouting to discuss different issues and many participants are also delegates at the Africa Scout Conference. The aim of the Youth Forum is to provide a learning platform and to increase youth participation in decision-making processes at regional level.



**SCOUTS**<sup>®</sup>  
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