

YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN THE **INTERAMERICAN SCOUT REGION**



Integration of Youth Involvement models



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Interamerican Scout Region.

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Moving towards the future,
Youth Involvement in action.

Scouting is a movement of young people by young people. Therefore, thinking about processes that encourage their involvement in decision-making is synonymous to thinking about Scouting and its reason to exist.

I was fortunate to be one of the founders of the Interamerican Youth Network in 2001 and shortly after I was elected by my peers as one of its coordinators. It was a moment of inserting the Network in the regional context. It was still unclear what the Network's role was and we did not count with the resources for youth participation. We worked hard to earn our space and spread the concept of youth involvement to the National Scout Organizations of the Region. As a result the first national networks were formed and young people began to earn their place in the Interamerican Conferences.

Years later as a member of the Interamerican Scout Committee and afterwards its Vice-Chairperson, I tried to continue to support that young people could be represented at different levels of our organization, always with the aim to create opportunities for learning and exchange. We included a provision for the Youth Network in the regional budget, for the first time we gave the WOSM scarf to the coordinators of the Network and restarted the realization of the Interamerican Youth Forums.

Later I supported the realization of the first edition of the Interamerican Leadership Training ILT, an extraordinary training that is maturing and is being integrated in the regional process with the Network and the Youth Forum.

Today, I have the privilege of being an elected member of the World Scout Committee and continue working closely with the World Youth Advisors and the Coordinators of the Interamerican Youth Network. The voice of the youth has increasingly more relevance in our decisions and our obligation is not only to maintain it but to make it grow.

I am very grateful for having been involved in this process and wish all the success to all the young people who are and will be involved in our beloved Region.

Fernando Broderschi
World Scout Committee

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this document is to present the various models of youth involvement in the Interamerican Scout Region in an integrated manner. It aims to strengthen and ensure youth involvement in all levels of the World Organization of the Scout Movement at regional level. It also seeks to serve as a reference for National Scout Organizations (NSOs) in implementing these Youth Involvement models at national level



FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS

The Triennial Plan 2014 - 2017 of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) states that: "Scouting requires offering young people the opportunity to develop skills and knowledge, empowering them to take an active part in the movement and in their communities. Involvement, recognition and generational exchange are key to provide a framework for our young members" (Triennial Plan 2014-2017, WOSM, 2014).

For the Interamerican Scout Region, Youth Involvement is the process by which young people, based on the values of the Scout Law and Promise, commit themselves and become an active part in the decision-making in their unit, institution and / or community; contributing to achieve the Mission of Scouting (Interamerican Youth Involvement Policy, WSB-IAR, 2014)

By recognizing that Youth Involvement is a key element of the Scout method compels us to strengthen and ensure Youth Involvement in all levels in Scouting.

This involvement has its origin and is expressed more fully in the involvement of all young people in the design and operation of their scout unit, materializing in the planning and implementation of activities of the unit as well as in the operation of the decision making bodies of it.



The involvement of youth in the unit level has an eminently educational sense, since it is through this practice that the young people acquire the necessary decision-making and active citizenship skills.

In a second phase, the Movement is required to give young people learning opportunities that are different than those already offered by the Youth Programme in their units. These opportunities materialize in the involvement in their communities and active participation at the institutional level within the Scout Movement.

Youth Involvement at the institutional level aims to offer young people a real and challenging environment in which to develop their skills, taking part in a close intergenerational partnership with adults, in the design and implementation of strategies, satisfaction of needs and provision of services that are required by the Organization in its various (regional or national) levels to ensure their permanence in time. Likewise, Youth Involvement at the institutional level will enable the Organization to have the right people, with the necessary skills, to take over the next generation in a timely manner.

To reach a more impactful Youth Involvement, the different levels of the Organization are required to assume a number of tasks, including general tasks corresponding to all levels of the Organization; tasks at regional level and others at national level:

General Tasks

- Create, adjust and / or modify the regulations of the organizational structures to encourage and facilitate Youth Involvement.
- Ensure that young people successfully represent Scouting externally as the "face" of the Movement. To do this, we need to offer young people training, skills development, provide tools and the space required to do so.
- Contribute to elevate the role of young people in governance, representation and other roles.
- Integrate the Youth Involvement strategies in a common framework.
- Generate a dissemination strategy on Youth Empowerment and Involvement.
- Fully involve Youth Advisors and other young people as equal partners in the work of all regional and national structures.

Tasks for the regional level

- Support the implementation of global and regional policies in National Scout Organizations (NSOs).
- Provide youth with training, skill development, the tools and opportunities for youth involvement as needed for decision-making.
- Provide training in topics related to Youth Empowerment and Involvement.
- Provide the necessary support to NSOs to renew and strengthen their Youth Programme.
- Provide increased technical assistance from the regional level to NSOs on Youth Involvement process.

Tasks for NSO

- Recognize the association as a youth organization supported by adults.
- Provide the youth with training, skill development, the tools and opportunities for youth involvement as needed for decision-making.
- Implement models of youth leadership.
- Establish mechanisms for proper and timely renewal of leadership.
- Generate and implement a national Youth Programme policy.
- Develop and implement a Youth Involvement policy .
- Have an adult management model that supports the World and Regional policies on Adults in Scouting.
- Encourage and support the processes generated by young people and recognize their skills and achievements.
- Allow access to information to young people about topics of their interest.
- Allow / encourage youth involvement in governance processes.



JUSTIFICATION

"The basic principle is that Scouting is a youth movement, with the support of adults, it is not a movement for young people managed only by adults. Thus, Scouting offers the potential of a community of mutual learning between young people and adults, working together in a partnership of enthusiasm and experience. This basic principle should be reflected both in the Youth Programme of the National Scout Association and management structures of the organization "(World Policy youth Participation, WOSM, 2015).

Connection with strategic priorities. Fundamental priority. Scouting has defined itself as a "youth organization". This idea is the fundamental root of its philosophical, conceptual, strategic, structural and functional development. Pursuant to this definition, the involvement of youth in all structures within the organization and even outside of it, in the community where young people live, is one of its natural consequences. Youth Involvement is something that Scouting should pursue and promote by every possible means.

Challenges. Promote the involvement of young people, especially in the processes of decision-making that affect their lives, and make this experience an educational process that contributes to their formation, is not a simple task. This task becomes even more complex when we consider that our material resources are finite.



Rationalize efforts, use of resources. All this leads us to optimize the use of our resources and make them the best of it. It is in this line where this document is particularly relevant as it seeks to compile, systematize and present simple and accessible existing Youth Involvement models in our Inter-american Scout Region.

KEY FACTS TO CONSIDER IN THE FIELD OF YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

Youth Involvement is both an educational strategy and a mechanism to encourage the emergence and development of new leaders within the organization.

Youth involvement should be prioritised and encouraged within the scout units as "natural space". Youth Involvement within the units is the space to which all young people, without exception, have full access and, therefore, which it can be triggered spontaneously, free, direct and active.

Youth Participation promoting regional models, this solely on age limits clearly established based. Any other limitation on Youth Participation made in terms of roles or positions within the structures is totally contrary to its purpose.

Young people experiencing the unit Programme are the main target, but neither unique nor exclusive, objectives, instruments, strategies and models for youth involvement. Young adults (as established in the Interamerican Youth Involvement Policy), which are below the limit set age to be considered young by the organization, they also have the full right to access the different areas and models at institutional level to develop their full participation.

The governing bodies are responsible for promoting and ensuring the implementation of the guidelines and institutional mandates adopted on Youth Involvement, expressed as conference resolutions, policies, plans and programs, be they global or regional.





Moving towards the future, Youth Involvement in action.

I remember going to a Youth Network meeting in San Salvador in 2004, the topic of the discussion was how to organize the operation and communication of the network in order to convince other NSO's to join the effort. There was only a few young people there, and it was unclear what "Network" meant ... But we all had the momentum to voice our opinion and seeking opening spaces where we would be taken into account when making decisions!.

It is essential to discuss how difficult it is then seen to have a space recognized to participate by giving our opinion in any session of the Inter-American Scout Committee, and even more difficult to achieve if there was a Youth Network in each country of the region. At that time there was no resource designated for the Network, did not use purple bandanas and there was no opportunity to participate with other working groups; however, were aperturando spaces, CSI began to hear our proposals, and NSOs to include young people in their processes. Today I can say that being persistent in an ideal gives fascinating results, 12 years after working for the opening of spaces occupied one of them!.

Someone once asked me- What is it that you (the youth) are looking for? My immediate response was without hesitation: "We want to participate; we want you to hear our ideas, our proposals ..." And he immediately replied: - "Then stop playing in the hall of crayons and come to the ISC sessions to tell us that what you want to say". This great little impulse made me realize that we had to stop aspiring for the open spaces and take them, take responsibility for what many generations ago had actually built and new were strengthening. We already had an opening to participate! From that generation on, the Youth Network proposal took a turn; we begin to generate tools and communicate not only about the network and the way it operates; we stopped talking about involvement and started talking about empowerment... today the youth involvement in our region is much more than just a forum or a training workshop, we can now speak of "participatory commitment" to take responsibilities and actively maintain intergenerational dialogue.

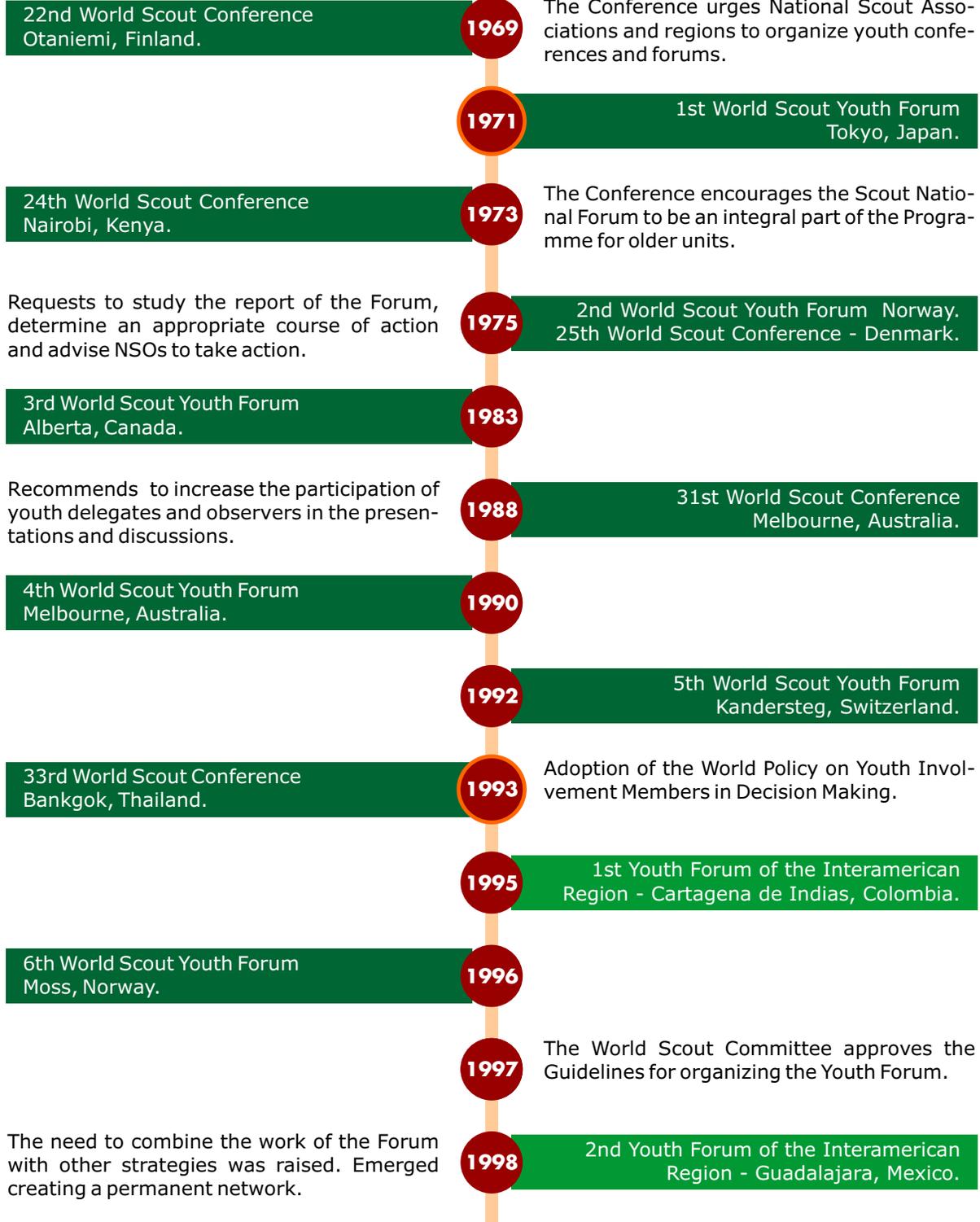
Maybe there still are some who believes that encouraging young people to take leadership roles is a danger to the institution; there are some who would affirm it. I am very grateful to those who have driven me and also those who did not believe in me or blocked me; for all of them, with good or bad stimuli, made me learn through meaningful experiences the value of the voice of the youth in an organization: it revitalizes, drives, challenges, gives joy, prevents, generates changes and also strengthens experiences.

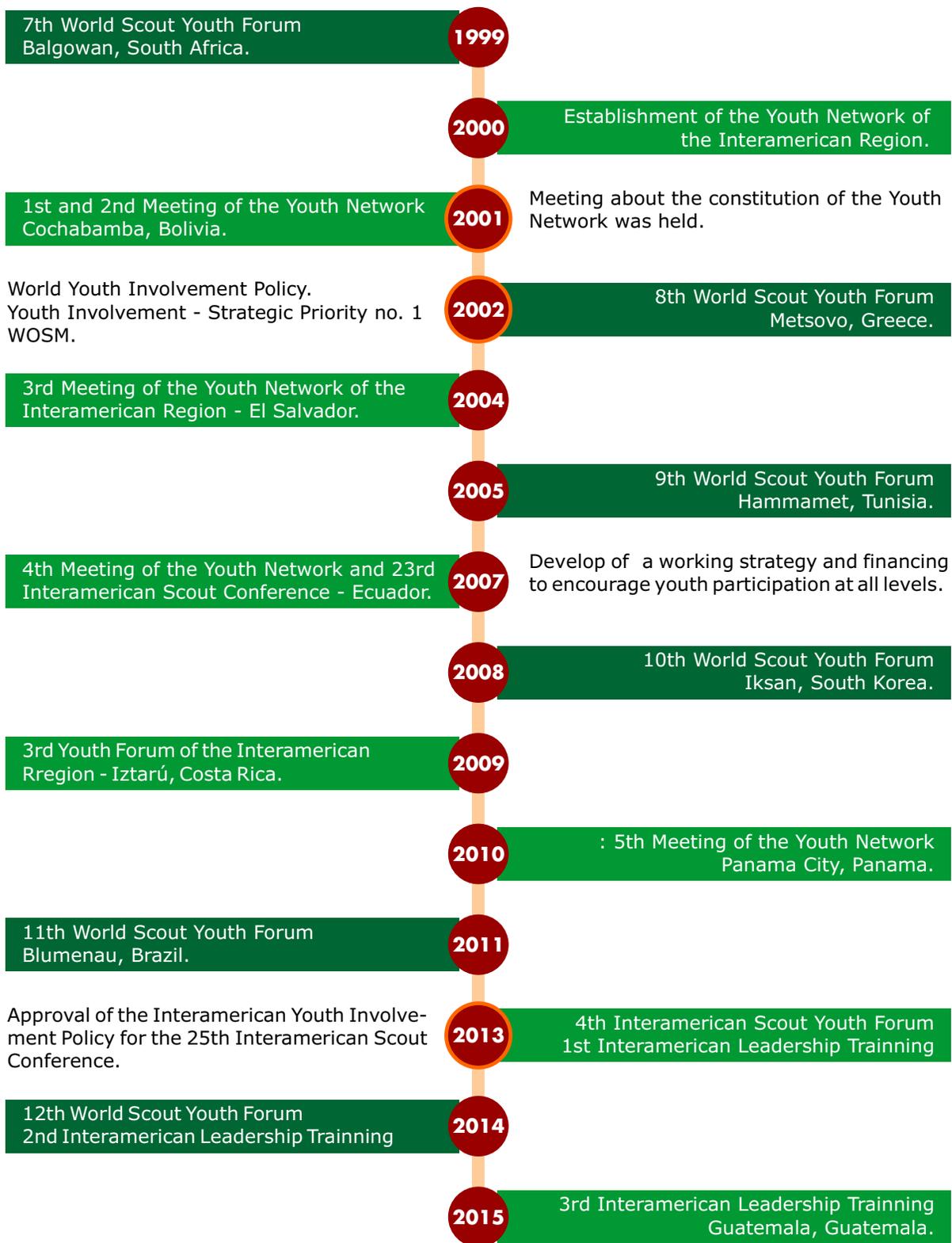
Maybe it's time to remember that the network and youth forums represent a space for identifying leadership quadrants, which can be driven and utilized to ensure that our organization continues to represent the freshness of youth with the voice of experience.

After 15 years of different youth involvement models in the Interamerican Region, we have a Committee filled with people who were members of the Youth Network; we have the *Interamerican Youth Involvement Policy*, many NSOs have adopted this policy and presented their national policy; more and more young people participate in regional training processes and are active volunteers in projects and regional task forces; NSOs in our region are increasingly including young people in their management structure.

There are many advances, however it is essential to further encourage youth involvement not only through the open spaces to share opinions; our youth today has the right to assume leadership roles in decision-making and at the same time the obligation and commitment to prepare for it.

FRAMEWORK





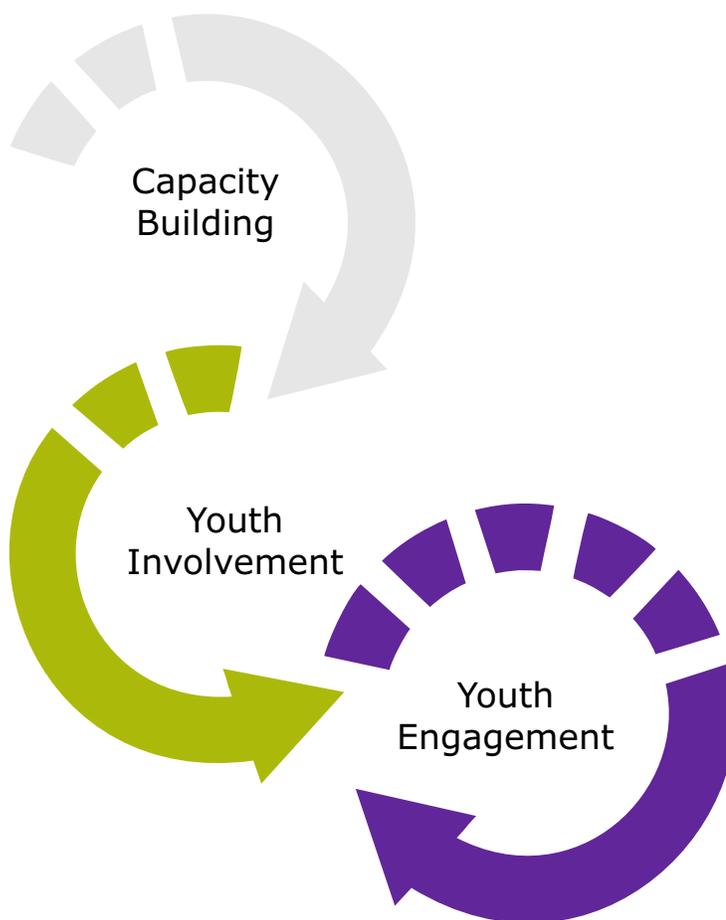
LINK BETWEEN THE YOUTH INVOLVEMENT MODELS

According to the *World Youth Involvement Policy*, Youth Involvement is a capacity-building process, based on enabling young people to actively share responsibility with adults for making decisions that affect their lives, and the lives of others in their community.

Youth Engagement is the meaningful participation and sustained involvement of young people in an action in which they use their time, intelligence, talents, skills and abilities for making a positive change in their own and the life of others.



Youth Empowerment Process



In the Interamerican Scout Region we identify four models of youth involvement, whose purpose is to promote effective and increasing Youth Involvement at all levels of the organization:

Capacity Building (Leadership Training) is the process of training young people providing them with tools and encouraging them to take more active roles in their National Scout Organization (NSO) or at regional level.

Youth Network is a model of long-term cooperation among young people at all levels. Its purpose is to ensure constant communication between young people at local, national and/or regional level.

In turn, the **Youth Forum** is an educational tool that supports the development process of youth involvement in collaboration with adults and young members in older units. Forums are events that empower and inspire young people through a participatory approach, helping them develop skills in decision-making that can be used in Scouting and in the society.

To achieve a higher level of youth involvement in the process of decision-making, it is advisable to combine Youth Forum with the model of Youth Advisors to involve youth in decision-making organs of the NSO or Regional level. This means that during the Forum, young people can choose two members that can represent them at the institutional level (e.g. in the Interamerican Scout Committee).

Youth Involvement Models in the Interamerican Region

| | Capacity Building | Youth Network | Youth Forum | Youth Advisors |
|------------------|---|---|---|--|
| Objective | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of skills and abilities. Exchange of experiences. Strengthen the image of the Movement. Leadership renewal. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interconnect the youth. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational. Discuss issues relevant to young people. Exchange of experiences. Proposals and recommendations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory. Bring the voice of youth. Right to a voice in decision-making bodies. Active participation. Representation in external scenarios. |
| Structure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth aged 18- to 29 years. Nominated by their NSO (when it comes to regional training opportunities, in the case of national or local experiences all young people should have access). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth aged 18 to 29 years. All the youth of the NSO in the age range are members of the Youth Network. Core coordination. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth aged 18- to 29 years. Delegates or representatives of their NSO. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth aged 18- to 29 years. Elected in Youth Forum. |
| Operation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated by young people with support from institutional structures. Led by young people. Annually. limited duration. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated by young people. Facilitating interconnection processes. Animation. Permanent. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated by young people who were previously elected. Led by young people. predetermined frequency. limited duration. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in committees and working groups. Organizing and conducting the Youth Forum. |
| Products | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth trained in leadership and decision-making | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efficient and wide dissemination of information. Shared mechanisms in construction of knowledge. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations and proposals. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young perspective in the decision-making bodies. Coordination of the Interamerican Scout Youth Forum. |



Moving towards the future, Youth Involvement in action.

In 2013, I represented Scouts Canada in the Interamerican Leadership Training (ILT) I just took in Houston, Texas.

Participants were young scouts representing 33 countries in the region and during the course a passion for Scouting went on. In the ILT I received valuable leadership training; however, the most important was the exposure to different ways of thinking, beliefs and experiences with my fellow Scouts.

After my experience at ILT, I was inspired to continue my personal growth as well as my contribution to Scouting. In the months following ILT I applied for and was appointed as Scouts Canada's Assistant National Youth Commissioner - West. In this role I support other young leaders within my NSO to grow Scouting, ensure a quality program and have a meaningful contribution in their Councils. Outside of my NSO, I have also continued to be a part of the international Scouting community

Another area of my life that ILT and Scouting have impacted is my education and professional life. Because of the experiences and opportunities I've had, I've decided to switch my major in university from Education to Business Management. This has been a large change for me, but so many of my international Scouting experiences have similarities to the business world, and this area of study and work where I feel I excel and can have the greatest contribution to my community, my country and the world.

I am lucky to have been selected by to represent Scouts Canada at the Interamerican Leadership Training in 2013. The training inspired me to be the best I can be, and gave me invaluable Scouting connections from around the world.

The last thing that ILT introduced me to is some of the best friends I have ever made. I've been able to watch and support them grow on their own personal and Scouting journeys in the past few years, just as they have supported me on mine.

Marlissa Moro
Scouts Canada

YOUTH INVOLVEMENT MODELS AT REGIONAL LEVEL

CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity Building is the first Youth Involvement model, focused on leadership training for all young members of the National Scout Organizations. Access to this model should not be restricted or subject to any young member, since it is the basis for effective Youth Involvement at all levels of the organization.

This model of Youth Involvement is framed in regional and global plans and policies of Youth Programme and Youth Involvement and seeks to strengthen inter-institutional relations between the organizations and international and multi-lateral agencies.

The objectives of this model are:

- Development of diverse skills, useful for the individual, with which the youth can serve their NSO and their community.
- Create the perspective of personal and collective responsibility to develop awareness and personal commitment to positively impact the community in which the young person develops.
- Encourage participants to take responsibility at the institutional level.
- Promote the development and implementation of global and regional Youth Involvement policies.



The expected product of this model are young people between 18-29 years of age with diverse trained skills, motivated, interconnected with all other countries in the region and a regional vision focused on generating local impact.

It is intended that the experiences of leadership training implemented at regional level can be replicated nationwide. To achieve this, it is necessary to encourage high participation in the training at the regional level and in the organization of such training at national level (eg job shadowing, young people in positions of responsibility, etc.).

An example of capacity building model at regional level that is currently being implemented is the Interamerican Leadership Training.

INTERAMERICAN LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Introduction

The Interamerican Leadership Training - ILT, is a seven-day training for youth, designed to develop leadership skills and teamwork in young scouts proposed by National Scout Organizations of the Interamerican Region (IAR). During the training, participants are divided into teams consisting of six to eight scouts from different countries. Participants work together as a team, under the guidance of a young member of the staff whom is assigned to them. The integration between them forms relationships that helps strengthen their National Scout Organizations and helps to increase the impact of Scouting within their own communities.

Results

The ILT will yield both immediate and long term benefits. Right away, the participants learn leadership skills and teamwork that may have an impact on their respective NSO, as well as the scout units in their home communities. To complete the training, participants use the skills acquired (planning, knowledge and the use of group resources, the benefits of teamwork, etc.) to carry out Messengers of Peace projects in their respective communities.

It also encourages young people to share what they have learned in their respective NSO's.

Some of the long-term benefits include:

- More young people trained, who can become effective partners within their NSO and IAR for the next decade.
- Increase youth representation of the IAR in WOSM.
- Collect and establish a link between the young participants of all NSOs in the IAR.
- Contribute to the development of youth involvement at regional level.
- Help achieve Vision 2023 by providing participants the necessary skills to increase membership within their NSO.

The training and experience that attendees to the ILT get gives them the ability to transfer their skills and knowledge to a wider audience when they return to their respective NSO. Therefore, NSOs are invited to create spaces in which they can regain the skills that participants acquired during the ILT and transmit it to the youth within their NSO.

Other initiatives to help provide the resources needed to successfully implement these training courses in the NSOs are under development.

NSOs need to generate additional training opportunities to those already offered through the Youth Programme in the scout units, that offer young people the necessary skills to encourage their full participation in all levels of the Organization.

INTERAMERICAN YOUTH NETWORK

Background

At its meeting in January 2000, the Interamerican Scout Committee, in line with the policy adopted in October 1998 on setting up networks and working groups replacing ISC committees and Objective 21 of the Regional Plan 2000-2002 "it's time to grow," the Committee agreed to establish the Youth Network in accordance with the proposal of the Interamerican Scout Youth Forum held in Guadalajara, Mexico, in 1998 during the XX Interamerican Scout Conference adopted with its N°7 agreement.

What is a Network?

A network is a form of social interaction, defined as a dynamic exchange between individuals, groups and institutions in contexts of complexity. A permanent open system involving others who have the same needs and problems and that are organized to leverage their resources.

Objectives

- Facilitate and encourage the interconnection and exchange of best practices among its members and promote shared work experiences as a permanent process of shared construction of knowledge at regional level.
- Participate in the development of materials that promotes the exchange of information among young people, international cooperation, youth involvement in the processes of decision making and leadership skills of young people.
- Provide tools for young people to influence decision-making within the Scout Movement..



Members

The Interamerican Youth Network is a network of networks; therefore it consists of all national youth networks. Network coordination is done through the participation of its national correspondents and the Core Coordination Team.

The Core Coordination Team consists of two coordinators who are elected during the Interamerican Scout Youth Forum, an executive from the World Scout Bureau - Interamerica Support Center and a member of the Interamerican Scout Committee.

Organization

Youth Network can be defined as an open space for participation, in which various topics, projects and activities are discussed. Similarly, encourages collaboration between partners and develops projects to strengthen the scout brotherhood. It has the flexibility to create specific working groups according to the needs and / or projects emanating from the network.

Activities and projects of the network can be developed at local, national or regional level, provided they comply with the objectives, Mission and Vision of Scouting. Network activities will be defined by the same members of the Network.

For coordination of the Network, young people themselves elect two members to the Core Coordination Team, who need to have vision, be interested in the success of the network and have good communication skills. They are not those who have the authority, but those who take upon themselves the responsibility for maintaining a bond with the people who form the Network and give regular account of the results.

The Network keeps in touch via newsletters, mail groups, blogs or any electronic means that will allow everyone to be aware of what's going on.

Core Coordinator

Networks, for its horizontal nature, can not have power centers. In this sense, the main role of the Core Coordination Team is to encourage, promoting the communication flow (sharing objectives, information and actions) and be in contact with the different levels of the organization.

The Core Coordination Team encourages communication and works towards building actions. With this responsibility, they must perceive that the job requires focus on supporting flows within the network: putting people in touch with each other, give ideas, stimulate the production of information, are examples of the action.

The Core Coordination Team should be elected by the participants of the Interamerican Forum.

Profile of the members of the Core Coordination Team:

- Be between 18 and 26 years of age at the time of the election.
- Knowledge in networking and teamwork.
- Knowledge of virtual communication systems.
- Availability of time and commitment to participate in the Network.
- Possess skills for collaborative work.
- Access to Internet.
- Preferably speak English and Spanish satisfactorily.



Moving towards the future, Youth Involvement in action.

When I was 15 years old, I had the opportunity to participate for the first time at a regional event. It was the second Youth Network meeting. I didn't know much about the network then, but I was very interested in participating and learn as much as possible. Participating there, gave me a completely different vision of the Movement. It inspired me to learn more, to develop other skills, to have my own opinion and know how to express them to all, and learn from the experiences of others to transform my own reality.

My interest to continue being involved, led me to participate in the establishment of Youth Network Scouting Antiano and then to be chosen as Communicator of the Interamerican Youth Network. The experiences I gained in these processes, motivated me to get professionally involved in the development of Scouting, working right now as Executive to Support Operations at the World Scout Bureau Inter-america Support Centre.

Being from a very traditional island, it has been interesting to witness how Scouting has and still is changing traditions in my country. For the first time we have a national youth platform, which was proposed by the Scout Association to the government, and who gave the task of chairing this platform to the Association because Scouting Antiano already has experience in this area for several years.

Many people do not realize that we are constantly changing. That there is no right formula for everyone. But, what we all need to have in common, is the vision. Why youth involvement? Youth involvement is not simply achieved by giving young people the opportunity to express themselves and feel satisfied for having done this. But is to train them and give them the necessary support to develop themselves and have meaningful participation in decisions and actions that affect them and their surroundings. Therefore, I believe that we still have a long way to go, but I am very privileged to have witnessed the progress we have had in our region regarding youth involvement.

It all started with a yearning to participate and express our opinion, arriving today to have different platforms that empowers us and ensures the involvement and engagement of youth, hoping that this will soon become a daily practice.

Iliëne Corsen
WSB - ISC

INTERAMERICAN SCOUT YOUTH FORUM

The Youth Forum is an educational tool to support the process of development of Youth Involvement in WOSM. It is an event that empowers and inspires young people through a participatory approach, helping them develop skills in decision-making that can be used in Scouting and in society.

The Youth Forum is a space for information, training and concrete experience to discuss and gain a deeper understanding of different topics. It is also a source of inspiration, providing contact with new people, new ideas, innovative thinking, different experiences and working methods.

Background

The 33rd World Scout Conference adopted in 1993, the World Policy on Youth Involvement Members in Decision Making. This policy establishes, as a basic principle, that "Scouting is a youth movement, with the support of adults is not a movement for young people managed only adults Thus, Scouting offers the potential. of a learning community of young people and adults, working together in partnership of enthusiasm and experience. "

This policy makes it a responsibility - among others - of the World Organization of the Scout Movement to provide "opportunities for young adults to participate in the processes of decision making and training to be effective in such decision making" and organize " youth forums for the expression of views and for the training of young members in appropriate skills ".

The same Conference adopted Resolution 10/93 on Youth Forums, recognizing that these meetings "are a useful method to complement genuine participation of youth in decision-making at all levels". The same resolution recommended that "Youth Forums conducted in conjunction with all statutory meetings such as national general assemblies, regional and global conferences; these Youth Forums made recommendations and advise the statutory meetings and other decision-making; and that Youth Forum delegates also participate in these statutory meetings as delegates or observers. "

The Conference also decided that the World Scout Youth Forum should continue to be held immediately before the World Scout Conference, and as such, they allow more young members are better prepared for the World Scout Conference. It was decided that World Scout Youth Forum will be empowered to make recommendations they deem appropriate the World Scout Committee for consideration by the Committee.



In the Interamerican Scout Region, the Interamerican Youth Involvement Policy was approved at the 25th Interamerican Scout Conference held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2013.

Objectives

The objectives of the Interamerican Youth Forum are:

- Provide opportunity for young people to discuss topics of interest that affect them.
- Develop recommendations to the Interamerican Scout Conference on topics of interest.
- Provide young people with an opportunity to develop the skills needed in future decision-making bodies in Scouting and their life.
- Nurturing a space for the exchange of experiences among the young participants of the Forum.
- Suggest ways to strengthen National and Regional Policy of Youth Involvement, training young people for world citizenship, and bring new ideas to the Movement on how to enrich the Youth Programme.

Participants

The participants of the Interamerican Youth Forum are required to have:

- Experience in, or knowledge of, decision-making at institutional level within their National Scout Organization or regional level;
- experience in, or knowledge of, current issues being discussed at the regional level in the World Organization of the Scout Movement;
- experience in, or knowledge of, participation in conferences, development of recommendations; and
- experience in, or knowledge of, representation of young people.

The participants of the Interamerican Scout Youth Forum must be between 18 and 29 years old in the year of the Forum. All participants will require to be endorsed by their National Scout Organizations.

Gender, social, ethnic and geographical origins must be taken into account when participants are selected. Organizations with members of both sexes should try to ensure gender balance in the selection process.

Structure

Each National Scout Organization is invited to send at least one delegate to the Interamerican Scout Youth Forum. The maximum number of delegates for NSO will be defined by the Planning Committee of the Forum, taking into consideration the capacity of the site where it will be held. In the Interamerican Youth Forums there is no observer's role. Each delegation may cast a single vote on behalf of the National Scout Organization, regardless of the number of delegates at the Forum.

In the Interamerican Scout Youth Forum it is not allowed to use proxies.

At the time of registration each delegate will be required to submit an official letter of appointment clearly indicating the role of the delegate, signed by the National President, Executive Director, International Commissioner or other responsible official of the National Scout Organization.



The Planning Committee of the Interamerican Scout Youth Forum can invite others to attend some plenary sessions of the Forum as visitors, who may have the right to speak but is not entitled to vote. The age limits mentioned above do not apply for visitors.

The Planning Committee of the Interamerican Youth Forum will consist of:

- The two Youth Advisors elected by the delegates to the Interamerican Youth Forum in the previous Forum;
- the two coordinators of the Interamerican Youth Network;
- a representative of the host National Scout Organization;
- a member of the Interamerican Scout Committee; and
- executives of the World Scout Bureau - Support Centre Interamerica, giving specific support to the Forum.

Operation

The Interamerican Scout Committee is ultimately responsible for the agenda and procedures of the Interamerican Youth Forum and the Host Committee is responsible for the facilities and support services. However, these committees delegate to young members the planning, organization and operation of this type of event.

The Planning Committee of the Interamerican Youth Forum has the following functions:

- recommend to the Interamerican Scout Committee for approval, the main content of the program and agenda of the Interamerican Youth Forum;
- prepare information for National Scout Organizations on the main topics to be discussed in the Forum prior to the event;
- developing the detailed program and agenda of the Forum;

- choose the working methods of the Forum, favoring the development of skills, opportunities, discussions and working in groups;
- inform participants about their role both within the Forum itself, and within their Association after the Forum;
- define a roadmap with deadlines.

Products

The expected products of the Interamerican Youth Forum are:

- A report which will be presented during the Interamerican Scout Conference, and including:
 - the major events occurred during the Forum;
 - the proposed resolutions to be submitted for approval by the Interamerican Scout Conference.
- A Final Declaration, ie, a statement summarizing the main concerns or messages that participants want to share with the World Organization of the Scout Movement or the world.
- Election of the two Youth Advisors and the two coordinators of the Interamerican Youth Network.



YOUTH ADVISORY SYSTEM

Background

Youth involvement in decision-making has been addressed several times in Conference resolutions dating back even to 1969. More specifically, in Resolution 13/69 “the Conference urges member countries to include in their delegations to World Conferences at least one young adult qualified by experience to participate.” This was followed by a series of Resolutions “recognizing the value of youth participation in decision-making” (Resolution 15/88, Melbourne Australia) culminating in an adoption of the “Policy on Involvement of Young Members in Decision-Making” (Resolution 2/93, Bangkok, Thailand).

After 1993, a series of measures have been taken in order to enhance youth involvement in World level WOSM structures (in particular, the World Scout Youth Forum has been held immediately prior to a World Scout Conference, and a group of six Youth Advisors to the World Scout Committee has been elected since 2005). Many WOSM Regions have also adopted and adjusted the concept of a “Youth Forum” and a “Youth Advisors” group.

In 2002, at the 36th World Scout Conference, Youth Involvement has been adopted as WOSM Strategic Priority No 1. This was followed by a couple of resolutions on Youth Involvement (11/05, Hammamet, Tunisia and 14/08, Jeju, Korea) and a Vision and Strategy for Youth Involvement in Decision- Making adopted in resolution 8/11 (Curitiba, Brazil). The Vision statement was adopted as follows:

“Young people are empowered to develop their capacities for making decisions that affect their lives; and engage in decision-making in the groups and institutions in which they are involved, so that they actively contribute to creating a better world.”

Based on this process the Interamerican Scout Committee has approved in April 2016 to establish a youth advisory system where Interamerican Scout Youth Forum elects two (2) Youth Advisors, whose role is to increase youth involvement in the decision making of the organization. They are elected for a three-year term and take part in the meetings of the Interamerican Scout Committee. Youth Advisors are required to have 18 to 26 years of age at the time of the election, and cannot be more than one Youth Advisor per country.



Objectives

- Increase youth involvement in decision making of the organization with active participation.
- Encourage the representation of the Region in internal or external events or activities promoting the image, principles, values and vision of Scouting.
- Support and promote regional and global strategies based on global and regional policies.
- Strengthen youth involvement in decision-making related to the World and Regional Youth Involvement Policy.

Purpose Youth Advisors model at the regional level

Increase youth participation in decision-making and strengthen the participation of young people within the Scout Movement is a key issue of the World Organization of the Scout Movement. Youth Advisors system was initially created at global level with the spirit of having the perspective of young people in the governing bodies of the Organization, and is regarded as an interim measure to achieve the goal. Youth Advisors have the responsibility to work for the World Organization of the Scout Movement in its entirety and not just for the young members of the organization - however should note that elected Youth Advisors at the Interamerican Scout Youth Forum have responsibility to work according to their responsibilities.

Responsibilities of Youth Advisors Interamerican Scout Committee

Youth Advisors support the Interamerican Scout Committee as follows:

- Given the working structure of the Interamerican Scout Committee, this should include attending meetings and taking responsibility in the working groups.
- Through working groups, the Youth Advisors must be willing to promote reflection and debate within the Interamerican Scout Committee with genuine opinions, views and proposals of the youth members of the Region (herefore they can rely on the Youth Network).
- Youth Advisors have an open invitation to all meetings of the Interamerican Scout Committee; during these meetings the Youth Advisors have the right to speak and make suggestions.
- The Youth Advisors have to be committed to attend meetings of the Interamerican Scout Committee and be part of the work teams or commissions defined by the Interamerican Scout Committee with specific individual proposals.
- The Youth Advisors may represent the World Organization of the Scout Movement.
- Review and update the guide for the Interamerican Youth Forum.

Other responsibilities of the Youth Advisors:

- The Youth Advisors will be part of the Organizing Committee of the next Interamerican Scout Youth Forum according to the guide of the Forum.
- Youth Advisors recommend the Interamerican Scout Committee for approval, the main content of the program and agenda of the next Forum Interamerican Scout.
- Youth Advisors should communicate with young people through the communication platform of the Youth Network.



- The Youth Advisors shall submit a report of their activities by the end of the triennium during the next Interamerican Scout Youth Forum.
- The Youth Advisors must submit regular reports on their work to the Interamerican Scout Committee.
- The Youth Advisors must submit a final report summarizing their work in the triennium to the Interamerican Scout Committee.

Nomination and election process

Six months prior to the Interamerican Scout Youth Forum, the World Scout Bureau Interamerica Support Centre shall notify the National Scout Organizations of the election process of two Youth Advisors and ask member organizations to nominate candidates no more than seven weeks prior to the Forum.

Candidates must be between 18 and 26 years at the time of the election. In any case, the National Scout Organizations can choose and nominate one single candidate.

The nomination of the candidate must gain endorsement or approval of its National Scout Organization. The list of all nominees will be sent to all member organizations before the Forum and other candidates are not accepted later. The nominee's consent must be obtained and validated by the National Scout Organization before being sent.

Youth Advisors candidates must be delegates at the Interamerican Scout Youth Forum in which the election will be held.

Delegates to the Interamerican Scout Youth Forum will elect the Youth Advisors for the period from the upcoming Conference till the next one. The Forum will elect the Youth Advisors by secret ballot from a list of nominees submitted to the National Scout Organizations.

Youth Advisors do not represent their National Scout Organization. In addition, as one of the foundations of the World Organization of the Scout Movement which states "promote the unity of the Scout Movement" (World Constitution of the Scout Movement WOSM, Article IV, 2), all National Scout Organizations are invited to make nominations, trying to promote a geographical balance and gender of the Youth Advisors.

The National Scout Organization who nominates its candidate for the post of Youth Advisor must ensure that this person is a delegate to the Interamerican Scout Conference.

Youth Advisors are not eligible for re-election.

The Election Process

- The election of the two Youth Advisors is for the period between the Regional Conference to the next Regional Conference.
- Will be elected by secret ballot.
- The two Youth Advisors shall be elected by a simple majority of voters.
- Each National Scout Organization with voting rights present at the Interamerican Scout Forum is entitled to one vote with which they can choose up to two people.

Vacancies

The two Youth Advisors of the Interamerican Scout Committee are elected at the Interamerican Scout Youth Forum. However, if a vacancy occurs before the next Forum, the Youth Advisors may appoint a successor to take office until the next Youth Forum, who:

- Will be the next person on the list of the results of the election of candidates for the position of Youth Advisor (for example, the third person in the results).
- If the person who was in the third place in the election is not available, the Youth Advisors may, at their discretion, choose the most suitable person for the position, considering the results of the election, geographical distribution and gender balance.

A vacancy occurs if:

- A Youth Advisor renounces to his/her position on his/her own initiative.
- A Youth Advisory fails to meet his/her responsibilities for more than four months or unavailable during this period.

In the first case, the vacancy will occur automatically. In the second case, the Youth Advisor will be contacted for a clarification of his/her absence. If there is no response from within 30 days of receiving the request, or if the response is unsatisfactory to the Executive Committee of the Interamerican Scout Committee, the person shall be deemed to have resigned.

Support for Youth Advisors

The World Scout Bureau - Interamerican Support Center is responsible for supporting, connecting and coordinating all matters pertaining to the Youth Advisors.

Travel and accommodation expenses for attendance at the meetings of the Interamerican Scout Committee (according to the expenditure policy of the Interamerican Scout Committee) and participation in the Interamerican Scout Youth Forum and Interamerican Scout Conference are covered by the Region. Innovation and less expensive communication options are highly recommended.

Transition

To ensure a smooth transition of knowledge and experience between generations of the Youth Advisors at regional level, it is important to create a renovation plan for the success of the Youth Advisors system. To achieve this goal requires:

- Arrange a meeting with a joint agenda between the two generations of the Interamerican Youth Advisors.
- Each new Youth Advisor should choose one of the previous Youth Advisors as a consultant/support until the next meeting of the Interamerican Scout Committee.

The regional Youth Advisors System was taken and adapted from the documents: World Scout Youth Involvement Policy 2014 WOSM and Role of the Youth Advisors (2014).





Youth Involvement requires from adults the necessary understanding and patience to listen, understand and positively convey their experiences to collaborate on the development of young people.

The dreams and hopes of our youth and children will become sooner or later renewed energy for society and the world, encouraging them to become more human and sensitive citizens, and aware of the important role they play in society, with the right to have a voice and be an active part of the decisions that affect them.

We must help them to be happy and to make others happy as well, young people and adults together in building a better world.

Leonardo Morales Morales

Chairman

Interamerican Scout Committee 2013-2016





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