Reviewing and Innovating World Scout Events Summary

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SCOUTING DEVELOPMENT

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Introduction

World Scout events have been an important glue that has kept the Movement growing and united. For more than one hundred years, these events have played a crucial role in program development and as testing ground for new ideas. In addition to the crucial development of the participants and leaders, it has also developed and unified the youth program in individual countries. Over the last 20 years, we have seen a growth in the number of participants, the demand for service and quality of the events. Keeping the event a joint effort rather than something a participant consumes is important. We recognise that the growth in size and, to an extent, service and quality demands a much stronger support mechanism for the World Scout Bureau, and we urge World Scouting to put more resources, staff and volunteers to support the events in the future. But we also respect and support the idea that most events are run by and supported by one or an alliance of strong NSOs that put their love and hard work into delivering the event, and when we get a great event is when we have harmony between these two levels.

Participating in World Scout events allows young people to embody the principles of Scouting on a global scale, contributing to their personal development, fostering international cooperation, and promoting the values of friendship, understanding, and peace. World Scout events create opportunities for cultural exchanges. Young people get the opportunity to experience and appreciate diverse cultures, traditions, and lifestyles. This exposure helps them develop a broader perspective and an appreciation for the richness of global diversity. They have an opportunity to interact with peers which fosters a global understanding, embracing diversity and friendship. The Scout Movement promotes the ideals of peace, cooperation, and understanding. Through World Scout events, young people actively engage in activities that promote peacebuilding, dialogue, and cooperation among nations. By participating in World Scout events, they gain insights into global issues, environmental challenges and social concerns, fostering a sense of responsibility for making positive contributions to the world. World Scout events provide an opportunity for young people to come together and celebrate the spirit of Scouting. They share common values, traditions, and a commitment to making a positive impact on their communities and the world.

Process

A project team was put in place in September 2022 consisting of 10 members, representing all regions of WOSM. The team met online regularly over the past 18 months. Sub teams were formed to look at the original nine objectives set out for the project team. An in-person meeting of 6 of the team members was held at the beginning of February 2024 to collate all the information in a report and revise the guidelines.

NSOs were given multiple opportunities to participate in a structured dialogue about the review and innovation of World Scout events, but only one NSO provided substantive input.

Remit of Project Team

The project team worked on nine outcomes identified for the project as per the Triennial plan, which includes the resolutions from the 41st World Scout Conference.

The team considered all World Scout events, namely the World Scout Jamboree, World Scout Moot, World Scout Conference, World Scout Education Congress and JOTA JOTI. The team did not concentrate on JOTA-JOTI as the JOTA-JOTI global team has done a review of the event and has their own recommendations. However where felt necessary JOTA-JOTI was incorporated in the discussions and recommendations.

Deliverables for the project team:

Review and innovate all World Scout Events, with a strong involvement of NSOs, to ensure they are designed and implemented for access, accessibility, impact, inclusion, and participation of all young people.

- Review the format of World and Regional Scout Events in relationship to cost effectiveness;
- Review the format of World Scout Events to increase accessibility;
- Review the design and implementation of World Scout Events to strengthen (environmental) sustainability, making the WOSM guidelines for organising sustainable events an integral part of the Guidelines for event bidders, being mindful of national context;
- Innovate on the inclusion of all young people and the positive impact this can have on Scout members;
- Explore ways to use digital technologies and learnings from the pandemic to allow for a greater number of young people around the world to participate in international events in the future;
- Review the format of World Scout Events to strengthen the role of Scouting in peace-building;
- Alignment with Regional Scout Events through content, timing, format, and support.
- Reviewing solidarity operations to ensure they are adapted to the post-pandemic context.
- Review the World Scout Event guidelines and support to event Hosts from a risk management and resilience perspective, in line with Conference Resolution 2021-09, including:
  - Supporting the Hosts of World Scout Events in developing a holistic risk mitigation strategy for the event, including financial management, insurance guidance and contingency planning both from a Host and participant perspective.

In addition, the WSC requested the team to consider Accredited sites for World Scout events during their September 2022 meeting.

Overview of Recommendations

Recommendation	Where to action
2.1. General	
a. Best Practices Toolbox: WSB takes initiative in establishing a best-practice toolbox as the vessel to ensure the best hand-over of knowledge and experience from event to event and define suitable processes to ensure that the event hosts produce to respectively consumes from the toolbox.	Guideline & Strategy
2.2. Cost Effectiveness & Solidarity	
a. *Increased Solidarity Fund*: The current minimum level of solidarity of an event is increased from the current 2.5% level to 10%, with the 10% being calculated from the projected income on fees.	Strategy, World Scout Committee
b. *World Scout event Fees*: The fee of World Scout events is disconnected from the fee-system regulating membership fees, and that a flat-fee structure for World Scout events is introduced, which enables transparency, increases revenue funding that enables a 10% Solidarity requirement on the event, resulting in more diversity and access to World Scout events.	Strategy, World Scout Committee
c. *Contingent Fee Design*: The host and WOSM provide training and resources to Contingents regarding how they design their contingent fee. Specifically, the host and WOSM can provide training and resources in how to make the event accessible to a wide range of young people through application of solidarity funding, reducing travel costs, and differentiated participation models that may allow participants to opt-out of costly tours. The initiative should be included in the best-practice toolbox.	Strategy
d. *Global Sponsorship*: The WSB/WSC explore the options for a global sponsor programme, related to one or more of the World Scout events, and connects the sponsorship to the solidarity operation wherever possible (such as airline sponsorship to reduce travel cost).	Strategy
e. *Significant Profit Level*: The WSB/WSC look into establishing guidelines that defines the term "significant profit level" and suitable processes/guidelines for spending parts of the profit in the support of solidarity, recognising that the event utilises the WOSM brand. Significant Profit Level should be defined as the profit exceeding an expected/acceptable level.	Guidelines & Strategy
f. *Scope of Solidarity Programme:* The guidelines are updated, to ensure that: i. the Solidarity program is designed to support category A and B countries (World Bank index, three years before event). ii. NSOs are encouraged to create their own Solidarity programmes. iii. The important role of the WSB in terms of guidance, coordination and cooperation in the implementation of the Solidarity program.	Guidelines
g. *Expanding support for exploring and identifying funding opportunities:* The Host Organisation is encouraged to utilize the vast experience of the WSB, within the field of fundraising.	Guidelines

2.3. Risk Management

a. *Increase capacity*: Strengthen the professional staff in WSB supporting events by increasing the number of paid staff and engaging WOSM volunteers to assist with specific areas of expertise.

Strategy

b. *Strengthen planning stage*: Strengthen volunteers in supporting the event, at an early stage of the planning process.

Guidelines

c. *Budget setting*: Clarify transparency in budget-setting and financial management responsibilities in Event Guidelines and a comprehensive budget to be set at least two years before the event and that any changes to the budget to be managed through the Host Agreement.

Guidelines

d. *Implementing the WOSM Purple team*: Using the Purple team, supporting the planning and delivery of World Scout events, especially a WSJ, is valuable. WOSM should ensure that they are activated timely, during the planning phase to ensure that they contribute and bring value to the event.

Strategy & WSC

e. *Establishing an Advisory Committee*: A formal Review and Advisory Committee is established, which has the mandate and resources to conduct sufficient and independent review and control of an event, with the following properties.
   1. Appointed by the World Scout Committee, working independently from, but close to, the WSB support team and the World Scout Committee.
   2. Appointed and activated timely and at the latest when the planning phase is initiated.
   3. Has the mandate and resources to utilise external consultants.
   4. Issues reports to WSC and NSOs and executes advisory service.
   5. This committee shall be funded through the event budget.
   6. The committee must be put in place for WSJs and can be put in place for other World Scout events.

Strategy, Guideline & WSC

f. *Risk Management Framework:* The Host Organisation must establish a comprehensive risk management framework for the event. The framework must include a thorough risk assessment of the preparatory, planning and delivery phases of the event, along with a crisis management plan. This plan should detail arrangements for the evacuation of the site. A crisis management structure and plan, with representation from the World Scout Committee at the decision-making level, shall be defined. Encompassing logistical, financial, operational, and external factors. The Risk Register facilitates proactive planning by developing strategies to mitigate, transfer, or accept identified risks. Regular Risk Reporting to the WSB is crucial to complement the risk management process.

Guidelines, Host Agreement, Strategy & WSC

g. *Insurance:* The Host Organisation must obtain public liability and event cancellation insurance to cover the duration of the event.

Guidelines

h. *Site Readiness:*
   i. The selected event site must be appropriate in terms of size, accessibility, and physical terrain to accommodate the planned activities of the event. Prior approval of the site from the World Scout Committee is mandatory, and the proposed site must be formally presented to the World Scout Conference as part of the bid to secure the role of Host Organisation for the event.
   ii. Stress testing of the site is a critical aspect of the selection process. Geo-physical engineering tests should be conducted during the bid phase, two years before the event, and one year before the event, where appropriate.

Guidelines, Host Agreement & WSC

iii. A mandatory pre-Jamboree, in the case of a World Scout Jamboree and World Scout Moot, scheduled at least one year before the event. This proactive measure aims to identify and mitigate any weaknesses in the site's capacity to handle the anticipated load.

2.4. Accessibility: Increasing accessibility for people with disabilities and members of minority groups

a. *Define inclusion and minority*: The World Scout Committee adopts a list of groups who should be targeted in future 'inclusion' or 'minority' initiatives using the outcome of the Diversity and Inclusion data project outcomes, which are due to be released in February 2024.	WSC
b. *Level of standards*: The World Scout Committee undertake to work towards the 'exceeds requirements' standards for the relevant indicators in the Entity Accountability Framework of the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy, while embracing the two Key Elements of 'Inclusiveness' and 'Organisational Culture'.	WSC

c. *Achieving the standards*: The World Scout Committee convene a project team to work towards achieving the relevant standards outlined in the Framework. The work of this team should include a focus on:
  i. Fostering an understanding and appreciation of the topic and its importance in the Movement.
  ii. Outlining expected standards in World Scout event Guidelines/ Requirements and Contracts.
  iii. Creating and sharing opportunities for up-skilling and sharing of best practices and resources to support MOs to be able to achieve these standards in their work.
  iv. Integrating the monitoring and evaluation of this component into existing event support systems.
  v. Exploring meaningful ways for adults with disabilities to engage in World Scout events, either as IST or participants, as appropriate.
  vi. Expanding eligibility criteria for forming of contingents or delegations with consideration given to refugees and disadvantaged youth.
	WSC, Future Guidelines

d. *Continuing the work*: It is recommended that this work of the project team, be included in the next Strategy for Scouting under the Diversity and Inclusion strategic priority.	Next Strategy for Scouting
e. *Over the Short term*: A shorter term option to progress work on this topic would be to identify a list of groups which need to be considered in any inclusion or accessibility initiatives (for example, the list due to be published at the end of February 2024) and then create a matrix to assist those involved in planning events to consider some pro-accessibility measures in their work. This matrix embraces the principles of universal design for learning and promotes innovation tools in event and activity design. It is recommended that the matrix should be completed in consultation with representatives from members of each of the identified groups.	Strategy

2.5. Accessibility: Youth Engagement

a. *Increasing accessibility for young people*: The work to progress the Youth Engagement strategy, which most recently has been the WSC's report in 2023, be considered in the context of innovating World Scout events, particularly in increasing the accessibility and inclusion of young people in all aspects of events, including their role in planning, delivering and participating in events. It is considered that the recommendations and measures outlined in the report are reviewed in the specific context of events and integrated into the Strategy for World Scout events.

Strategy

b. *Over the Short term*: As an interim measure, the matrix referenced in relation to supporting people with disabilities and members of minority groups, is completed with a focus on young people, identifying key actions and considerations which should be implemented in each of the areas to increase the inclusion of young people in all aspects of World Scout events. This matrix embraces the principles of universal design for learning and promotes innovation in event and activity design.

Strategy

2.6. Accessibility: Increasing the Diversity in the Range of Host Countries

a. *Identify one NSO per region*: Consider the possibility of each Regional Office to identify at least one NSO which would be suitable to host a WOSM event and work with the NSO to complete a viability study with the view to progress to a host bid. Consider the types of venue available within an NSO and the type of event it may be best suited to host.

Strategy

b. *Training*: Identify potential training opportunities and promote knowledge sharing amongst NSOs with prior experience of hosting World Scout events (for more details on this please refer to 3. General)

Strategy

c. *Support*: Continued support to NSOs in open and honest discussions prior to bidding for a World Scout event.

Strategy

d. *Alliances*: Support alliance-hosted events and update event requirements to include and reference new section on alliance hosts.

Strategy

2.7. Accessibility: Exploring how the Culture and Laws of a County may Impact on its Viability as a Host Country

a. *Minimum inclusivity and acceptance*: It is recommended that the World Scout Committee determine if there is essential minimum inclusivity and acceptance to enable an NSO to bid to host an event.

WSC

b. *Safe from Harm*: It is recommended that a minimum 'Safe from Harm' level of compliance (implementation) should be in place before a host bid is endorsed.

WSC

c. *Support*: It is recommended that as part of the work to increase accessibility of events, identify necessary supports to promote the implementation of those accessibility measures, such as mitigating the cost implementing such initiatives may require, regardless of the size or location of an event.

Strategy

2.8. Digital Engagement

a.	*Guidelines*: Develop guidelines for digital engagement in World Scout events, and incorporate into the Guidelines for World Scout events.	Strategy & Future guidelines
b.	*During the Bidding process:* In the bidding process and contract negotiation for World Scout events, require bidders to outline how they propose to:	Strategy, Future guidelines & Host Agreement

    i. Use digital technology to engage people who are not physically present at the event.

    ii. Use digital technology to enhance the experience of live participants, and in this way also enable events to become hybrid (live and virtual) to some degree.

    iii. Use digital technology, such as mobile apps, to communicate to all participants, and key groups (such as IST, HOC/CMT, Unit Leaders, and all Participants) about event details, including health and safety, weather events, programming, and emergency preparedness.

    iv. Consider new technologies or virtual events to achieve WOSM's mission and goals.

    v. Ensure sufficient infrastructure (charging points and Wi-Fi) to enable all participants on-site at an event to access proposed opportunities for digital engagement.

c.	*Engaging participants remotely*: For World Scout events, WOSM and the event hosts should consider the educational goals of the event and how digital tools could engage participants remotely. This may result in new or expanded capabilities (and staffing/budget implications) for event hosts and/or WOSM to invest in equipment, training, and tools for digital delivery. For example, rather than viewing digital delivery as simply a social media (often low quality) "broadcast", how can key world elements in the core design of the event be integrated, including:	Strategy, Future guidelines & Host Agreement

    i. Daily broadcasts

    ii. WOSM events, including "Better World" programming

    iii. Partner engagement

    iv. Ceremonies (Shows) that are designed for both live and broadcast engagement

    v. Safe from Harm and Listening Ear training and interactions, and

    vi. Opportunities for participants to authentically interact digitally.

d.	*One digital platform*: Consider developing an event digital platform or structure that can be adapted for its events, and work with each event host to customize it for each event.	Strategy
e.	*Resources*: Develop and deploy resources to support enhanced digital experience, including additional staff and technical tools (software, hardware, training, etc.), to assist event hosts and NSOs in the design, delivery, and measurement of using digital tools to engage participants.	Strategy
f.	*Digital only events*: Strengthen "digital only" events to engage youth and young adults in WOSM initiatives. These might include youth forums, leadership training, earth tribe idea sharing, networks, and cultural exchanges.	Strategy
g.	*Data Protection:* Ensure the processing and secure storage of personal data pertaining to individuals and registered participants, with security measures align to internationally recognized standards, as well as compliance with data privacy regulations, including GDPR.	Guidelines

h. *Solidarity for Digital Events:* Identify the need for funding to assist NSOs to participate in digital or hybrid events to increase engagement and equity for governance events (such as World Scout Conferences and Regional Conferences) and how the host funds such accommodations through a solidarity programme (for example, if reliable internet service is required to participate virtually in a World Scout Conference).

Strategy & Future guidelines

2.9. Environmental Sustainability

a. *Maintain current arrangement*: Maintain in the host agreement that the host agrees to implement the WOSM Guidelines for organising sustainable events.

Host Agreement

b. *Set minimum standard*: In the Annex of the WOSM Guidelines for organising sustainable events, the scoring is used and that as a minimum the host achieves in the short term "More improvements are needed" as a minimum standard.

Guideline & Host Agreement

c. *Case studies*: Include in the existing training for bidders case studies they could use as inspiration.

Strategy

d. *Standard offsetting mechanism*: Identify an offsetting mechanism and that hosts partake in the mechanism proposed by the WSC/WSB.

Strategy

e. *Bidding process*: Encourage bidders to promote the sustainable plan they are developing for the event.

Strategy

f. *Plan and monitoring*: Ensure the Host develops a sustainability plan as part of the requirements and reports to the World Scout Committee on the progress on a regular basis.

Guidelines

g. Work closely with existing hosts to help them strengthen the environmental sustainability of their events. Further work can be done by:
   i. Connecting Hosts with past World Scout event Hosts to learn from challenges and best practices.
   ii. Connecting Hosts with relevant government agencies.
   iii. Connecting Hosts with national and international experts on sustainable events.
   iv. Connect Hosts with volunteers/staff/NGO that can assist with the implementation of an assessment tool to measure the impact.
   v. Working with local environmental groups.
   vi. Diverting the Hosts toward national and international sustainable brands and products.

Strategy

h. *Continuous improvement*: The WSB to monitor and evaluate the impact of these efforts over time, and use the insights gained to refine and improve the sustainability guidelines and support provided to event organisers. This will ensure that World Scout Events continue to set the standard for sustainable event organising and that they remain a powerful platform for promoting environmental awareness and action among young people around the world.

Strategy

i. *Event Bidders*: Make the Sustainability guidelines an integral part of the Guidelines for event bidders. This will ensure that all future World Scout Events are designed with sustainability in mind from the outset and that potential hosts are fully aware of the expectations and requirements for organising a sustainable event.

Guidelines for Bidders

j. *Environmental Education*: Encourage hosts to continue to incorporate environmental sustainability with partnering with the Scouting Development team in line with existing educational frameworks.	Guidelines

k. *Souvenirs*: Reiterate the limits to producing souvenirs for events.

2.10. Site Accreditation

a. Do not recommend that WOSM accredit event sites. The existing guidelines and the safeguards recommended in this report are sufficient to assure safe and adequate facilities. In addition, it is our recommendation that resources of both WSB and host organisation are prioritised to evaluating and improving the guidelines.	WSC

2.11. Peace Building

a. *Tools and mindsets*: To equip participants with tools and mindsets to fulfil our mission, integrate peace building activities into World Scout events, specifically in the areas of recognising implicit bias and promoting cross-cultural competence.	Strategy
b. *Assessment*: Develop KPIs and qualitative and quantitative assessment methods to measure impact of peace building activities and include in a holistic M&E framework.	Strategy

2.12. Alignment between World and Regional Events

a. *Focus on alignment of World and Regional Scout Conferences*: It is recommended that the Strategy for World Scout events include a focus on aligning World and Regional Events with an initial objective to build on recent developments in aligning World and Regional Scout Conferences, and a subsequent objective of exploring additional measures to coordinate the support offered to Regional Events, including:	Strategy

   i. A coordinated approach to scheduling events, overseen by WSB staff with input from Regional Scout Committees.

   ii. Toolkits for different common events (e.g. ILT, Conferences, Jamborees), which could include:
- proposed timeline for preparing and delivering the event.
- draft programme outline for the event.
- a standard volunteer organisation and management model for the event.
- a template for reviewing the event.
- guidance on key risk-mitigation considerations for the event.

   iii. A suite of WOSM-endorsed tools to support the administration of events, including:
- website templates for different types of events.
- a standard event registration tool.

   iv. An agreed level of input/support from WSB staff for different types of events.

2.13. Other Considerations

a. *Name change*: Change 'Guidelines' to 'Requirements for Event Hosts'.
b. *Safe from Harm*: Update Requirements to reflect Safe from Harm best practices, mostly informed by work of the Safe from Harm team.
c. *Oversight and coordination role of WSC*: Update Requirements to clarify decision-making processes to re-emphasise oversight and coordination role of WSC.
d. *Health Regulations*: It is recommended that to update and sharpen the rules regarding Alcohol, Narcotics, Tobacco, Vaping, and E-cigarettes. Different cultures have different rules and traditions regarding this, to level that diversity a simple, zero-tolerance principle is set.

2.14. Event Formats

a. *In short term*: Review the recommendations made as set out in the report above.

Strategy

b. *In the long term:* 2024-2027 World Scout Committee create a team to investigate the feasibility of having more WSJs and WSMs by having more than one location in an event year, reducing the years between the events, or utilising regional events more effectively to reach the aims of World Scout events. Calculate the resources needed within the WSB to accommodate such changes.

Strategy & WSC

The scope of the recommendations in this report also underscored the importance of World Scout events to the mission of Scouting, and the need for WOSM to increase WSB staff and WOSM volunteer support in the Events area, specifically to provide an increased level of support to hosts, and oversight of increasingly complex events.

The full report is available on request. Please email events@scout.org.

Reviewing and Innovating World Scout events project team
15 February 2024