

Ready for Life

Equipping young people
with the skills and values
to shape the life they lead





Introduction



Young people face an uncertain world shaped by climate crises, social unrest, and economic instability. With 1.8 billion youth globally, urgent investment in their development is vital.

World Scouting responds with a bold vision:



to empower every young person through transformative, values-based education rooted in the Scout Promise and Law.

Since 1907, Scouting has reached over 500 million lives and now unites over 60 million Scouts across 176 countries. Its global, grassroots network equips youth with skills, confidence, and purpose - ensuring they are ready for life.

This pack shares how Scouting transforms lives and why investing in it builds a more peaceful, inclusive, and resilient world.

Scouting in Numbers



60 million

young people and adult volunteers actively involved in Scouting worldwide.



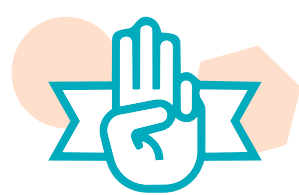
176

National Scout Organizations in 224 countries and territories – a truly global presence.



2.7 billion

hours of community service contributed by Scouts since 2013 through Messengers of Peace initiative.



2.5 billion

people reached through Scouting's global initiatives spreading awareness and action for the SDGs.



1 million

local Scout groups engaging youth in their communities in every corner of the world.



16 million

local service projects undertaken by Scouts since 2013, each addressing local needs and global goals.



Growth and Momentum

Fast-growing movement

23.9 million new members joined Scouting between 2005 and 2024, including over 7.7 million in just the last four years.

One Scout every 17 seconds

On average, a young person joins the Scout Movement every 17 seconds – making Scouting the world's fastest-growing youth educational movement.

100,000 service hours per week

Around the world, Scouts contribute nearly 100,000 hours of voluntary community service every week, year-round.

These numbers illustrate Scouting's scale and reach. Each statistic represents real-world impact – millions of young people learning by doing, serving others, and spreading positive change.



The Challenge

Today's young people face a complex set of global challenges that threaten their well-being and future.

- Traditional education systems often fail to equip them with practical skills and leadership experience, leaving a significant gap in preparedness for 21st-century life.
- Youth unemployment remains disproportionately high, and many young people are excluded from economic participation.
- A growing mental health crisis, marked by high rates of depression and suicide, underscores the need for support, mentorship, and safe spaces.

- Social inequities further compound these issues, especially for girls, marginalized groups, and youth affected by poverty, violence, or displacement.
- Young people are already bearing the brunt of the climate crisis but are too often excluded from decision-making.

Despite these challenges, young people today remain resilient, creative, and ready to lead. What they lack is access and opportunity. Investing in youth development is no longer optional - it is an urgent global imperative. By equipping young people with the skills, values, and platforms to lead change, we unlock their potential as drivers of a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world. This is where Scouting makes a critical difference.

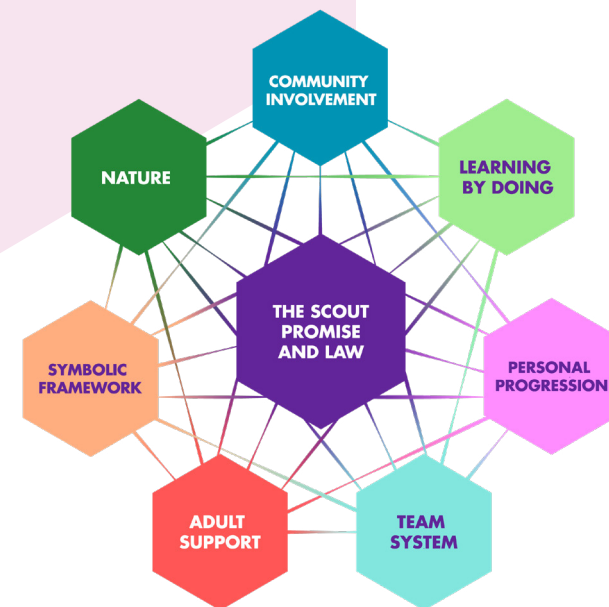




Scouting as part of the Solution

Our Approach

World Scouting provides a proven, youth-centered solution through non-formal education that complements formal schooling. Its “learning by doing” approach helps young people build practical skills, resilience, and leadership through real-world experiences, teamwork, and service. Scouting nurtures empathy, ethics, and problem-solving - preparing young people for life while fostering global citizenship and empowering them to create positive change in their communities.



The Scout Method

The Scout Method is a holistic approach to youth development that empowers young people through progressive self-education. It combines learning by doing, teamwork, leadership, outdoor activities, and community service within a values-based framework.

As Scouts grow, they take on increasing responsibility with adult mentorship, building confidence, independence, and decision-making skills. This youth-led model fosters inclusivity, personal growth, and aligns with global education principles like diversity and solidarity.

In essence, Scouting empowers young people to become leaders of their own learning journey and active citizens in their communities.



What We Do

World Scouting supports our global network of National Scout Organizations (NSOs) by strengthening their capacity to deliver high-quality Scouting to young people worldwide. Member Organizations have access to a broad range of services, resources, grants, and expert guidance, offered both virtually and in person, to enhance their growth and development.

In addition to direct support, World Scouting empowers young people to create positive change in their communities through global initiatives such as Scouts for SDGs and the Global Youth Mobilization. These programmes encourage youth-led action for peace and sustainable development.

Finally, World Scouting also delivers world-class local, national, regional, and global events that foster friendship, cross-cultural exchanges, learning, and global citizenship, making them a central part of the Scouting experience.



Our Impact



Since 1907, Scouting has proven impact in transforming young lives and strengthening communities. Independent studies and countless personal stories all point to the same conclusion: Scouts gain critical life advantages and go on to create positive ripple effects in society.

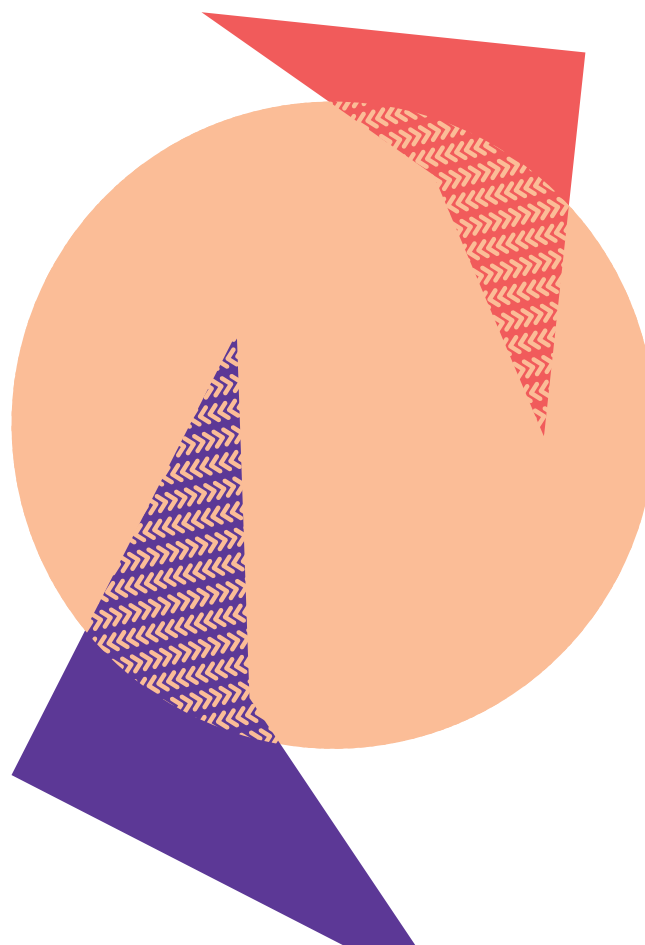


These outcomes are echoed by further studies showing former Scouts have higher community involvement, better environmental stewardship, and improved mental health in adulthood. A 2020 UK study linked childhood Scouting to better mental well-being later in life. The research confirms what generations of Scouts and educators have observed: Scouting equips young people not only for immediate impact but for lifelong success. Investing in Scouting is investing in future-ready leaders, compassionate citizens, and resilient adults - delivering both immediate community benefit and long-term societal value.

Evidence-Based Outcomes

In 2017–2018, World Scouting conducted one of the largest comparative youth impact studies across seven countries, involving 8,940 Scouts and 4,223 non-Scouts aged 14–17 from similar backgrounds. The findings revealed that Scouting significantly enhances personal development across key 21st-century competencies.

Scouts outperformed their non-Scout peers in leadership, teamwork, and active citizenship, with more experience in organizing activities, volunteering, and engaging in their communities. They also demonstrated stronger resilience, problem-solving abilities, and adaptability - gained through outdoor challenges and youth-led projects. Scouts reported higher self-confidence, life satisfaction, and a clearer sense of purpose, likely influenced by the values instilled through the Scout Promise and Law. Critically, they developed essential employability traits such as communication, planning, and project management skills - often overlooked in traditional education.

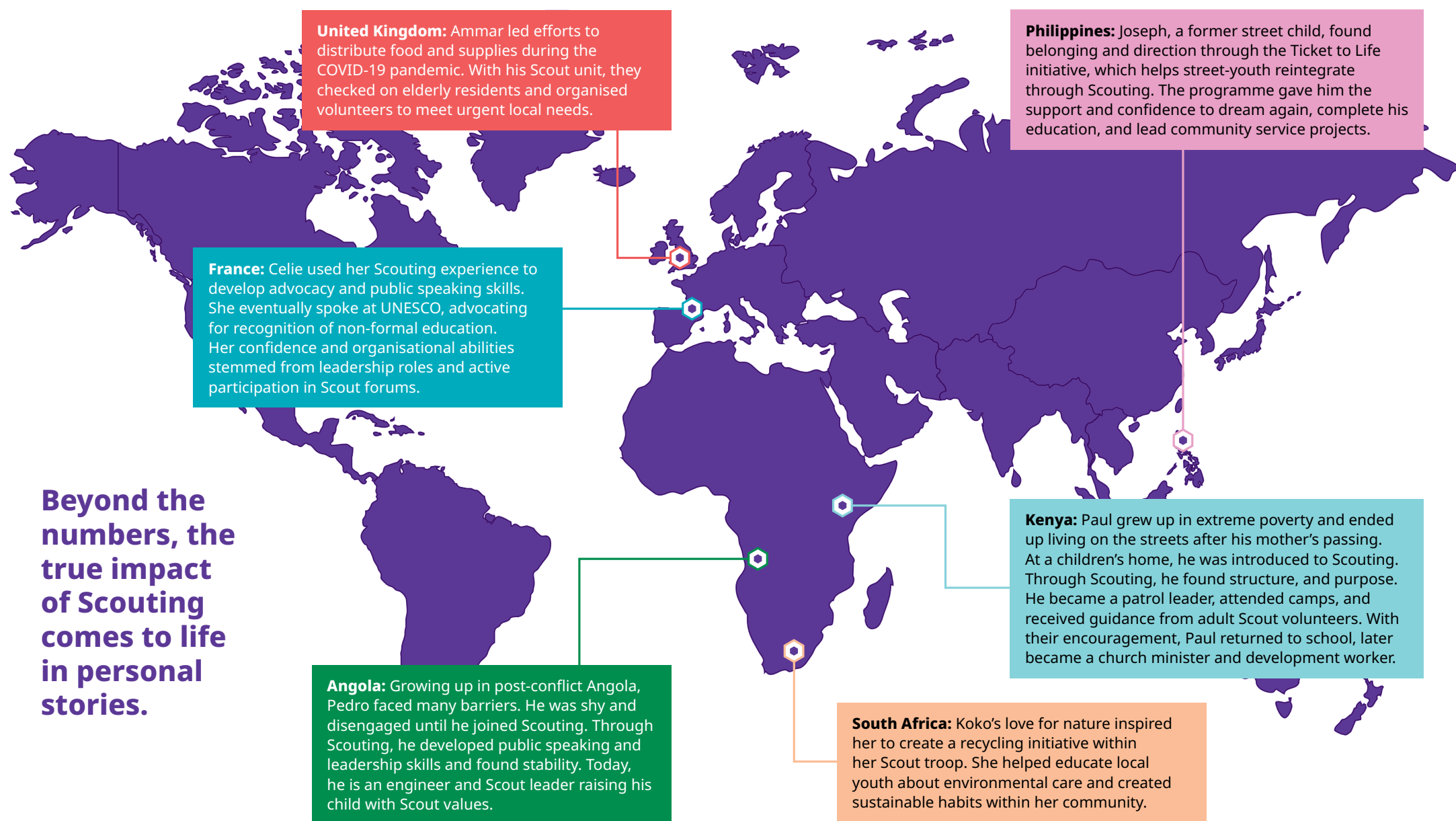


Wider Social Impact

Scouting's impact extends beyond individuals to entire communities and societies. Scouts lead disaster response, environmental conservation, peacebuilding, and community development efforts, contributing over 2.7 billion service hours toward the UN Sustainable Development Goals through the Scouts for SDGs initiative - making it the largest coordinated youth effort for Agenda 2030. From teaching literacy and supporting the elderly to promoting gender equality and clean energy, Scouts actively drive local and global change.

Recognized by the UN and a founding member of the Big 6 Youth Organizations, World Scouting is a trusted force in youth development. Backed by the World Scout Foundation and thousands of donors, it transforms at-risk youth into leaders and idealism into action. Supporting World Scouting means investing in a proven movement with measurable, lasting impact.

Stories of Change



Beyond the numbers, the true impact of Scouting comes to life in personal stories.

The Opportunity

World Scouting is poised to scale its impact through its 2024–2033 strategy. With the right support, it can reach millions more young people. Institutional partners have major opportunities to drive change by investing in key priorities, backed by a transparent, accountable funding approach.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES MOVEMENT

- Innovate education
- Strengthen diversity and inclusion
- Guarantee safeguarding and well-being
- Value volunteering

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ORGANISATION

- A fit for purpose organization
- An adaptable organization
- An influential organization

“
Despite our diverse Scouting practices, we find common ground and shared values. Scouting internationally is like one big, caring, and welcoming family, enabling wonderful exchanges and unforgettable moments of solidarity.
”

**Etienne,
Scout from
France**

“
I don't know where I would be if not for Scouting and the Ticket to Life Project. It gave me a sense of purpose, confidence to dream and develop aspirations to serve others. Most of all, a family.
”

**Joseph,
Scout from
Philippines**



Priority Areas for Investment



Scouts as Agents of Change

Investing in youth leadership and SDG impact empowers young people as agents of change through modernised programmes, digital skills, and initiatives like Scouts for SDGs to develop future leaders in sustainability, peace, and community development.

Widening Access to Scouting

Widening access to Scouting expands our programmes to underserved communities, integrating vulnerable young people through projects like Ticket to Life and Food for Life. This investment promotes global inclusion, ensuring no young person is excluded due to socio-economic or geographic barriers.



Health, Well-being and Safeguarding

Health, well-being and safeguarding focuses on keeping young people safe and supported. This includes implementing child and youth safeguarding standards, training leaders, and implementing the HealthAllies education programme on mental health, nutrition, and sexual health. It also addresses gender-based violence, equipping Scouts as peer educators and advocates for well-being and equality.



Revitalising Scout Organisations

Revitalising Scout organisations focuses on strengthening capacity, governance, and innovation across Scouting. Key initiatives include digital transformation through ScoutPass - a global credential system recognizing Scouts' skills - and supporting good governance via the Global Support Assessment Tool (GSAT) audits. It also involves training leaders, deploying expert consultants, and building sustainable, well-managed National Scout Organizations, ensuring a more modern, scalable, and impactful movement.

Scouts Responding to Crises

Scouts responding to crises equips young people to lead in emergencies through disaster training, resilience projects, and rapid-response funding. Investing here supports local, youth-led humanitarian action - saving lives and rebuilding communities with Scouting's global volunteer network.





Climate Action and Sustainability

World Scouting's climate action and sustainability priority aims to reach climate neutrality by 2033 while empowering young people as environmental leaders. Through our Climate Impact Strategy, Scouting seeks to reduce its carbon footprint, promote green practices, and expand the EarthTribe educational initiatives around issues such as conservation, renewable energy, and climate education. Partners help scale youth-led climate action globally.



World Scouting seeks a significant investment by 2028 to scale its proven impact.

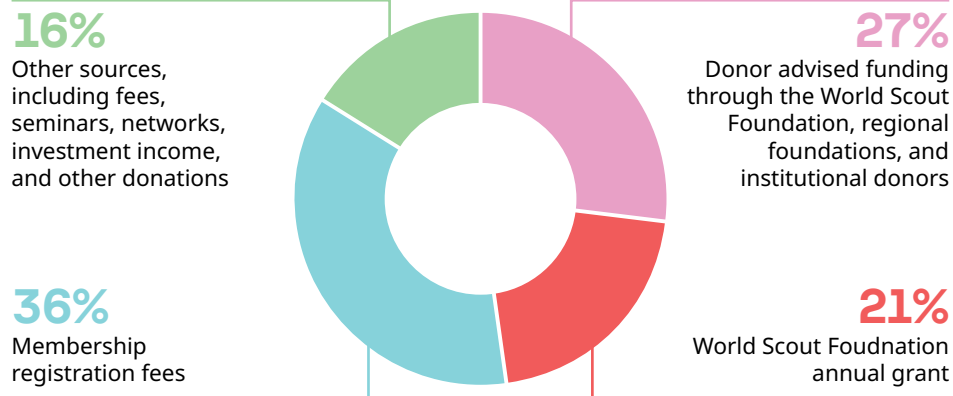
This will equip millions more young people with leadership skills, expand Scouting into underserved communities, support digital innovation, and drive youth-led action on education, health, peace, and the environment. Donor support multiplies impact through a global volunteer network - accelerating a solution that already works.



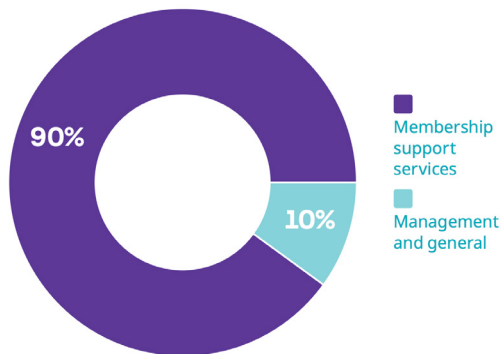
How Funds are Managed

World Scouting has robust financial management and governance systems in place to ensure your contributions are used effectively and transparently.

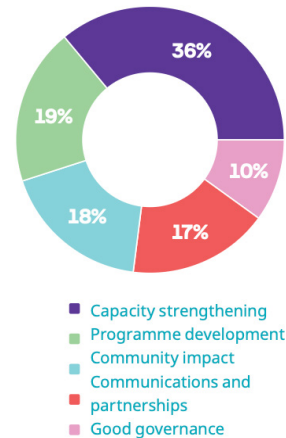
Income



Expenditure



Areas of Work



90/10 Allocation to Mission

World Scouting allocates at least 90% of funds to direct programmatic work, with only 10% for overhead - exceeding charity benchmarks. This ensures donor contributions primarily support youth programmes, leadership training, and community impact, while a lean structure and volunteer network maintain efficiency and quality.

Rigorous Grant Management

World Scouting uses the Fluxx platform, a proven grant management system in place for over 13 years, to channel donor funds efficiently to National Scout Organizations. Managed through the World Scout Foundation, all grants follow strict procedures with oversight, regular reporting, and monitoring to ensure results and impact is achieved.

Transparency and Accountability

World Scouting ensures transparency through annual external audits, strict financial reporting, and oversight by volunteer finance committees. With policies on fraud prevention and governance involving young people and volunteers, donors can trust that their investment is managed with integrity, accountability, and alignment to mission.

Reporting to Donors

World Scouting provides tailored reports to donors, detailing outputs and outcomes of supported projects. We offer site visits and connections with beneficiaries to showcase impact. Partners benefit from access to a vast youth network, pilot opportunities, and community insights - ensuring a transparent, collaborative, and mutually rewarding partnership.

Partnering with World Scouting offers dual value: driving real impact on youth and global issues, and leveraging a trusted, century-old system to deliver resources effectively worldwide. With strong safeguards and reporting, your support advances priorities like education, peace, climate, and health - empowering more young people to be ready for life.

Partnering with us



World Scouting offers diverse partnership opportunities - from grants and expertise to event sponsorship - tailored to institutional goals. Partners gain visibility, brand alignment, access to a global youth network, and the satisfaction of driving real impact.



Partners can co-create impactful youth programmes in areas such as climate education, peacebuilding, or digital skills. Scouting serves as a living research and development lab where ideas are tested with real youth input, then scaled globally. Your investment delivers tangible outcomes - engaging at-risk youth in life-skills training and advancing the SDGs.

World Scouting's trusted brand, recognisable by its purple emblem and Scout scarf, brings strong public credibility. Partners gain visibility through co-branded events, training materials, and digital media reaching millions. For CSR-driven organisations, aligning with Scouting demonstrates real commitment to youth and community development.

Importantly, World Scouting ensures accountability through established grant systems and transparent financial practices. Reporting is tailored, processes are streamlined, and engagement is made easy by a professional, responsive team.

By joining World Scouting, you become part of a global alliance working toward youth empowerment, inclusion, peace, and sustainability - alongside respected institutions worldwide. It's a unique opportunity to drive impact and scale solutions that already work.

Why partner with World Scouting?

Partnering with World Scouting is an investment in the future of young people, communities, and global sustainability. With 60 million members in 176 countries, World Scouting offers unmatched grassroots reach - making it an ideal platform for piloting projects, scaling initiatives, and gathering insights across diverse communities.

Ways to Collaborate



World Scouting offers diverse, flexible partnership opportunities tailored to your mission and interests, such as:

- Programme or project grants which support to develop or scale initiatives in core areas like sustainability, peace, health, or life skills - matched to impact that contributes to your priorities and Scouting's global strategy.
- Co-creation of campaigns that amplify youth voices on critical issues like gender equality or climate action – combining your organisation's expertise and influence with our ability to mobilise young ambassadors to engage communities and drive advocacy authentically.

Together, these options create meaningful, mission-aligned opportunities for impact.



- In-kind and technical support including donation of tools or services, sharing staff expertise, or hosting workshops for Scouts in fields like coding or entrepreneurship - enhancing Scouting's capacity and reach cost-effectively.
- Event sponsorship by fund participation for underserved youth, or co-branded thematic zones provide unique engagement and visibility through international gatherings like the World Scout Jamboree or World Scout Moot that offer space to interact with Scouts from around the world.
- Strategic alliances for long-term collaboration involving multi-year commitments to different initiatives or creating a global programme on a shared priority.

Recognition and Engagement



World Scouting views partnerships as mutually beneficial relationships, offering a range of recognition and engagement opportunities tailored to each partner's level of support, including:

- Visibility through acknowledgments in annual reports, websites, social media, and co-branded materials or press releases.
- Thought leadership opportunities include speaking at events, contributing to publications, or sharing expertise at various forums.
- Employee engagement with options for staff to volunteer locally, mentor Scouts, or participate in joint service projects, enriching team morale and social impact.



- Tailored impact with data and stories aligned to your specific geographic or key thematic interests.
- Legacy opportunities such as named funds or initiatives for large-scale donors.
- Mutual learning by offering programme invitations so partners can witness youth-led impact firsthand, providing valuable insights to inform broader strategies.
- World Scouting works closely with each partner to co-design an approach that aligns with shared values and goals. Whether you fund, co-create, or engage through service, your support helps empower the next generation - and become part of a global movement driving positive change.

Our Partners, Donors and Supporters

World Scouting works alongside many renowned organisations across sectors, including United Nations agencies, intergovernmental institutions, esteemed NGOs, foundations, and corporations that share our vision of empowering young people. Together, this network of champions contributes expertise, resources, and influence to drive Scouting's initiatives and strengthen the Movement.



Partner Testimonials

Don't just take it from us – hear from some of our partners why they choose to work with World Scouting:



Jill Huntley
Managing Director, Global Corporate Citizenship, Accenture.

This partnership underscores our shared commitment to foster sustainable education, innovation, and digital literacy among young people worldwide. We are proud to help accelerate World Scouting's digital transformation and provide important new opportunities for lifelong learning among Scouts around the globe.



HRH Princess Lamia Bint Majed,
Secretary General, Alwaleed Philanthropies.

Scouting has a crucial role to play in the development and structure of a nation. I strongly believe that empowering youth through volunteer programmes has a ripple effect on families, communities, and countries, and can achieve long-lasting benefits and inspire others to participate in their societies. Alwaleed Philanthropies 'Global' is honoured to have joined forces with World Scouting to mobilise youth to advance the Sustainable Development Goals, effectively improving the lives of people around the world.

Call to Action



A Message from a Scout

"I was never able to finish school as a child, and the difficult circumstances of my life drove me to the streets. Joining Scouting at a children's home changed all that; it turned my life around. Scouting taught me values and gave me hope and purpose when I had none. I learned how to lead others as a Patrol Leader, and more importantly, how to lead myself. With the encouragement of my Scout leaders and the opportunities Scouting opened for me, I went back to school and eventually graduated.

Today I am a teacher and community leader – roles I never imagined for myself as a boy. Scouting completely changed my life. I know that none of this would have been possible without the people who believed in me, who invested in programmes like Scouting for kids like me. To those who support Scouting: thank you. You gave me and so many others our future back. Every young person, no matter their background, deserves the chance to be ready for life – just like I was given."

Paul,
Scout from Kenya

In Paul's heartfelt story, we see the essence of why donor support matters. Your contribution isn't just funding activities; you are literally transforming lives – turning struggle into hope, and potential into reality for young people like him. Every donation or in-kind support, every partnership creates many more "Pauls" – young people who will go on to uplift their families and communities.

On behalf of World Scouting and millions of Scouts worldwide: thank you for considering an investment in our mission. Together, we can ensure every young person can unlock their full potential.



Ready to Partner?

Join us in this journey of empowering the next generation.

Reach out on **partner@scout.org** to explore how we can collaborate to deliver transformative learning experiences for every young person, everywhere.