

# World Scouting



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## The World Organisation of the Scout Movement

Scouting began in 1907 in one country, the United Kingdom, based upon Lord Baden-Powell's ideas and his book "Scouting for Boys". But the book and programme proved to have great appeal for boys and quickly spread world-wide. While Scouting's Purpose, Promise and Law are timeless and universal, Scouting's flexible programme adapts to meet the needs of youth and their society wherever they live.

### Purpose, Principles and Method

Scouting is an educational Movement of and for young people. The purpose of Scouting is to help young people to develop physically, intellectually, socially and spiritually. It is a voluntary, non-political Movement which is open to all and which is based on:

- adherence to spiritual principles, loyalty to the religion that expresses them and acceptance of the duties resulting from them
- loyalty to one's country in harmony with the promotion of peace, understanding and co-operation
- responsibility for the development of oneself
- participation in the development of society with recognition and respect for the dignity of all people and for the integrity of the natural world
- a method of progressive self-education comprising programmes adapted to the various age groups and based upon a Promise and Law, learning by doing, working in small groups, a scheme of personal progression and activities taking place in contact with nature.

### The World Organisation

The World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM) is an international, non-governmental organisation which is composed of three principal parts: the Conference, Committee and Bureau.

### The Scout Association

Gilwell Park, Chingford, London, E4 7QW. Tel + 44 (0)20 8433 7100. Fax + 44 (0)20 8433 7103. Email [info.centre@scouts.org.uk](mailto:info.centre@scouts.org.uk) [www.scouts.org.uk](http://www.scouts.org.uk)

## The World Scout Conference

The conference is the "general assembly" of Scouting, composed of all member Scout organisations. Only one National Scout Organisation can be recognised per country (where there is more than one Scout Association in a country, a federation must be formed for world membership). The basis for an organisation's recognition and membership includes adherence to the purpose and principles of World Scouting.

The conference meets every three years.

### The World Scout Committee

The Committee consists of 12 people from 12 different countries, elected to represent the diversity of World Scouting, not their own national interest, in the period between the triennial conferences. Each person normally serves a six-year term. Ex-officio members are the Secretary General and the Honorary Treasurer.

### The World Scout Bureau

The Bureau is the secretariat, carrying out the instructions of the Conference and Committee. The staff of professionals works out of ten offices - the central office in Geneva, Switzerland plus regional offices in Chile, Egypt, Switzerland, Kenya, Philippines and Ukraine, with sub-offices in Belgium, Serbia and Montenegro, Senegal, South Africa and Russia.

The Bureau helps Scout Associations to improve and develop their Scouting by conducting training courses, development seminars, workshops, management courses, preparing publications and advising on organisation, financing, communications etc. The staff also helps to arrange global events such as the four-yearly World Scout Jamborees and acts as liaison between the World Organisation and other bodies, particularly other world youth organisations,

organs of the United Nations and government departments, particularly where Scouting wishes to have more support from governments.

### Finance

Bureau operations are financed partly by an annual registration fee, paid by Scout organisations on the basis of membership and GDP of the country. Other support comes from foundations, corporations, development agencies and individuals.

Support also comes from the World Scout Foundation which, while building a capital fund, uses the investment income to benefit World Scouting. The Honorary President is HM Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden.

### World Scout Membership

There are more than 31 million Scouts, youth and adults, boys and girls, in 216 countries and territories.

There are 155 countries with internationally recognised National Scout Organisations.

There are 26 main territories where Scouting exists, often as overseas branches of member Scout organisations:

Anguilla  
Antarctica  
Aruba  
Bermuda  
Cayman Islands  
Cocos (Keeling) Islands  
Cook Islands  
Falkland Islands  
Faroe Islands  
French Guiana  
French Polynesia  
Gibraltar  
Greenland  
Guadeloupe  
Martinique  
Montserrat  
New Caledonia  
Norfolk Island  
Puerto Rico  
Réunion  
Saint Helena  
Saint Pierre and Miquelon  
Turks and Caicos Islands  
Virgin Islands, British  
Virgin Islands, U.S.  
Wallis and Futuna

There are 33 countries where Scouting exists (be it embryonic or widespread) but where there is no

National Scout Organization which is yet a member of the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

*Note: In the independent countries marked with a "\*", there is a Scout Association which is a branch of a WOSM member.*

Afghanistan  
Antigua and Barbuda\*  
Belarus  
Cambodia  
Central African Republic  
Congo  
Djibouti  
East Timor  
Equatorial Guinea  
Eritrea  
Guinea-Bissau  
Iran  
Iraq  
Kazakhstan  
Kyrgyzstan  
Mali  
Marshall Islands\*  
Micronesia, Federated States of\*  
Myanmar  
Nauru  
Palau  
Saint Kitts and Nevis\*  
Samoa  
Sao Tome and Principe  
Solomon Islands \*  
Somalia  
Syrian Arab Republic  
Tonga\*  
Turkmenistan  
Tuvalu\*  
Ukraine  
Uzbekistan  
Vanuatu\*  
Vietnam

WOSM maintains official contacts with the Scouts of Macau, and French Polynesia, which are associate members of the Asia-Pacific Scout Region, and with the Scouts of the Netherlands Antilles, an associate member of the Inter American Scout Region.

There are 5 countries where Scouting, to WOSM's knowledge, does not exist; in some it would not be allowed. These are:

Andorra  
People's Republic of China  
Cuba  
Democratic People's Republic of Korea  
Lao People's Democratic Republic

The most recent membership figures for National Scout Organisations around the world are shown on the attached list.

Source: World Scout Bureau: December 2012

Country	Membership	Joined WOSM	Scouting Founded
	1,065	2005	
Algeria	33,622	1963	1939
Angola	16,179	1998	
Argentina	42,779	1922	1912
Armenia	2,119	1997	1912
Australia	65,881	1953	1908
Austria	10,439	1922	1912
Azerbaijan	1,091	2000	1997
Bahamas	1,521	1974	1913
Bahrain	1,790	1970	1953
Bangladesh	958,243	1974	1972
Barbados	2,184	1969	1912
Belarus	1,201	2012	
Belgium	97,489	1922	1911
Belize	1,224	1987	1911
Benin	5,226	1964	1932
Bhutan	21,294	1999	1991
Bolivia	7,894	1950	1915
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,941	1999	
Botswana	3,898	1958	1936
Brazil	70,388	1922	1910
Brunei Darussalam	1,904	1981	1933
Bulgaria	1,095	1999	1911-13
Burkina Faso	9,700	1972	1943
Burundi	28,559	1979	1940
Cape Verde	733	2002	

Cameroon	4,501	1971	1937
Cambodia	10,061	2011	
Canada	116,044	1946	1909
Chad	14,500	1974	1960
Chile	19,672	1922	1909
China, Scouts of	49,057	1937	1912
Colombia	11,188	1933	1917
Comoros	1,725	1990	1975
Congo, The Democratic Republic of The	71,443	1963	1924
Costa Rica	11,297	1925	1915
Côte-d'Ivoire	8,835	1972	1937
Croatia	3,155	1993	1915
Cyprus	5,328	1961	1913
Czech Republic	23,074	1996	1911
Denmark	39,829	1922	1909
Dominica	1,100	1990	1929
Dominican Republic	1,269	1930	1926
Ecuador	3,006	1922	1920
Egypt	82,940	1922	1918
El Salvador	4,477	1940	1938
Estonia	1,423	1996	1912
Ethiopia	19,001	2002	1950
Fiji	7,284	1971	1914
Finland	43,811	1922	1910
France	75,547	1922	1910
Gabon	3,736	1971	1936
Gambia	18,422	1984	1921
Georgia	1,568	1997	1994

Germany	112,503	1950	1910
Ghana	3,818	1960	1912
Greece	15,218	1922	1910
Grenada	1,367	1979	1924
Guatemala	4,905	1930	1928
Guinea	10,522	2005	
Guyana	399	1967	1909
Haiti	43,605	1932	1932
Honduras	1,473	1957	1952
Hong Kong	66,895	1977	1911
Hungary	10,068	1990	1912
Iceland	3,938	1924	1912
India	3,371,408	1938	1909
Indonesia	21,599,748	1953	1912
Ireland	42,666	1949	1908
Israel	25,684	1951	1920
Italy	102,066	1922	1912
Jamaica	2,235	1963	1910
Japan	111,180	1922	1913
Jordan	15,521	1955	1954
Kazakhstan	1,103		
Kenya	323,884	1964	1910
Kiribati	1,333	1993	
Korea, Republic of	190,539	1953	1922
Kuwait	5,950	1955	1952
Latvia	847	1993	1917
Lebanon	14,533	1947	1912
Lesotho	371	1971	1936
Liberia	2,418	1965	1922
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	14,716	1958	1954
Liechtenstein	753	1933	1931

Lithuania	1,446	1997	1918
Luxembourg	7,083	1922	1914
Macedonia, The former Yugoslav Republic of	1,151	1997	1921
Madagascar	38,262	1960	1921
Malawi	12,810	2005	
Malaysia	44,016	1957	1911
Maldives	4,633	1990	1963
Malta	2,968	1966	1908
Mauritania	3,724	1983	1946
Mauritius	3,463	1971	1912
Mexico	33,487	1926	1920
Moldova, Republic of	2,042	1997	1991
Monaco	1,001	1990	
Mongolia	10,445	1994	1992
Montenegro	768		
Morocco	12,304	1961	1933
Mozambique	21,487	1999	1960
Namibia	2,836	1990	1917
Nepal	19,010	1969	1952
Netherlands	47,655	1922	1910
New Zealand	17,939	1953	1908
Nicaragua	1,011	1948	1937
Niger	3,300	1996	1947
Nigeria	46,701	1961	1915
Norway	17,279	1922	1911
Oman	12,847	1977	1948
Pakistan	630,476	1948	1947
Palestinian Authority	33,629	1996	1912
Panama	2,254	1950	1924

Papua New Guinea	3,509	1976	1926
Paraguay	1,210	1962	1960
Peru	6,724	1922	1916
Philippines	1,760,309	1946	1923
Poland	33,506	1996	1919
Portugal	79,063	1922	1913
Qatar	4,528	1965	1956
Romania	2,629	1993	1914
Russian Federation	7,186	2000	1909
Rwanda	18,859	1975	1940
San Marino	147	1990	1973
Saudi Arabia	19,260	1963	1961
Senegal	9,857	1963	1930
Republic of Serbia	4,408		
Seychelles	169	2002	
Sierra Leone	11,587	1964	1909
Singapore	11,451	1966	1910
Slovakia	3,349	1997	1913
Slovenia	5,494	1994	1915
South Africa	69,316	1937	1908
Spain	59,408	1922	1912
Sri Lanka	40,925	1953	1912
Saint Lucia	355	1990	1935
Saint Vincent and The Grenadines	353	1990	1924
Sudan	14,682	1956	1935
Suriname	2,601	1968	1924
Swaziland	6,843	1968	1928
Sweden	43,729	1922	1911
Switzerland	23,263	1922	1912

Tajikistan	1,260	1997	1991
Tanzania, United Republic of	538,933	1963	1929
Thailand	828,248	1922	1911
Togo	9,196	1977	1920
Trinidad & Tobago	8,686	1963	1911
Tunisia	18,494	1957	1934
Turkey	40,579	1950	1923
Uganda	116,054	1964	1915
Ukraine	2,429		
United Arab Emirates	5,830	1977	1972
United Kingdom	528,263	1922	1907
United States	2,988,612	1922	1909
Uruguay	1,544	1950	1946
Venezuela	14,893	1937	1913
Yemen	6,481	1980	1954
Zambia	7,396	1965	1930
Zimbabwe	5,880	1980	1909

**Membership:** The membership which is shown in these countries represents only the members (youth and adults) of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM), which in most countries includes boys and girls. In some countries - mostly in Europe - the national organisation is larger than indicated here because it includes girls who are members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

**Joined WOSM:** The date given is the most recent year that the National Scout Organisation joined the WOSM. Organisations in some countries were World Scouting members in earlier years than shown here, but Scouting was disbanded for a period of time.

**Scouting founded:** This information is taken from published sources. Note that countries use different standards to define "founded". It may mean the year the first Scout group was formed, or when the national organisation was formed, or chartered, etc.

Source: World Scout Bureau: September 2005