



Scouting's Social Impact

28 million young people are changing the world

For nearly one hundred years the Scout Movement has contributed to building a better world through the personal commitment of hundred of millions of women and men living up to their Scout Promise. In many countries people with leadership roles (politics, civil society, international organisations, business) are former Scouts. This does not happen by chance. Scouting is an educational movement, open to all, which aims to help young people develop to their full potential as human beings; it pursues this objective through a carefully designed and constantly improved method. Scouting builds on a value system which encourages the combined development of autonomy and responsibility within a clear ethical and spiritual framework.

Recognising today's problems, World Scouting is prepared for future challenges: building on its experience, it looks toward the future with renewed enthusiasm as new generations of girls and boys join in to "play the game" that will make them the future leaders of social change, breaking the barriers, and building Peace.

GLOBAL ADVOCACY

Scouting has a global responsibility in a global world but has an advantage in that it is both global and local.

The famous slogan "*Think globally, act locally*" easily applies to the Scout Movement.

World Scouting is active in many areas of global importance, including:

- Understanding the effects of globalisation
- Sustainable development
- Cultural diversity
- The rights of children and young people
- Youth employability
- Responsible governance
- The fight against racism
- The fight against social exclusion
- Equal opportunities for men and women
- Youth involvement and youth citizenship
- Youth policies
- The promotion of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals
- Protection of the environment

LOCAL ACTION

World Scouting operates through a network of local groups supported by National Scout Organisations (NSO's) in 155 countries. The World Scout Bureau has never launched a worldwide campaign that is automatically taken up at local level. Similarly, no local initiative involves major campaigns at world level. And yet, without wishing to change WOSM's nature, one could imagine that, just as the NGO community takes action to support the recognition of a global cause e.g. women's rights on Women's Day, the entire Scout Movement could take action on a specific day for a specific cause. Thus affirming *its* unity, global nature, ability to take action locally, and the universal nature of its values.

Some of the important issues that Scouting deals with at a local level are:

- Agriculture and food production
- Emergency and humanitarian aid
- Clean drinking water
- Literacy
- Renewable energies
- Street children
- The acquisition of life skills
- Professional training
- Sanitation
- Integration of people with disabilities
- Fighting against child labour
- Support for migrants and indigenous communities

- Prevention and fight against AIDS
- Drug prevention
- Child protection
- Rehabilitation of child soldiers
- Child and adolescent health

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