Geneva, April 2011 FACT SHEET

# **World Scouting today**

# A worldwide youth social force

#### A YOUTH MOVEMENT

- Scouting proposes activities which young people themselves take part in designing
- Young people learn to live and work together. They are involved in decision-making, accepting responsibility, developing cooperation and leadership.

#### AN EDUCATIONAL MOVEMENT

- Scouting's educational proposal is a long-term process. It seeks to develop behaviour and personalities that benefit the whole of society throughout life.
- It complements school and family life, filling needs not met by either. Scouting develops self-knowledge.
- Adults' role is to help young people, and improve understanding between generations. In their service, leaders get valuable training and experience, adding to their own personal development.

## A SOCIAL FORCE

- Scouting develops a sense of personal responsibility for one's own development.
- Scouts and leaders are volunteers and choose to join Scouting.
- Scouting seeks the spiritual value of life beyond the material world.
- The Scout Movement is independent and governed by its own democratic decision-making processes.
- While constructively involved in society, Scouting is a non-partisan movement, which does not identify with any political party.

## **SCOUTING'S MISSION IS...**

To contribute to the education of young people through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law, and to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society. This is achieved by:

- Involving them throughout their formative years in a non-formal educational process
- Using a specific method that makes each individual the principal agent of his or her development as a self-reliant, supportive, responsible and committed person
- Assisting them to establish a value system based upon spiritual, social and personal principles as expressed in the Promise and Law.

#### THE WORLD ORGANIZATION OF THE SCOUT MOVEMENT

The World Organization of the Scout Movement is a worldwide, non-profit and non-partisan organisation of over 30 millions members, male and female, operating through a network of local groups supported by National Scout Organizations in 161 countries.

Its governing body is the World Conference, which meets every three years, and its executive is the World Committee composed of elected volunteers.

# **MEMBERSHIP**

There are more than 30 million Scouts, youth and adults, boys and girls, in 161 countries.

# THE WORLD SCOUT BUREAU

The Organization's secretariat is the World Scout Bureau, which has its headquarters in Geneva and offices in six regions: Africa (Nairobi), Arab (Cairo), Asia-Pacific (Manila), Eurasia (Kiev), Europe (Geneva and Brussels) and Interamerica (Panama City).

#### **FUNDING**

The Organization is funded by fees from National Scout Organizations, based on their membership and adjusted according to each country's per capita income. Other resources come from active collaboration with foundations, corporations, agencies and individuals.

The World Scout Foundation actively solicits and receives contributions, which are invested in a capital (endowment) fund in order to produce a regular income that can benefit World Scouting. The Honorary Chairman of the World Scout Foundation is H.M. The King of Sweden. The World Baden-Powell Fellowship is composed of individual and corporate donors who are committed to supporting the development of Scouting worldwide.

## Contact

#### **Director, Communications & External Relations**

World Scout Bureau media@scout.org Direct line: + 41 22 705 10 21

# **World Organization of the Scout Movement**

Rue du Pré-Jérôme 5 PO Box 91

CH-1211 Geneva 4 Plainpalais, Switzerland

Tel: (+41 22) 705 10 10 Fax: (+41 22) 705 10 20 www.scout.org/media