



CONSTITUTION
of the
World Organization of the Scout Movement

August 2021



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SCOUTS[®]
Creating a Better World

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PREAMBLE

Accredited representatives of National Scout Associations, which had adopted and practised the Scout Movement founded by Robert Baden-Powell in 1907, assembled in Paris, France, in July 1922 and established the International Scout Conference for the coordination of the Scout Movement throughout the world, together with an Executive Committee and a Secretariat.

The present Constitution governs the operation of the World Organization of the Scout Movement in a kindred spirit of world cooperation and friendship.

CHAPTER I

THE SCOUT MOVEMENT

ARTICLE I

Definition

1. The Scout Movement is a voluntary non-political educational movement for young people open to all without distinction of gender, origin, race or creed, in accordance with the purpose, principles and method conceived by the Founder and stated below.

Purpose

2. The purpose of the Scout Movement is to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual potentials as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

ARTICLE II

Principles

1. The Scout Movement is based on the following principles:

- **Duty to God**

Adherence to spiritual principles, loyalty to the religion that expresses them and acceptance of the duties resulting therefrom.

- **Duty to others**

- Loyalty to one's country in harmony with the promotion of local, national and international peace, understanding and cooperation.
- Participation in the development of society with recognition and respect for the dignity of humanity and for the integrity of the natural world.

- **Duty to self**

Responsibility for the development of oneself.

Adherence to a Promise and Law

2. All members of the Scout Movement are required to adhere to a Scout Promise and Law reflecting, in language appropriate to the culture and civilization of each National Scout Organization and approved by the World Organization, the principles of Duty to God, Duty to others and Duty to self, and inspired by the Promise and Law originally conceived by the Founder of the Scout Movement in the following terms:

The Scout Promise

On my honour I promise that I will do my best —

To do my duty to God and the King (or to God and my Country);
To help other people at all times;
To obey the Scout Law.

The Scout Law

1. A Scout's honour is to be trusted.
2. A Scout is loyal.
3. A Scout's duty is to be useful and to help others.
4. A Scout is a friend to all and a brother to every other Scout.
5. A Scout is courteous.
6. A Scout is a friend to animals.
7. A Scout obeys orders of his parents, Patrol Leader or Scoutmaster without question.
8. A Scout smiles and whistles under all difficulties.
9. A Scout is thrifty.
10. A Scout is clean in thought, word and deed.

World Scout Emblem

3. The World Scout Emblem is a symbol of belonging to the Scout Movement. It consists of a field of royal purple bearing the white fleur-de-lys surrounded by a white rope in a circle and a central reef knot at the bottom and is an essential element of the brand identity of the Scout Movement.

ARTICLE III

Scout Method

1. The Scout Method is a system of progressive self-education through the interaction of all the following elements:

- The Scout Promise and Law,
- Learning by Doing,
- Personal Progression,
- Team System,
- Adult Support,
- Symbolic Framework,
- Nature,
- Community Involvement.

The Scout Method is practiced by creating a meaningful educational experience for young people. It should be used in a way that is consistent with the Scout Movement's Purpose and Principles. It is further described in a relevant policy adopted and reviewed from time to time by the World Scout Conference.

CHAPTER II
**TITLE, PURPOSE AND ORGANS
OF THE WORLD ORGANIZATION**

ARTICLE IV

Title of World Organization

1. The organization of the Scout Movement at world level is governed by this Constitution under the title of "The World Organization of the Scout Movement", hereinafter called the World Organization, as an independent, non-political, non-governmental organization.

Purpose of World Organization

2. The purpose of the World Organization is to foster the Scout Movement throughout the world by:
 - (a) promoting unity and understanding of its purpose and principles,
 - (b) facilitating its expansion and development,
 - (c) maintaining its specific character.

Organs of World Organization

3. The organs of the World Organization are:
 - (a) The World Scout Conference.
 - (b) The World Scout Committee.
 - (c) The World Scout Bureau.

Legal Status

4. Legal identity for the organs of the World Organization is given by the registration in the country of domicile of the World Scout Bureau of 'The World Scout Bureau Association', also known as World Scout Bureau Inc. Legal title to all property of the World Organization, including its trademarks, is held by World Scout Bureau Inc.

CHAPTER III
MEMBERSHIP

ARTICLE V

Requirements

1. Membership of the World Organization is open to all National Scout Organizations which fulfil the requirements for membership.
2. Authority to confer membership of the World Organization is vested in the World Scout Conference, on the recommendation of the World Scout Committee.
3. A National Scout Organization in a sovereign state may apply for membership as a Member Organization. There can be only one member National Scout Organization from any one sovereign state.
4. National Scout Organizations in membership of the World Organization are collectively referred to as Member Organizations.
5. Admission to membership in the World Organization requires of the applicant National Scout Organization:
 - (a) Adoption of and evidence of sustained adherence to the purpose, principles and method as laid down by Chapter I of this Constitution.
 - (b) Establishment of the National Scout Organization as an independent, non-political, voluntary movement of probity and effectiveness.
 - (c) Enrolment to be open to all who agree to conform to the purpose, principles and method of the Movement.
 - (d) Establishment of its legal entity and evidence of its widespread operation in the territory it represents.
 - (e) Demonstration that, by the quality of its leadership, its policies and procedures to ensure a safe environment for children, young people and adults in Scouting, the organization of its leader training, the size of its membership and its resources, it is self-sufficient and capable of providing adequate services to its members and assuming all obligations of a Member Organization.
6. A Member Organization may consist of more than one Scout Association operating in the same sovereign state and participating in a Federation based on the common Scout purpose. It is the responsibility of each Federation to ensure that all its constituent Associations meet the requirements of this Constitution.

Accredited National Scout Organizations

7. A National Scout Organization in a sovereign state which cannot meet the requirements of Article V.5 in their entirety may, upon application and at the discretion of the World Scout Committee, be designated as an Accredited National Scout Organization and be so reported to the World Scout Conference.
8. Accredited National Scout Organizations shall have the same rights and obligations as Member Organizations except the right to vote.
9. An Accredited National Scout Organization may become recognized as a Member Organization if it fulfils the requirements in Article V.5 and makes an application for membership.
10. A National Scout Organization which is eligible for membership of the World Organization of the Scout Movement in accordance with Article V.5 cannot have the status of an Accredited National Scout Organization.

Unity of the Movement

11. In exercising its powers under Article V the World Scout Conference shall have an overriding concern for the unity of the World Scout Movement.

**ARTICLE VI
Procedure**

1. The World Scout Committee shall investigate an application for membership by a National Scout Organization applying established objective criteria to be published from time to time. If it considers that the requirements laid down by Article V.5 are fulfilled, it shall make the necessary recommendations to the World Scout Conference by post or electronic communication.
2. If within three months the recommendation is unopposed or opposed by less than five per cent of the Member Organizations, the World Scout Committee shall declare the National Scout Organization a Member of the World Organization. If five per cent or more of the Member Organizations oppose admission, the application shall be referred to the next meeting of the World Scout Conference, where admission shall require a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

ARTICLE VII

Rights and Obligations of Member Organizations

1. Member Organizations enjoy the rights and privileges and are required to fulfil the obligations given in this Constitution.
2. Member Organizations shall have the following rights:
 - (a) To be represented and have the right of voice at a World Scout Conference and a Regional Scout Conference, subject to payment of the Conference fees.
 - (b) To have the right of vote at a World Scout Conference and Regional Scout Conference.
 - (c) To receive services from the World Scout Bureau, as practicable, in the form of visits, opportunity of participation in courses and seminars and other types of assistance.
 - (d) To receive all the publications of the World Scout Bureau.
 - (e) To attend world or regional Jamborees, camps and other gatherings.
 - (f) To receive invitations to national Jamborees, camps and other gatherings.
3. Member Organizations shall have the following obligations:
 - (a) Continued acceptance of and conformity with the requirements of the Constitution of the World Organization.
 - (b) Payment of an annual registration fee as reviewed and determined by the World Scout Conference.
 - (c) To make an annual report to the World Scout Bureau including an evaluation of progress against the requirements of its national Scout constitution in a form which the World Scout Committee may determine.
 - (d) Approval by the World Scout Committee prior to implementation of any changes to its national Scout constitution relating to matters covered by Chapters I and III of this Constitution.

ARTICLE VIII

Suspension and Expulsion

1. The World Scout Committee may provisionally suspend the membership of any Member Organization which, in its opinion, no longer fulfils the requirements for membership. If the World Scout Committee maintains its suspension, the World Scout Conference at its next meeting shall hear the report of the World Scout Committee and invite the suspended Organization to make its written or oral comments. The World Scout Conference has the broadest power to then decide on an appropriate course of action; if its decision is to expel the Organization, such decision shall require a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

Withdrawal

2. Any Member Organization may withdraw from the World Organization by written notice addressed to the Secretary General. Withdrawal shall take effect on September 30 of the second year following that during which the notice was given, subject to the Member Organization having at that date fulfilled all obligations arising out of its membership, including financial obligations.

Effect of Termination of Membership

3. A National Scout Organization which, for any reason, ceases to be a Member shall no longer be entitled to the privileges and services of the World Organization, to recognition by its Members, and to the use of the emblems and other material associated with World Scouting.

CHAPTER IV
THE WORLD SCOUT CONFERENCE

ARTICLE IX

Composition

1. The World Scout Conference is the governing organ of the World Organization and is composed of all the Member Organizations.
2. Member Organizations are represented at any meeting of the World Scout Conference by delegates not exceeding six. Accredited National Scout Organizations are represented at any meeting of the World Scout Conference by delegates not exceeding two.

ARTICLE X

Functions

1. The functions of the World Scout Conference are:
 - (a) To consider the policy and standards of the Scout Movement throughout the world and to take such action as shall further the purpose of the World Organization.
 - (b) To formulate the general policy of the World Organization.
 - (c) To consider applications for membership and decide as to the expulsion of Members.
 - (d) To hold elections as provided in this Constitution.
 - (e) To consider reports and recommendations presented by the World Scout Committee.
 - (f) To consider recommendations brought forward by Member Organizations.
 - (g) To consider proposed amendments to this Constitution.
 - (h) To exercise other functions resulting from this Constitution.

ARTICLE XI

Voting

1. Each Member Organization shall have six votes and, except as provided for under paragraph 2 of this Article, resolutions shall be taken by a simple majority of the Member Organizations present or represented and voting. In the event of a tie, the motion is defeated.
2. Decisions concerning the admission of new Member Organizations (Article VI, paragraph 2), the expulsion of Member Organizations (Article VIII, paragraph 1), the determination of the annual registration fee (Article XXIII, paragraph 1) and the amendment of this Constitution (Article XXV) shall be passed by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

3. A Member Organization which is unable to be present at a meeting of the World Scout Conference may vote by proxy given to another Member Organization, but no Member Organization may accept more than one proxy.
4. In appropriate circumstances determined by the World Scout Committee there may be a referendum by post or electronic communication to Member Organizations between meetings of the World Scout Conference when the same rules as to voting, majority and in the event of a tie shall apply.
5. Any Member Organization which shall have failed to pay its annual registration fee up to and including the end of the fiscal year preceding the Conference shall forfeit its right to vote at that meeting of the Conference, unless remission or postponement of dues has received prior authorization from the World Scout Committee.

ARTICLE XII

Meetings

1. There shall be a triennial meeting of the World Scout Conference at such time and place as the Conference may decide.
2. An extraordinary meeting may be called on the decision of the World Scout Committee, or at the request of not less than one third of the Member Organizations.
3. Six months notice shall be given for a triennial meeting and one month for an extraordinary meeting.
4. The presence of one half of the Member Organizations shall constitute a quorum.
5. The World Scout Conference shall record and adopt its own rules of procedure.

CHAPTER V
THE WORLD SCOUT COMMITTEE

ARTICLE XIII

Composition

1. The World Scout Committee is the executive organ of the World Organization. Its members shall consider the interests of the Movement as a whole and shall neither consider themselves, nor be considered, as representing any particular Member Organization or Region.
2. The World Scout Committee shall be composed of:
 - (a) Voting members:

Twelve elected members, who shall be members of Member Organizations. They shall be elected by the World Scout Conference, by secret ballot, from a list of nominees submitted by Member Organizations. In no case shall more than one elected member from any one Member Organization serve on the Committee in any one period.
 - (b) Ex-officio non-voting members:
 - (i) The Secretary General of the World Organization, who shall also be an ex-officio member of all subsidiary committees of the World Scout Committee.
 - (ii) A Treasurer, appointed by the World Scout Committee.
 - (iii) The Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson of each duly elected Regional Scout Committee.
 - (iv) A member of the Board of the World Scout Foundation.

Term of Service of Elected Members

3. Each member elected by the World Scout Conference is elected until the next World Scout Conference and can be re-elected once. After two continuous terms, a retiring member shall only be eligible for re-election after a lapse of three years.

Vacancies

4. Vacancies occurring amongst the elected members of the World Scout Committee shall be filled for the remainder of the term still to be served by the resigning or deceased holder of the seat by the runners-up in order of election, at the election in which the resigning or deceased member was elected. Such runners-up shall only be considered as having served a normal term of service as an elected member, if they filled the vacancy before half of the term of the resigning or deceased member has expired.

Notice of Meetings

5. Thirty days notice shall be given of meetings of the World Scout Committee.

Conduct of Affairs

6. The Secretary General shall serve as Secretary of the World Scout Committee. Between meetings of the Committee, matters shall be submitted by the Secretary General to members for consideration by correspondence.

Voting by Proxy

7. Members of the World Scout Committee may vote by proxy given to another member of the Committee with voting rights, but no member may accept more than one proxy.

ARTICLE XIV

Functions

1. The functions of the World Scout Committee are:
 - (a) To act on behalf of the World Scout Conference between its meetings; to give effect to its decisions, recommendations and policies; and to represent it at international and national events.
 - (b) To promote the Scout Movement throughout the world by means of visits, correspondence, training courses and other appropriate action.
 - (c) To advise and assist Member Organizations in carrying out the purpose, principles and method of Scouting.
 - (d) To recommend the admission of National Scout Organizations applying for membership, and to suspend provisionally the membership of a Member Organization.
 - (e) To designate Accredited National Scout Organizations.
 - (f) To prepare the agenda and procedure of the meetings of the World Scout Conference, giving consideration to suggestions from Member Organizations, and appoint the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson(s) of the World Scout Conference.
 - (g) To appoint the Secretary General of the World Organization, and to appoint his Deputy or Deputies upon a recommendation of the Secretary General; and to supervise the management of the World Scout Bureau.
 - (h) To approve the annual budget and financial statements of the World Scout Bureau.
 - (i) To accept the responsibility for the raising of additional funds.
 - (j) To approve the constitutions or other laws governing Regions.
 - (k) To appoint the Treasurer.

- (l) To appoint Chairpersons of sub-committees and working groups on the recommendation of the Chairperson of the World Scout Committee.
- (m) To grant consultative status to such organizations as may be of assistance to the Scout Movement.
- (n) To decide upon granting of awards for services to the World Scout Movement.
- (o) To coordinate links with all organs of the World Organization.
- (p) To secure compliance with the Constitution of the World Organization by all organs.
- (q) To ensure that risks facing the World Organization of whatever nature are assessed and appropriate control measures put in place.
- (r) To call for an extraordinary meeting of the World Scout Conference in accordance with Article XII where required.
- (s) To consider plans and strategies for the World Organization and make appropriate proposals to the World Scout Conference.
- (t) To approve the purchase/lease of real estate for use or occupation by the World Organization and ensure that the title is registered in the name of the World Organization according to legal requirements.
- (u) To follow-up on the execution and evaluation of the programmes/activities of the World Scout Bureau.
- (v) To receive yearly consolidated audited reports from the World Scout Bureau.
- (w) To liaise and promote good relationships with the World Scout Foundation and receive its annual plans and strategies.
- (x) To approve the creation and supervise the management of all legal bodies created on behalf of the World Organization.
- (y) To supervise the organization of World Scout Events.
- (z) To exercise other functions resulting from this Constitution.

ARTICLE XV

Voting

1. Each voting member of the World Scout Committee shall have one vote.
2. Resolutions shall be taken by a simple majority of the voting members present and voting. In the event of a tie, the motion is defeated.

ARTICLE XVI

Meetings and Committees

1. The World Scout Committee shall meet at least once a year at such time and place as the Committee may decide. Such meetings may be held using electronic communication technology. Virtual attendance of individuals is permitted.
2. The presence of eight voting members shall constitute a quorum.
3. The World Scout Committee shall elect its Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons as provided for in this Constitution.
4. In case of emergency, and in the absence of the Chairperson's invitation, three members of the World Scout Committee may call an extraordinary meeting providing an explanation for calling the meeting and an agenda.
5. The World Scout Committee shall adopt its own Standing Orders which shall be available to Member Organizations.
6. The World Scout Committee may establish, on a permanent or ad hoc basis, such subsidiary committees or other organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

CHAPTER VI
THE WORLD SCOUT BUREAU

ARTICLE XVII

Composition

1. The World Scout Bureau shall serve as the Secretariat of the World Organization. It shall comprise the Secretary General of the World Organization and such staff as the Organization may require. The Secretary General shall be appointed by the World Scout Committee and shall be the chief administrative officer of the World Organization.
2. The World Scout Bureau shall consist of its international headquarters and such Regional Offices as are established under Article XX of this Constitution.

ARTICLE XVIII

**Functions
of Secretary
General**

1. The functions of the Secretary General are:
 - (a) To direct the work of the World Scout Bureau.
 - (b) To appoint, supervise and remove the staff of the World Scout Bureau, as provided for within the framework of the budget approved by the World Scout Committee. Insofar as is possible, such staff shall be recruited on an international basis.
 - (c) To make contacts as necessary, by correspondence and visits in order to promote and to safeguard the interests of the Movement.
 - (d) To exercise other functions resulting from this Constitution and such other functions as the World Scout Committee may delegate.

ARTICLE XIX
Functions of
World Scout
Bureau

1. The functions of the World Scout Bureau are:
 - (a) To assist the World Scout Conference, the World Scout Committee and its subsidiary organs in the fulfilment of their functions; to make preparations for all their meetings; and to provide the necessary services for the implementation of decisions.
 - (b) To provide the services necessary for the promotion of the Scout Movement throughout the world, such as research and documentation, training, programme, public relations and publications.
 - (c) To maintain relations with Member Organizations and to assist them in the development of Scouting.
 - (d) To promote the development of Scouting in countries where it does not exist, and to assist non-member National Organizations to attain the standards necessary for membership in the World Organization.
 - (e) To enquire into applications for membership, requests for aid and other similar matters.
 - (f) To support the organization of world and regional Scout events.
 - (g) To maintain relations with international organizations whose activities are concerned, inter alia, with youth.

CHAPTER VII

REGIONS

ARTICLE XX

Composition

1. Regions may be established in conformity with the requirements of this Constitution, comprising Member Organizations so desiring within a geographical area to be defined from time to time by the World Scout Committee.
2. Each Region shall be composed of the following organs:
 - (a) A Regional Scout Conference, comprising all Member Organizations of the Region.
 - (b) A Regional Scout Committee, duly elected by the Regional Scout Conference.
 - (c) A Regional Scout Office, directed by a Regional Director. The Regional Scout Office is also a branch of the World Scout Bureau, in conformity with Article XVII, paragraph 2, of this Constitution. The Regional Director is appointed by the Secretary General in agreement with the Regional Scout Committee, is paid by the World Scout Bureau and reports to the Secretary General to whom he is responsible, and to the Regional Scout Committee.

ARTICLE XXI

Functions

1. The functions of the Regional Scout Conferences are:
 - (a) To further the Scout Movement within the Region, by promoting the spirit of world kinship, cooperation and mutual assistance amongst Scout Organizations within the Region.
 - (b) To exercise such functions as are provided for in the constitutions or other laws governing the Region.
 - (c) To ensure the proper implementation of the decisions and policies laid down by the World Organization which affect the Region.

2. The functions of the Regional Scout Committees are:
 - (a) To exercise such functions as are provided for in the constitutions or other laws governing the Region.
 - (b) To act as an advisory body and report to the World Scout Committee.
 - (c) To foster and monitor progress in implementing the decisions and policies of the World Organization within the Region.
 - (d) To act as an advisory body for Member Organizations requiring advice and assistance.
3. The functions of the Regional Scout Offices are:
 - (a) To serve as a Secretariat of the Region.
 - (b) To serve as a Secretariat of the World Organization in matters relating to the Region.

ARTICLE XXII

Relationships between Regions and World Organization

1. The constitutions or other laws governing Regions, and any amendments thereto, must be approved by the World Scout Committee before entering into force.
2. In the event of a conflict between the obligations resulting from the Constitution of the World Organization and the obligations resulting from a Regional constitution or other laws governing a Region, the obligations resulting from the World Organization Constitution shall prevail.

CHAPTER VIII
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

ARTICLE XXIII

Finances

1. Each Member Organization shall pay an annual registration fee at a rate and according to a formula to be determined from time to time by the World Scout Conference, by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.
2. All funds shall be deposited to the credit of the World Scout Bureau and shall be disbursed by the Treasurer in accordance with a budget approved and certified by the World Scout Committee.
3. An audited financial statement shall be submitted annually by the Treasurer to the World Scout Committee and shall be sent to all Member Organizations.
4. The World Scout Committee shall appoint auditors to the World Scout Bureau.

ARTICLE XXIV

Languages

1. The official languages of the World Organization are English and French.

In the event of a conflict arising out of the interpretation of this Constitution or any other official document of the World Organization, the English text shall prevail.

ARTICLE XXV

**Amendments
to the
Constitution**

1. This Constitution may be amended by the World Scout Conference at any of its meetings by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast. Texts of proposed amendments shall be communicated by the World Scout Bureau to all Member Organizations at least four months in advance of the time of the meeting.

ARTICLE XXVI

Dissolution of WOSM

1. The World Organization of the Scout Movement may only be dissolved with the consent of no less than two-thirds of all its Member Organizations. Such consent shall be expressed at a meeting of the World Scout Conference.
2. A resolution for dissolution may be put forward by the World Scout Committee or by a resolution signed by not less than one-half of the Member Organizations in order to be voted at the World Scout Conference. Notice of such a draft resolution shall be communicated by the World Scout Bureau to all Member Organizations at least four months in advance of the time of the meeting. If the resolution is carried, incumbent Members of the World Scout Committee shall remain in office as long as is necessary to effect the dissolution in accordance with the requirements of its legal identity (see Article IV.4).





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