



Regional recognitions framework

Interamerican Scout Region

Regional Recognitions Framework

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Introduction

Recognizing and valuing the contributions of adults, whether voluntary or paid, has historically been a fundamental principle of the Scout Movement. In the Interamerican Region, this recognition takes on a special dimension by highlighting and acknowledging the outstanding services rendered to the development of the Scout Movement and the well-being of youth on the continent.

The Constitution of the Interamerican Scout Region establishes among the responsibilities of the Interamerican Scout Committee the duty to grant recognitions and distinctions for services rendered to the organization or to the youth of the region. In fulfilment of this mandate, and with the desire to publicly honour the commitment and excellence of volunteers, the Youth of the Americas Award was established in 1972. Since then, this distinction has become the highest form of recognition the Region grants to those who have exemplary dedicated their service.

Over the years, the regional recognition system has evolved. In 2011, the creation of the uniform ribbon for the Youth of the Americas medal was approved, and other forms of recognition have since been developed, reflecting the diversity of contributions that strengthen our Scout community.

In this context, and in response to the need to consolidate, update, and provide greater coherence to the existing set of recognitions, the 2022–2025 Interamerican Scout Committee has promoted the review and restructuring of the regional recognition framework. The purpose of this document is to present this updated framework, providing a clear, organized, and meaningful guide for appropriately valuing the exceptional contributions of volunteers in different areas of regional action.

1. Purpose

This framework aims to establish a clear, transparent, and coherent system for granting regional recognition within outstanding adults in the Interamerican Scout Region. Its purpose is to recognize, highlight, and value the extraordinary contributions of those individuals who, from diverse areas of participation, have demonstrated an exemplary commitment to the principles of the Scout Movement and to serving the youth of the continent.

In line with the World Policy and Regional Model for Adults in Scouting, this framework recognizes that gratitude and appreciation are essential components of comprehensive adult management. The motivation, retention, and development of individuals—whether volunteers or paid—are strengthened when their contributions are recognised in a meaningful and timely manner.

This document establishes the foundation for fostering a culture of recognition that inspires, connects, and encourages both personal and collective growth within the Scout Movement, promoting an environment in which every adult feels valued as a key contributor of the mission we share.

2. Scope

This framework applies exclusively to the regional recognition process granted by the Interamerican Scout Committee and the Regional Directorate, within the scope of their constitutional responsibilities. It is intended for adult, volunteers and paid, formally nominated to the Interamerican Scout Committee or the Regional Directorate, as appropriate, for having provided outstanding services to the Interamerican Scout Region or to the development of Scouting in the region.

It does not replace or interfere with the recognition systems of each National Scout Organization; rather it complements them by providing an additional level of acknowledgment from the regional perspective. The framework establishes the criteria, mechanisms, and structures necessary to ensure that the recognition process is carried out in a fair, participatory, and representative manner.

3. Guiding principles

The awarding of regional recognitions in the Interamerican Scout Region is governed by a series of guiding principles that ensure consistency with the values of the Scout Movement and the institutional frameworks that support it.

These principles are derived from the Constitution of the Interamerican Scout Region, the Policies of the Interamerican Region, and the World Policy on Adults in Scouting.

- **Consistency with the values of the Scout Movement**
Recognitions must reflect the principles, values, and mission of the Scout Movement, highlighting contributions that promote the holistic development of young people, selfless service, and the Scouting experience as a way of life.
- **Outstanding and Sustained Service**
Regional recognitions are awarded to volunteers and paid staff who have demonstrated a consistent and significant commitment to the Scout Movement, contributing with excellence to institutional strengthening, adult training, youth impact, or the promotion of regional cooperation.
- **Equity, inclusion, and diversity**
The recognition process is guided by equity criteria, recognizing the diversity of contexts across the region and valuing contributions from multiple roles, backgrounds, and contexts.
- **Transparency and Merit**
The nomination, review, and decision-making process is based on objective, transparent, and well-defined criteria, ensuring that awards are granted based on merit and the impact of service provided.

4. Recognitions Scheme

The regional recognitions system consists of five distinctions, designed to highlight the contributions of volunteers and paid staff at various stages and in various contexts of their service.

Each recognition has its own purpose, and there is no progressive or interdependent relationship between them. This approach allows for the appreciation of different levels of impact, areas of contribution, and service trajectories

within the Scout Movement, reflecting the richness and diversity of volunteer engagement that strengthens both the organization and the movement.

Name	Purpose	Characteristics
Youth of the Americas Award	Highest regional recognition for outstanding international services to youth.	Medal, fabric ribbon for uniform and certificate
Juan Lainé Roz Medal	Significant and impactful services for the Interamerican Region, promoting institutional strengthening and growth of the Scout Movement	Medal, fabric ribbon for uniform, certificate
Salvador Fernández Beltrán Medal of Gratitude	Specific, tangible, and high-value contributions to the World Scout Bureau, Interamerica Support Center	Medal, fabric ribbon for uniform and certificate
Friend of Youth Plaque	Non-members of the organization and entities that support the Scout Movement at national and regional levels	Plaque
Institutional Action Plaque	National Scout organizations with significant contributions to the advancement of the Regional Plan and the growth of the region	Plaque

5. Technical Sheets

a. Youth of the Americas Award

Background

The Youth of the Americas Award was created in 1972 by the Interamerican Scout Committee to honor individuals who have rendered outstanding services to youth in the Interamerican Scout Region.

In 2011, the Interamerican Scout Committee approved the medal ribbon for the Scout uniform, and in 2018, the Interamerican Scout Committee formalized the Terms of Reference and regulations associated with this recognition, thus consolidating its regulatory framework and awarding criteria.

Description of recognition

The award consists of a circular medal, 2.5 cm in diameter in bronze color. The medal's rim features the inscriptions "YOUTH OF THE AMERICAS" at the top and "JUVENTUD DE LAS AMERICAS" at the bottom.

In the center, the American continent is depicted, crossed by a line of longitude intersecting the equator. To the right is the World Scout emblem. The medal hangs from a 2.5 cm wide purple ribbon, crossed longitudinally by a 0.6 cm yellow stripe, designed to be worn around the neck.

The award also includes a uniform badge, consisting of a purple cloth stripe with two yellow lines on either side of the World Scout emblem, which is placed over the right pocket of the Scout shirt.

The recognition is accompanied by the YOUTH OF THE AMERICAS certificate, signed by the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Interamerican Scout Committee.

Eligible candidates

This recognition is awarded to adults whose contributions to the Scout Movement have been outstanding at the regional or international level, directly benefiting youth.

It is not intended to recognize meritorious service at the national level, as National Scout Organizations are responsible for establishing their own recognition systems for that purpose.

The award is not granted to individuals in their first years of relevant service at the regional level or to current members of the Interamerican Scout Committee. It is also not awarded to those who are candidates for election to the committee during the same conference. Posthumous awards are not granted.

Nomination Process

Nominations may be submitted by any individual or group of members of the organization, regardless of whether they belong to the same country as the nominee and must be properly supported with the reasons for the nomination.

Proposals are evaluated at least once a year by the Interamerican Scout Committee through the Honors and Awards Committee and in accordance with the criteria established in the current Terms of Reference. The aim is to ensure that the award is granted at an appropriate point in the nominee's service trajectory.

Form of presentation

The official presentation is preferably made during the Interamerican Scout Conference or on another occasion of regional relevance.

When the recognized person cannot be present, the medal may be presented later by the national leadership of their Scout Organization or during another significant event.

As a general rule, no more than ten distinctions are awarded per conference, to preserve their symbolic value and avoid indiscriminate presentation.

b. Juan Lainé Roiz Medal

Background

The Juan Lainé Roiz Medal was initially established by the Interamerican Scout Committee as a recognition for adult volunteers who have already been recognized by their National Scout Association with its highest honor for their outstanding and exceptional services and who continued to be contributing consistently and continuously to their organization.

As part of the review and renewal of the Regional Recognition System, in 2025 the Interamerican Scout Committee redefined the purpose of this recognition to highlight significant and impactful actions and services for the

Interamerican Region, promoting institutional strengthening and growth of the Scout Movement beyond international borders.

In this context, the Juan Lainé Roiz Medal recognizes adult volunteers who have provided exceptional contribution through their service to the institutional strengthening of the Scout Movement in the Interamerican Region. The medal is named after Juan Lainé Roiz, a distinguished Mexican leader and a historical figure of the Scout Movement on the continent.

Description of recognition

The award consists of a circular, bronze medal with a diameter of 2.5 cm. The upper border reads "MEDALLA JUAN LAINÉ ROIZ" and the lower border reads "JUAN LAINÉ ROIZ MEDAL."

In the centre, it features the bust of Juan Lainé Roiz with the inscription "SERVICE- SERVICIO" below. The medal hangs from a yellow ribbon measuring three centimetres wide by five centimetres long and is located above the right pocket of the uniform.

The recognition is accompanied by the JUAN LAINÉ ROIZ MEDAL certificate, signed by the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Interamerican Scout Committee.

Eligible Candidates

This recognition is awarded to adults who have provided exceptional services and have had a real and sustainable positive impact on the institutional strengthening and growth of countries in the Interamerican Region or on the strengthening of regional cooperation.

It is not intended to recognize meritorious service at the national level, as National Scout Organizations are responsible for establishing their own recognition systems for that purpose.

The award is not granted to individuals in their first years of relevant service at the regional level or to current members of the Interamerican Scout Committee. It is also not awarded to those who are candidates for election to the committee during the same conference. Posthumous awards are not granted.

Nomination Process

Nominations may be submitted by any individual or group of members of the organization, regardless of whether they belong to the same country as the nominee and must be properly supported with the reasons for the nomination.

Proposals are evaluated at least once a year by the Interamerican Scout Committee through the Honors and Awards Committee and in accordance with the criteria established in the current Terms of Reference. The aim is to ensure that the award is granted at an appropriate point in the nominee's service trajectory.

Form of presentation

The official presentation is preferably made during the Interamerican Scout Conference or on another occasion of regional relevance.

When the recognized person cannot be present, the medal may be presented later by the national leadership of their Scout Organization or during another significant event.

As a general rule, no more than ten distinctions are awarded per conference, to preserve their symbolic value and avoid indiscriminate presentations.

c. Salvador Fernández Beltrán Medal of Gratitude

Background

The Salvador Fernández Beltrán Medal of Gratitude was established by the Interamerican Scout Committee to recognize, in coordination with the Regional Director, those who have provided outstanding, verifiable, and significant services in support of the Scout Movement in the Interamerican Region through the World Scout Bureau – Interamerica Support Centre. The recognition honours the memory and legacy of Salvador Fernández Beltrán, a key figure in strengthening the Scout Movement in the Americas.

Description of recognition

The award consists of a circular, bronze medal with a diameter of 2.5 cm. The upper border reads: MEDALLA SALVADOR FERNÁNDEZ BELTRÁN, and below GRATITUD-GRATITUDE.

In the centre, the medal features a bust of Salvador Fernández Beltrán. The medal hangs from a green ribbon, three centimetres wide by five centimetres long, and is located above the right pocket of the uniform.

The recognition is accompanied by the SALVADOR FERNÁNDEZ BELTRÁN certificate, signed by the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Interamerican Scout Committee.

Eligible Candidates

This recognition is awarded to adults who have made specific, tangible, and high-value contributions to the World Scout Bureau, Interamerica Support Centre, from various roles and functions, reflecting a positive impact on regional work.

It is not required for nominees to belong to a specific country or National Scout Organization; what matters is the significance of their contribution at the regional level.

The award is not granted to individuals in their first years of relevant service at the regional level or to current members of the Interamerican Scout Committee. It is also not awarded to those who are candidates for election to the committee during the same conference. Posthumous awards are not granted.

Nomination Process

The Regional Director proposes candidates based on concrete contributions to the work of the Interamerica Support Centre. The decision to award them is made by the Regional Director in consultation with the Interamerican Scout Committee.

Any person or group of members of the organization may suggest names to the Regional Director for consideration.

Form of Presentation

The medal is presented by the Regional Director in a private ceremony, which may include the presence of members of the Interamerican Scout Committee, the leadership team of the recognized person's National Scout Organization, or members of the Interamerica Support Centre. It may also be presented during a regional event attended by members of the Interamerican Scout Committee.

As a general rule, no more than ten medals are awarded per year, to preserve their symbolic value and avoid indiscriminate awarding.

d. Friend of Youth Plaque

Background

The Friend of Youth Plaque is created by the 2022-2025 Interamerican Scout Committee to express gratitude and recognition to individuals, entities, or companies that, while not part of the Scout Movement, have demonstrated significant commitment to the development of Scouting in the Interamerican Region.

Description of the Recognition

The award consists of a square plaque with the World Scouting emblem at the top. In the centre, it reads, "The Interamerican Scout Committee, in recognition of your commitment and exceptional service, grants the Friend of Youth distinction to"

At the bottom, the name of the person or institution being honoured and the date of presentation are included.

Eligible Individuals or Entities

This distinction may be awarded to non-members of the Scout Movement, as well as to entities or companies that have provided significant financial, material, or technical support on a selfless basis, fostering the development of the Scout Movement in more than one country or directly to the World Scout Bureau - Interamerica Support Centre.

Nomination Process

Proposals must be submitted to the Interamerican Scout Committee by the governing bodies of the National Scout Organizations that have received support from the nominated individual or entity.

In cases where the support was provided directly to the World Scout Bureau - Interamerica Support Centre, the nomination will be submitted by the Regional Director to the Interamerican Scout Committee.

Form of Presentation

The plaque is presented during a ceremony agreed upon by the **benefiting** National Scout Organizations or during a regional event, preferably in the presence of representatives of those organizations and members of the Interamerican Scout Committee.

e. Institutional Action Plaque

Background

The Institutional Action Plaque was created by the 2022-2025 Interamerican Scout Committee with the purpose to recognize the National Scout Organizations that are members of the Interamerican Region and have demonstrated outstanding contributions to collectively assumed regional commitments. This recognition seeks to highlight and value the institutional work that contributes to strengthening the Scout Movement at the regional level.

Description of the recognition:

The award consists of a square plaque with the World Scouting emblem at the top. In the centre, it reads, "The Interamerican Scout Committee, in recognition of its exceptional commitment to the growth of the Interamerican Region, grants the Institutional Action distinction to the ____ Association."

At the bottom, the name of the National Scout Organization and the date of presentation are included.

Eligible Organizations

This distinction is awarded to National Scout Organizations that are members of the Interamerican Region and have demonstrated outstanding contribution to the achievement of the regional objectives established in the Regional Plan.

Nomination Process

Proposals must be submitted to the Interamerican Scout Committee by the committees or working groups of the Committee, or by the World Scout Bureau, Interamerica Support Centre, based on monitoring, evaluation, and outcomes related to the regional commitments assumed by the organizations.

Form of presentation

The Institutional Action Plaque is presented during the Interamerican Scout Conference. If the recognized National Scout Organization is not present, it may be presented later at a regional event or sent to the organization's national representatives.

This recognition is awarded to a maximum of ten National Scout Organizations that make the greatest contribution to the results of the Regional Plan.

6. Interamerican Honors and Awards Committee

The Interamerican Honors and Awards Committee is established as a permanent committee of the Interamerican Scout Committee with the characteristics and responsibilities established in its Terms of Reference.

Purpose

The Honors and Awards Committee is the advisory body of the Interamerican Scout Committee on all matters related to honors and recognitions. It also acts as the nominating committee to the Regional Committee for the granting of the Youth of the Americas Award and the other recognitions of the Interamerican Scout Committee that make up the Recognition Framework of the Interamerican Region, in accordance with the constitutional mandate to recognize exceptional services rendered to the region and to the youth of the continent.

Composition

The Honors and Awards Committee shall be composed of **five (5)** voting members with extensive international Scouting experience who have previously received the Youth of the Americas Award. One of these individuals shall serve as the Coordinator of the Honors and Awards Committee. In addition, the Regional Director of the World Scout Bureau – Interamerica Support Centre shall be a voting member of the Committee, bringing the total number of voting members to **six (6)**.

An additional person, a staff member of the WSB-IASC, shall serve as the Committee's Secretariat. This person shall be appointed by the Regional Director and shall be responsible for providing the Interamerican Scout Committee, National Scout Organizations, and other interested parties with information related to the procedures for ongoing honours and awards.

Nomination Process

The Honors and Awards Committee will meet at least twice a year, by electronic means, to conduct a preliminary evaluation of the nominations received. A permanent online nomination form will be available at the designated link and may be completed by the individuals identified in the Regional Recognition Framework for each type of recognition.

The secretary of the Honors and Awards Committee must send a reminder two months before the meeting to all members of the Honors and Awards Committee and the National Scout Organizations, with a copy to the Regional

Director inviting the submission of nominations and informing them of the closing date, which must be at least one month before the meeting.

Evaluation and granting

The members of the Honors and Awards Committee will conduct a preliminary evaluation and issue recommendations to the Interamerican Scout Committee, which will decide on the awarding of recognitions at a regular meeting or by electronic vote.

The evaluation will focus on the nominee's performance and results, which must be concretely and sufficiently demonstrated in the application to qualify as an exceptional contribution or service at the regional level.

Age, length of service, extensive travel, attendance at Conferences, Jamborees, or other events, or committee's responsibilities and membership are not in themselves evidence of exceptional service. Nor is faithful and satisfactory performance of the duties of a position or appointment.

For the case of the Institutional Action Plaque, the Regional Director will provide the Honors and Awards Committee with the evaluation criteria agreed upon with the Interamerican Scout Committee and the necessary information from each of the National Scout Organizations to assess their level of contribution. This evaluation process will take place at least two months before the Interamerican Scout Conference.

For the case of the Salvador Fernández Beltrán Medal, the evaluation procedure through the Honors and Awards Committee is not required, since its granting is the direct responsibility of the Regional Director. This is carried out through a consultative process during an ordinary meeting of the Interamerican Scout Committee or via email.

The presentation of recognitions will be conducted as outlined in the respective sections of the Regional Recognitions Framework.

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