



**A STRATEGY FOR SCOUTING...  
FROM DURBAN TO THESSALONIKI**

# **1. UNDERSTANDING THE MISSION STATEMENT**



World Organization  
of the Scout Movement  
Organisation Mondiale  
du Mouvement Scout

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# STRATEGY

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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**The mission of Scouting is to contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law, 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 in 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.

## **CONFERENCE RESOLUTION 3/99**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Conference

- commending the World Scout Committee's Strategy Task Force for the preparation of the discussion on the mission statement
- appreciating the participatory process that has been followed since the Oslo Conference in the work to develop a mission statement
- adopts the mission statement for Scouting proposed by the Select Committee, as amended
- urges the World Scout Committee, Regional Scout Committees and National Scout Organizations to disseminate the mission statement as widely as possible and do their utmost to facilitate the understanding and implementation of it
- invites the World Scout Committee to continue its work on the development of the various formulations of the mission statement and the conditions necessary for its achievement, taking into account the output of the discussions at this Conference, and to present a progress report to the next World Scout Conference.

## **INTRODUCTION**

For the first time, the World Scout Conference, meeting in Durban in July 1999, adopted a mission statement for Scouting. The adoption of the mission statement is the latest milestone in the work undertaken by the World Organization of the Scout Movement on the development of a Strategy for Scouting. The statement, which is based on WOSM's Constitution, is intended to reaffirm Scouting's role in today's world.

The Conference also adopted Resolution 3/99 requesting that appropriate follow-up be made at all levels of the Movement to facilitate the implementation of the mission.

The process used at the Durban Conference leading to the adoption of the mission statement emphasised the active involvement of all Conference participants; this worked well. The text adopted is a result of this process. The Conference acknowledged that the wording of the text could have been refined. Since Durban, the World Scout Bureau has received questions concerning the text, in relation to both the meaning of terms and how the various elements within the statement relate to each other.

This document is the first in a series of tools to be produced by the Strategy Task Force to help implement the mission. The purpose of this document is to facilitate the understanding and use of the mission statement within the wide range of national Scout organisations that comprise WOSM. It provides a variety of ways of examining the text. None of these ways is designed to provide an alternative to the text adopted in Durban. While recognising that a better wording of the mission statement might be necessary, this can only be done by the World Scout Conference itself.

Over a period of time, you will receive other tools produced by the Strategy Task Force. These will concentrate on helping you to consider and meet the challenges involved in making sure that our mission becomes a reality.

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*The following text provides a short explanation of some of the key words used in the first paragraph of the mission statement. These explanations constitute the framework for Scouting's specific educational approach described in the three bullet points of the mission statement.*



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*The following text provides an explanatory commentary on the main phrases of the first paragraph of the mission statement. The commentary draws upon the contents of the three bullet points which also form an integral part of the mission statement.*

### **The mission of Scouting is...**

Scouting's mission statement is based on the fundamentals of the Movement (definition, purpose, principles and method) described in the Constitution of WOSM. The mission, and in particular the conditions needed for its achievement, translates these timeless and abstract concepts in a pro-active way which enables the Movement to situate its particular role and function in today's world so as to better meet the needs and aspirations of young people. It should foster a sense of direction and commitment and fulfil a unifying, mobilising and motivational function.

### **to contribute to the education of young people...**

Education is a life-long process which helps to unfold a person's potential throughout life. Scouting *contributes* to the education of young people through its structured and attractive youth programme. It uses the Scout Method, which makes each individual the principal agent in his or her own personal development. This form of non-formal education *complements*, but does not replicate or replace, the education provided through the school (formal education) and through family, friends and the media (informal education).

### **through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law...**

Scouting is based on a value system. This is expressed in the principles of the Movement, normally summarised in three categories: duty to God, duty to others and duty to self. For young people, Scouting's values are expressed in the Promise and Law, the cornerstone of the Scout Method: a voluntary personal commitment (the Scout Promise) to do one's best to adhere to an ethical code of behaviour (the Scout Law).

### **to help build a better world...**

Scouting was born from the desire of its Founder, Lord Baden-Powell, to improve society, a goal he believed could only be achieved by improving the individuals in society. Indeed, he considered the "character of its citizens" as being a country's greatest strength. Scouting's purpose therefore – contributing to the development of young people – is set in this broader social context: helping to build a better world *through* the education of young people.

**where people are self-fulfilled as individuals...**

Baden-Powell would have described this as being “a happy, active and useful citizen – a person of character”. What it really means is someone who is able to make his or her own decisions and manage his or her life; someone who actively cares about and for others; someone who is able to assume the consequences of his or her decisions, keep commitments and complete what he or she undertakes; someone who seeks to live according to his or her values and supports causes and ideals which he or she finds important.

**and play a constructive role in society...**

Education includes the development of an awareness of and concern for others, the sense of belonging to a community and being part of its history and evolution. This implies learning to live with others as an active member of one’s local, national and international communities. Scouting’s broader social purpose is to help build a better world in which each individual has a contribution to make to the future development of society. Baden-Powell said, “Try and leave this world a little better than when you found it.”

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*The following text illustrates the relationship between the elements that underlie the basic concept of the mission of Scouting.*

Scouting helps build a better world

- *by* contributing to the education of young people.

It does so

- *by* offering them a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law, and
- *by* using a specific method that makes each individual the principal agent of his or her development,

thus developing self-fulfilled individuals who are willing and able to play a constructive role in society.



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*The following text summarises the statement in four short phrases. Each of them represents an important **aspect** of Scouting and can be used for specific purposes. However, none of these aspects represents the totality of Scouting's mission.*

Scouting

- contributes to the education of young people to help build a better world
- offers a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law
- uses a specific method that makes each individual the principal agent of his or her development
- develops self-fulfilled individuals who are able to play a constructive role in society