



## **G: SUPPORTING THE COUNTY TEAM IN DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS**

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### **Adult training**

Module 19 is the key method of delivering information and helping learning on the international dimension of Scouting. You will find a specimen programme for Module 19 at the end of *International Essentials*.

The remainder of this section provides background information on a number of aspects of Scouting around the world, which can be used in helping to develop international awareness amongst colleagues.

### **World Scouting - the World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM)/Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout**

The World Organisation of the Scout Movement is an international, non-governmental organisation composed of its recognized national Scout organisations. Its governing body is the World Conference, which meets every three years, and its executive is the World Committee composed of elected volunteers.

The World Scout Bureau is the secretariat of the World Movement. It serves national Scout organisations from its headquarters in Geneva and its regional offices in Geneva and Brussels; Cairo; Manila; Nairobi, Dakar and Cape Town; Santiago de Chile; Yalta-Gurzuf and Moscow.

The World Scout Bureau's services are funded by fees from National Scout Organisations, based on their membership and adjusted according to their country's per capita income. Other funding comes from contributions and grants from foundations, corporations, agencies and individuals. Significant support is received from the World Scout Foundation.

### **How many Scouts?**

There are more than 28 million Scouts (young people and adults, male and female) in 216 countries and territories across the world.

### **National Organisations**

There are 155 countries that have internationally recognized National Scout Organisations

The WOSM website ([www.scout.org](http://www.scout.org)) contains a wealth of information about Scouting across the world, supported by a series of fact sheets. The site also links to all the Scout Regions and the World Scout Shop.

Our fact sheet on World Scouting (FS260010) is available from the Scout Information Centre.

### **World Scouting Regions**

There are six Scout Regions:

The European Scout Region covers over 40 countries (including the United Kingdom) and has more than 2 million members.

[www.scout.org/europe](http://www.scout.org/europe)

The Africa Scout Region comprises 34 full members, one Accredited member, and several countries are currently seeking membership.

[www.scout.org/africa](http://www.scout.org/africa)

The Arab Scout Region currently comprises 17 member countries.

[www.arabscout.org](http://www.arabscout.org)

The Asia-Pacific Region covers 23 member countries and two associate members, from Mongolia in the north to New Zealand in the south, and from Pakistan in the west to Kiribati in the east. The region has 17 million youth and adult members.

[www.scout.org/asiapacific](http://www.scout.org/asiapacific)

\*The Inter-American Scout Region covers the continents of North and South America.

[www.scout.org/interamerica](http://www.scout.org/interamerica)

\*The Eurasia Scout Region covers many of the countries in the former Soviet Union.

[www.scout.org/eurasia](http://www.scout.org/eurasia)

### **The Commonwealth**

The Commonwealth is a unique network of 53 countries and a further 24 states from across the world. It includes over a quarter of the world's population and land surface. Half of the population of the Commonwealth is under 25 years old. Membership of the Commonwealth has no legal or constitutional obligations. It is based on voluntary affinity rather than a formal charter.

Scouting has developed in almost every Commonwealth country. Several of the nations currently have Scouting as an Overseas Branch of UK Scouting

The Commonwealth offers a unique opportunity for Scouting in the United Kingdom to interact with very diverse communities of Scouts throughout the world,



beginning with the common values of Scouting coupled with the advantages of a shared language and heritage.

### **Council of Commonwealth Scout Associations**

At recent World Scout Conferences meetings have been convened to consider how the Scouts of the Commonwealth could make better use of our unique network. At the World Conference in Tunisia in September 2005, a constitution for the Council of Commonwealth Scout Associations was approved.

[www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/inter/world/commonwealth/index.htm](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/inter/world/commonwealth/index.htm)

### **World and Regional events**

International camps, events and activities for Scouts take place across the world every year. World Scout Jamborees and World Scout Moots are held every four years. Regional and national events are organised according to local or regional timescales.

### **International Opportunities**

The International Office at Gilwell publishes *International Opportunities* every month and this provides information on all forthcoming international events and camps (you can find this on [www.scouts.org.uk/scoutbase](http://www.scouts.org.uk/scoutbase)).

Generally, Scouts in the UK are encouraged to apply to take part in most events direct to the host organisation, subject only to the Travel Abroad procedure. This is administered by the Assistant County Commissioner (International) for the most part but by the International Commissioner for members of National Fellowships .

The requirements for Nights Away permits and appropriate activity authorisations apply to activities abroad in the same way as they do to activities in the UK.

### **World events**

World Scout Jamborees and World Scout Moots are organised every four years, within procedures and guidelines established by WOSM.

Jamborees are for young people aged between 14 and 18 years, and are held in a different part of the world every four years. Moots are gatherings of members of senior sections of National Scout Associations (sometimes called Rovers, or Scout Networks), and other young adult members. Participants range from 18 to 26 years.

All these events provide an opportunity for members of our Associations to camp together in a spirit of friendship and harmony, and together to improve their understanding of international, environmental and solidarity issues as young citizens of the world.

For information and dates of previous and future world events please consult

[www.scout.org](http://www.scout.org)

which lists these events by event, by year, by country. The ACC/ACC (International) has a key role in advising Groups and Units on suitable events for them to enjoy.

### **World Scout Youth Forum**

The World Scout Youth Forum is linked to the World Conference, and held every three years. It provides a dual opportunity for youth members:

- To discuss and express their views on issues of interest to them, to make recommendations to the World Conference and to the World Committee
- To develop the skills necessary to strengthen their capacity to take part in decision-making processes.

Each National Scout Organisation is invited to send a delegation of members aged 18-15 years to the Forum; Associations must be members of WOSM.

Contingents to world events are organised nationally, within WOSM guidelines; information concerning the organisation of UK contingents is widely distributed to areas and counties in the United Kingdom and is also available on the Association's website

[www.scout.org.uk](http://www.scout.org.uk)

There are also many opportunities for adults to assist at world events, either as unit leaders or as members of International Service Teams.

### **UK Contingents to other international events**

As well as organising contingents to world and European events, from time to time the Association provides support and co-ordination for national contingents to other events across the world. Details are available from the International Office.

### **Regional events**

From time to time the World Scouting Regions organise their own regional events and activities. The Arab Scout Region recently organised a number of events which



have been attended by members of our Association, and the European Scout Region has organised two RoverWays

### RoverWay

RoverWay is an international Scouting and Guiding event for the European region. It is organised for 16-22 year olds and provides the participants with a remarkable international experience. UK contingents have attended the first two RoverWays held in Portugal in 2003 and in Italy in 2006.

Other European Regional programmes include *Where to Stay in Europe* and the European Scout Voluntary Programme (together comprising the *Europe for You!* programme). More information on these two programmes can be found in Section I of *International Essentials*.

### Twinning

Participating in a twinning link or exchange can contribute directly to many aspects of the Scout programme and also to many subjects within the national curriculum at school. Living in a different country can also increase self-confidence and practical skills, through experiences such as using new forms of transport, participating in local sports and arts events, and visiting local shops and restaurants where a different language is spoken.

Twinning visits will also increase an awareness of citizenship by giving first-hand experience of the way in which other societies function. Through direct contact with young people from other cultures, national stereotyping can be overcome and replaced by tolerance and respect for other cultures.

Our youth members also need to develop the skills required in later life to apply for jobs in other countries or with organisations that are owned or managed by people from other nationalities.

Scouting is ideally suited to participate in Twinning Programmes. It could be at Group, District or County level and could be developed through existing Scouting networks or by meeting potential partners through an international activity or event.

### Twinning organisations

There are currently over 2,000 recognised twinning links in the UK, 50% of which are with France and 25% with Germany. The remaining 25% are with communities all over the world, including Commonwealth countries, the USA and China. There

has been a recent growth in twinning links with central and Eastern Europe.

To find out if there are existing links in your area, contact your local Town Hall or County Hall for details of your local Twinning officer or Twinning Committee.

The Local Government International Bureau maintains a national database of twinning links and formalised international partnerships and they would be able to assist you with details of other links in your area

[www.lgib.gov.uk](http://www.lgib.gov.uk)

The LGIB publish a guide *Take Your Partners*, which is primarily designed to help establish formal town twinning partnerships, but which also includes other useful information on twinning. Links on their website include:

- British Council's education and training Section
- Connect Youth International
- Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council
- Development Education Association
- Making Your Global Mark

### Transfers abroad

If a youth or adult Member wishes to transfer to UK Scouting abroad, please contact the International Office with the details of the member concerned and the country or territory of destination.

There is no official form to send to the new Association but we have produced a specimen, a copy of which appears at the end of this section.

### British Groups Abroad

In today's world, people find themselves working and living in another country, sometimes for short periods but often for extended ones. Where they are able to take their families, expatriates will want to see their children carry on their Scouting.

While the Scout Movement exists in almost every country, the relatively short stay of most expatriate young people (and their need to be able to re-enter UK Scouting) often makes it helpful for there to be a form of UK Scouting available abroad.

British Groups Abroad is the largest geographical County in UK Scouting! It covers all parts of the world



excluding the UK, parts of Western Europe and the Overseas Branches of the Association. The County is subject to huge fluctuations as a result of the political and economic situation in various regions. The County ranges from 27 to 40 Groups in 15 to 25 countries.

Training Sections in BGA are identical to those in Groups in the UK and young people follow the same programme. Leaders are warranted and follow the adult training programme although the local circumstances in which they operate calls for more flexible adult training and development methods.

For more information about BGA, details of all the Groups, copies of their magazine *Far and Wide* and their Annual Report visit

<http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/inter/uk/bga/index.htm>

#### **Overseas branches**

Due to development, a number of Commonwealth countries originally part of the United Kingdom Association have formed their own independent Associations.

Some independent Commonwealth countries have relatively small Scout populations and, to remain Scouts, have continued to be an Overseas Branch of UK Scouting. These are; Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Other branches are to be found in British Overseas Territories. These are: Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands.

For the latest information, download recent additions of the *Branches Bulletin* visit:

[www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/inter/uk/branches/](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/inter/uk/branches/)

#### **British Scouts Western Europe**

Covering parts of Western Europe, the Scout Area of British Scouts Western Europe (BSWE) offers British style Scouting for British expatriate communities. BSWE is administratively part of the South East region of UK Scouting.

<http://bswescouts.com/cmstypo3/>

#### **Solidarity with Scouting worldwide**

More than ever before, Scouting needs young men and women capable of acting in partnership for a world 'without borders', in the name of justice, solidarity and peace. Over the past 20 years, the number of Scouts in the world has increased by more than 100%, and most of this growth has been in less developed countries. This proves the ability of Scouting to respond to the needs and aspirations of young people from an extraordinary diversity of cultures and traditions.

According to the *Marrakech Charter*, partnerships in Scouting can be defined as:

The establishment of a voluntary and collaborative relationship to achieve mutual goals and experiences between two or more entities by exchanging and sharing what they have in an educational process or project. They have a common intention which they want to reach within a defined time frame.

Because we are members of a truly international Movement, we need to help young people and their leaders to think of people in developing countries as our neighbours. Through educational projects we can learn about the interdependence of the world communities and show the need for co-operation and a sharing of world resources. This is an important application of the principles of the Scout Law and Promise.

In line with the aims of our Association, the main value of Scout involvement in such international projects is an educational one. The mission of both Scout and Guide Associations is the development of young people. They are not overseas aid agencies, a supply of cheap labour, or travel agents. By working together with these young people, we seek to improve the long-term quality of life in communities both in the UK and overseas.

What starts as a practical project to help others overseas should help our Scouts to explore the links between us and the community in which we live, and the wider world. Such projects may involve fund raising, partnership working, or visits abroad to help, but the underlying reason for such participation is to help our youth members to understand the issues involved, and to bring about change by practical, constructive action.

It is through involvement and first hand experience that young people grow in awareness. But these benefits are not automatic! To build international understanding we must consciously challenge both prejudice and the notion that our culture is the best.



### **Marrakech Charter (Bangalore revised edition 2006)**

All such Scouting projects should follow the principles set down in the revised edition of the *Marrakech Charter*. This encourages a process of consultation, negotiation and education to ensure that the needs and expectations of all parties are met. The project should be covered by a partnership agreement, with clear statements by all partners, the beneficiaries, the inputs, expected outcomes, time scales and a clear exit strategy.

The Charter encourages the establishment of multilateral partnerships with other Scout Associations especially in the same geographical area and calls for active co-operation with organisations external to the Scout Movement.

World Scouting intends the document to be used as a guideline for establishing and developing partnerships. It very clearly indicates the criteria for partnerships to be established between Scout Associations and other local, national or international governmental or non-governmental organisations.

The Charter can be downloaded from the WOSM website at

[www.scout.org](http://www.scout.org)

### **Support**

The International Office should be advised of all projects at an early stage of the process so that specific advice can be offered. No commitments should be made before this has been completed.

Given the nature of many of these projects, and taking into account the complexities and sensitivities of such issues in some countries, it is strongly recommended that you arrange a pre-visit through the Scout Association hosting the project. This should ensure that all partners are identified and that all environmental, cultural, risk assessments and safety considerations have been taken into account.

### **Scouting and world development**

Fact sheet FS260013 Scouting and World Development sets out the philosophy behind our participation in projects with developing countries, and includes

- What are we really trying to do?
- Examples of Overseas Projects
- Scouts Project Exchange (SCOPE)

- Guidelines for Expeditions & Exchanges
- Details of useful publications
- A Charter for Visitors

The opportunity to undertake community development projects in partnership with Scouts in other countries is very important. It is a means to serve the wider community, and for young to develop physically, intellectually, spiritually and socially, helping to fulfil the aim of the Association and to become better world citizens.



Continued...

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International Commissioner  
Scout Association of

Date

Dear colleague

Name of Scout:  
Date of birth:  
Scout Group/District/County:

This is to introduce the above named Scout to you, who will be moving to your country and would like to transfer to a group near to their new address, which is

Any assistance you can give in effecting the transfer will be much appreciated. Our standard advice to all those who transfer is that they should have with them, for presentation to their new group, their personal record of activities etc in Scouting in the UK, so that the transfer can be as simple as possible.  
Thank you very much for your assistance.

Yours sincerely

David Bull  
International Commissioner

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