



The World Organization of the Scouting Movement

FACTSHEET

Mission

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

Membership

- 161 national Scout organizations
- 25 million youth and adults

Universal Principles of Scouting

- Duty to God and respect for individual beliefs
- Loyalty to one's country and respect for its laws
- Strength of world friendship and Scouting brotherhood
- Service to others—community development
- Voluntary membership
- Volunteer leadership
- Independence from political influence and control
- Outdoor program orientation
- Citizenship, physical and mental development, and character guidance

Universal Practices

- Scout Promise
- Scout Law
- Trefoil symbol
- "Be Prepared" motto
- Three-finger Scout sign
- Scout left handclasp
- Patrol system
- Recognition of accomplishments through rank advancement and awards
- Good Turns

Structure

World Scout Conference

- Composed of six delegates from each of the member Scout associations
- Meets every three years to form plans for cooperative agreements



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World Scout Committee

- Executive body of the World Scout Conference
- Members are elected at the World Scout Conference
- Members have six-year terms

World Scout Bureau

- Secretariat carries out the instructions of the World Scout Conference and the World Scout Committee
- Main office in Geneva, Switzerland
- Six regional offices
 - Africa region – Nairobi, Dakar, and Capetown
 - Arab region – Cairo
 - Asia-Pacific region – Manila
 - Europe region – Geneva, Brussels, and Belgrade
 - Inter-America region – Santiago de Chile
 - Eurasia region – Yalta-Gurzuf and Moscow
- Goals of the World Scout Bureau
 - Improving professional and volunteer training
 - Establishing sound financial policies and money-raising techniques
 - Improving community facilities and procedures
 - Marshaling the national resources of each country behind Scouting
 - Arranging global events such as world Scout jamborees
 - Encouraging regional events

Boy Scouts of America Support of World Scouting

World Friendship Fund

- Developed after World War II to rebuild Scouting in war-torn countries
- Supported by contributions from Scouts and leaders

World Scouting Fund

- Part of the National Boy Scouts of America Foundation
- Supported by individual businesses, corporations, and foundation grants
- Gives financial support for special Scouting projects around the world through grants to Scout associations



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World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) Membership Countries

In 2010, Scout organizations of 161 countries were members of the WOSM including:

Country	Year Scouting Was Founded	Year Joined WOSM	Membership
Albania		2005	1,000
Algeria	1939	1963	11,120
Angola		1998	13,777
Argentina	1912	1922	46,264
Armenia	1912	1997	2,385
Australia	1908	1953	73,955
Austria	1912	1922	10,768
Azerbaijan	1997	2000	1,356
Bahamas	1913	1974	1,017
Bahrain	1953	1970	1,867
Bangladesh	1972	1974	896,118
Barbados	1912	1969	2,738
Belarus	1909	2010	1,200
Belgium	1911	1922	88,307
Belize	1911	1987	2,376
Benin	1932	1964	6,350
Bhutan	1991	1999	16,738
Bolivia	1915	1950	7,829
Bosnia and Herzegovina		1999	1,901
Botswana	1936	1958	4,660
Brazil	1910	1922	59,057
Brunei Darussalam	1933	1981	1,886
Bulgaria	1911–13	1999	2,711
Burkina Faso	1943	1972	10,165
Burundi	1940	1979	6,661
Cambodia	2008		
Cameroon			
Canada	1909	1946	146,250
Cape Verde		2002	733
Chad	1960	1974	8,132
Chile	1909	1922–71, 1974	35,189



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China, Scouts of	1912	1937	57,039
Colombia	1917	1933	14,045
Comoros	1975	1990	1,725
Congo, The Democratic Republic of the	1924	1963	71,486
Costa Rica	1915	1935	5,050
Côte-d'Ivoire	1937	1972	6,436
Croatia	1915	1993	4,825
Cyprus	1913	1961	4,478
Czech Republic	1911	1996	23,088
Denmark	1909	1922	44,591
Dominica	1929	1990	1,100
Dominican Republic	1926	1930	8,899
Ecuador	1920	1922	4,132
Egypt	1918	1922	74,598
El Salvador	1938	1940	3,970
Estonia	1912	1996	1,209
Ethiopia	1950	2002	1,827
Fiji	1914	1971	2,825
Finland	1910	1922	31,735
France	1910	1922	67,383
Gabon	1936	1971	3,809
Gambia	1921	1984	18,448
Georgia	1994	1997	1,240
Germany	1910	1950	123,686
Ghana	1912	1960	2,311
Greece	1910	1922	17,658
Grenada	1924	1979	1,665
Guatemala	1928	1930	11,272
Guinea		2005	
Guyana	1909	1967	424
Haiti	1932	1932	9,859
Honduras	1952	1957	3,031
Hong Kong	1911	1977	99,591
Hungary	1912	1990	6,236
Iceland	1912	1924	1,526



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India	1909	1938	2,423,686
Indonesia	1912	1953	8,103,835
Ireland	1908	1949	36,185
Israel	1920	1951	21,920
Italy	1912	1922	100,689
Jamaica	1910	1963	3,181
Japan	1913	1922	195,370
Jordan	1954	1955	15,538
Kazakhstan	1992	2008	1,640
Kenya	1910	1964	262,146
Kiribati		1993	1,333
Korea, Republic of	1922	1953	214,363
Kuwait	1952	1955	6,061
Latvia	1917	1993	544
Lebanon	1912	1947	14,334
Lesotho	1936	1971	371
Liberia	1922	1965	2,418
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	1954	1958	13,698
Liechtenstein	1931	1933	689
Lithuania	1918	1924–40, 1997	2,107
Luxembourg	1914	1922	5,092
Macedonia, The former Yugoslav Republic of	1921	1997	1,988
Madagascar	1921	1960	9,473
Malawi		2005	4,000
Malaysia	1911	1957	73,494
Maldives	1963	1990	4,518
Malta	1908	1966	2,531
Mauritania	1946	1983	3,790
Mauritius	1912	1971	3,022
Mexico	1920	1926	28,963
Moldova, Republic of	1991	1997	1,540
Monaco		1990	61
Mongolia	1992	1994	8,264
Montenegro	2008		
Morocco	1933	1961	12,304



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Mozambique	1960	1999	28,993
Namibia	1917	1990	2,172
Nepal	1952	1969	15,621
Netherlands	1910	1922	59,500
New Zealand	1908	1953	19,751
Nicaragua	1937	1948	1,541
Niger	1947	1996	3,113
Nigeria	1915	1961	46,701
Norway	1911	1922	18,818
Oman	1948	1977	9,078
Pakistan	1947	1948	526,403
Palestinian Authority	1912	1996	20,017
Panama	1924	1924–36, 1950	1,868
Papua New Guinea	1926	1976	5,515
Paraguay	1960	1962	1,075
Peru	1916	1922	9,147
Philippines	1923	1946	1,872,525
Poland	1919	1922–50, 1996	61,394
Portugal	1913	1922	73,181
Qatar	1956	1965	3,518
Romania	1914	1993	4,930
Russian Federation	1909	2000	14,130
Rwanda	1940	1975	18,884
San Marino	1973	1990	173
Saudi Arabia	1961	1963	19,269
Senegal	1930	1963	26,373
Seychelles		2002	609
Sierra Leone	1909	1964	7,902
Singapore	1910	1966	9,965
Slovakia	1913	1997	4,268
Slovenia	1915	1994	4,525
South Africa	1908	1937	11,634
Spain	1912	1922	65,088
Sri Lanka	1912	1953	27,264
Saint Lucia	1935	1993	393



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Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1924	1990	549
Serbia	1911	1995	5,899
Sudan	1935	1956	13,550
Suriname	1924	1968	2,601
Swaziland	1928	1968	4,994
Sweden	1911	1922	59,035
Switzerland	1912	1922	25,946
Syria	2008		
Tajikistan	1991	1997	1,968
Tanzania, United Republic of	1929	1963	91,057
Thailand	1911	1922	1,360,869
Togo	1920	1977	7,326
Trinidad and Tobago	1911	1963	4,176
Tunisia	1934	1957	19,236
Turkey	1923	1950	13,964
Uganda	1915	1964	92,946
Ukraine	2008		
United Arab Emirates	1972	1977	5,824
United Kingdom	1907	1922	444,271
United States	1909	1922	5,970,203
Uruguay	1946	1950	3,003
Venezuela	1913	1937	16,221
Yemen	1954	1980	6,481
Zambia	1930	1965	7,396
Zimbabwe	1909	1980	2,389

Notes: The membership shown for each country represents only the members (youth and adults) of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM), which in most countries includes boys and girls. These numbers are from the latest WOSM census.

The dates represent the most recent years in which the current National Scout Organization was founded and joined the World Organization of the Scout movement.

World Organization of Scouting: www.scout.org