



World Organization
of the Scout Movement
Organisation Mondiale
du Mouvement Scout

**World Scout
Bureau
Bureau Mondial
du Scoutisme**

Box 241, CH-1211 Geneva 4
Switzerland
Rue du Pré-Jérôme 5
CH-1205 Genève, Suisse

Tel: (+41 22) 705 10 10
Fax: (+41 22) 705 10 20
www.scout.org
worldbureau@world.scout.org

CIRCULAR

October 2001

Circular No. 33/2001

To: International Commissioners

RISK MANAGEMENT: A CONCERN FOR THE SCOUT MOVEMENT

Recent events make us all think more about risks and I think we should do so within Scouting as well.

The Scout Movement worldwide must be concerned with risks - not only for individuals participating locally in Scouting, but also when Scouts come together in larger groups. We regularly gather many, sometimes many thousands, of youth and adults together for national and international events.

One year ago, following the evaluation of past Scouting events at the world and regional levels - Jamborees, Moots, Forums and Conferences - the World Scout Bureau in Geneva decided to establish the World Events Unit (see circular 23/2000). It provides support to the national host organizations, and supervision of these official World Scout events. One of its strong points is the ability to gather and document experience from past events so that these can be passed-on to future organizers in a coordinated, coherent way.

One of the World Event Unit's main concerns is focused on Risk Management. This is defined as a coordinated exchange of professionally based knowledge and experience in the fields of safety, emergency health care and insurance; as well as the efficient and reliable implementation of integrated plans of action regarding these matters, for the events concerned.

Today more than ever, Risk Management must be important to all of us. Several national Scout organizations have developed risk management programmes, but now all WOSM members must have a fresh look at the possible risks to itself, and its members.

During the past months, the World Events Unit has been working with the World Scout Jamboree Office in Bangkok to set up a comprehensive risk management system for the Jamboree. While health and safety for participants have always been a priority for each host of a World Jamboree, the time has come for our Movement to approach this in a more systematic, integrated and comprehensive way. "Be Prepared" has never been a better motto.

During the Jamboree, there will be a Risk Management Headquarters (RMHQ) centrally located, and staffed with experienced adults - Scout leaders and non-Scouts. Their responsibilities will include security, water safety, health care, police, fire protection, civil protection, weather forecasting, etc. Insurance experts are also a very important part of the risk management team.

Along with the Host Committee in Greece, we are also taking a risk management approach in organizing the forthcoming World Scout Conference and Youth Forum, with special attention being paid to the evaluation of potential major risks and their prevention.

I urge you to review the risk management in your National Scout Organization. If you need information or consultation, please contact Jean Cassaigneau, Director, World Events, or Lutz Kühnen, Assistant Director, specialized in risk management.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Moreillon', written in a cursive style.

Jacques Moreillon