

DOCUMENT

8

Educational Methods



**38th WORLD SCOUT
CONFERENCE**

**38e CONFERENCE
MONDIALE
DU SCOUTISME**

**14-18 JULY/JUILLET
2008 JEJU/KOREA**



SCOUTS®
Creating a Better World

INTRODUCTION

The World Scout Conference in Tunisia in 2005 adopted Resolution 10/05 which encouraged the World Scout Committee to develop an integrated approach to the support of the Youth Programme and training and support of Adults in Scouting. Following the Conference the Educational Methods Committee (EMC) was formed with Gualtiero Zanolini and Ana-Elisa Piubello as Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Volunteers with expertise in youth programme and the training and management of volunteers in Scouting were recruited to serve on the committee and where possible links were formed with sub-committees and working groups at regional level.

The EMC built on the work undertaken in the Youth Involvement and Volunteers in Scouting workstreams which were in place from 2002 to 2005. As no strategic priorities were to have a specific focus in the triennium 2005-2008, the remit for the EMC was to progress the work in the strategy in relation to strategic priorities 1-5 and implement the Conference Resolutions passed in Tunisia in relation to educational methods.

1. PRIORITY AREAS OF WORK

Five key areas of work were identified and task teams were set up to work on key objectives in each area. The key areas are:

- Adolescents and Young Adults
- Volunteers in Scouting
- Education for All
- Environment Education
- Spiritual Development

The members of the task teams were recruited from NSOs around the world and the key means of working was through the internet. Members of the task teams valued the opportunity to meet, when it was possible, and the teams that had face to face meetings found it much easier to produce materials than those that relied solely on electronic communication.

The EMC comprised the chairmen of the task teams and additional members chosen to ensure a wider overview of all the work of the committee, which included support to the programme of World Scout Youth Events, the educational aspects of the Centenary of Scouting and large projects funded by external donors.

2. PROGRESS AND POSSIBLE FUTURE ORIENTATIONS

a. Adolescents and Young Adults - which supported the development of Strategic Priority 1: Youth Involvement and Strategic Priority 2: Adolescents.

Youth involvement in decision-making

At institutional level – the Youth Advisors to the World Scout Committee were supported in this role during the triennium and as members of the planning committee of the World Scout Youth Forum. All of the Youth Advisors were active in task teams and sub-committees and took opportunities when they arose to be involved in other areas of work and events. More information is available in Conference Document No.5 on The Strategy for Scouting.

Within the Unit – this is the area in Youth Involvement that has received least attention in the past triennium. In the next triennium there are plans to support this aspect in adult training and provide a tool that can be used in units to assess young people's involvement in decision-making.

In the community – the key tools to promote young people's involvement in decision-making in the community are:

- Scouts of the World Award, which includes a period of voluntary service in a community project
- Gifts for Peace which helped young people to assess local needs and develop projects to respond to these needs

- Young Spokesperson training which assists young people in developing the skills and self-confidence to represent Scouting effectively.

Possible future orientations

While progress has been made in some aspects of young people's involvement in decision-making, it is important that this become more firmly established in the Youth Programme and in the training of leaders so that it becomes a reality for all members of the Movement. This will help to establish a firm foundation to build on youth involvement at institutional level and in the community.

Guidelines for the Rover Scout Section – a working group has been developing Guidelines for the Rover Scout Section. These guidelines will help NSOs to develop or renew their Youth Programme for this age-range to help Scouting support young people's transition to adulthood. Once the guidelines are finalised support materials for adult training will be developed.

Scouts of the World (SoW) Award – this Award is being increasingly taken up by NSOs and around 20 NSOs are now networking to share ideas and experiences. The SoW Award is a means of strengthening the programme in the Rover Scout Section and an international seminar in 2006 introduced this Award world-wide. The supporting graphics have been updated and shared with NSOs.

Possible future orientations

For the guidelines to make an impact on the Rover Scout Section, it is important that they are widely disseminated and supported through workshops and seminars. Work is also needed in the area of adult training and the production of further resource materials to support Scouting for this age-group, including some thinking on inter-generational dialogue.

In the coming triennium it is important to build upon the momentum that has been achieved in relation to the Scouts of the World Award and to further develop support materials are further developed to incorporate the good practice that is developing in NSOs. There is also the possibility of building on the work of Gifts for Peace and developing peace education in Scouting, especially within the Scouts of the World Award. The projects that Scouts have developed in local communities should also be more closely identified with the Millennium Campaign which will help Scouting to receive external recognition for these worthwhile and innovative projects.

Scouting is working in partnership with the International Award Association to support Youth Programme development for young people aged 14-25 and both awards complement each other.

b. Adult Volunteers - which supported the development of Strategic Priority 5: Volunteers in Scouting and the training and management of Adults in Scouting.

Volunteers in Scouting toolkit – A toolkit was developed to help NSOs to review their situation in relation to volunteers in their country and develop a plan to promote and support volunteering in Scouting. The toolkit is a resource to help NSOs work through the process and develop plans at national and local level.

World Trainers' Network – A network of experienced trainers has been established to share expertise and developments in training and to be a resource to support future training needs in WOSM. To date around 40 trainers have been recruited from 27 countries.

Developments in e-learning – Following on from the experience of producing a small e-learning resource for the World Scout Jamboree, information and experiences of e-learning in Scouting are being gathered and a relationship is being established with the Open University of Barcelona so that e-learning courses on a variety of topics can be developed.

Possible future orientations

Supporting volunteers in Scouting must remain a key priority to support the growth and development of the Movement. NSOs will be encouraged to develop a strategic approach to volunteer management and then focus on meeting their needs and challenges, particularly in relation to providing volunteers with quality training that is easily accessible.

The United Nations is planning to celebrate a decade of volunteering in 2011, ten years after the International Year of the Volunteer in 2001. Scouting is already working actively with the United Nations Volunteers and as 2011 is a significant year for Scouting, with the World Scout Conference and World Scout Youth Forum in Brazil in January and the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden in July, this could have a significant impact on the Movement.

c. Education for All – which supported Strategic Priority 4: Reaching Out.

Support for people with disabilities in Scouting – Guidelines have been produced to support and promote Scouting for people with disabilities. These are designed to encourage NSOs that do not provide Scouting for this group, or have had initiatives that have stopped, to re-invest efforts to recruit young people or adults with disabilities in Scouting. There are already many excellent examples of good practices and resources to support this aspect of Scouting in NSOs. A training package has also been developed which supports strategies to work with people with disabilities in Scouting.

Support for children in especially difficult circumstances – Guidelines have been produced to support this area of work in Scouting, which is relatively new to many NSOs. There are however excellent projects in some NSOs and this expertise has been drawn upon to develop the guidelines. It is hoped that this area of work will expand so that Scouting can increase its impact in society and provide disadvantaged young people with increased confidence, skills and a new network to build a better future for themselves and their families.

In Europe there is a great deal of work being undertaken to support children from ethnic minority communities in Scouting. This support is provided through an informal network, the Overture Network, where NSOs can share experiences, resources and good practice, with the result that NSOs have a wider membership and Scouting more accurately reflects the population in the country.

Keeping Scouts Safe from Harm - A small e-learning resource was developed to support the training for the International Service Team at the World Scout Jamboree on Keeping Scouts Safe from Harm. There are plans to build on this and provide an e-learning package to support Scouting for children in especially difficult circumstances, given the vulnerability of children in this group.

Possible future orientations

If Scouting is to increase its impact in the world today then NSOs must be encouraged to reach out to young people in their societies where Scouting is needed most, but where there may not be a tradition of Scouting. There are many excellent examples of good practice around the world and it is important that these examples are shared, so that the learning is shared and more NSOs are inspired to reach out to specific target groups in their countries.

Sharing good practices and resources, developing links with partners who have specific expertise and encouraging NSOs to develop a systematic approach to reaching out will help Scouting to become a reality in the lives of many more young people who could benefit from Scouting as well as providing an added dimension to our young people through their involvement.

d. Environment Education – which was set up in response to Conference Resolutions 18/05 and 20/05 relating to environment education and sustainable development.

Environment education in the Youth Programme – A framework for environment education in Scouting has been developed which sets out principles and aims for environment education. The purpose of the framework is to update the approach to environment education in Scouting so that our members can be active citizens in responding to the environmental challenges that we are currently facing locally and globally. This framework is designed to be used by NSOs to develop or review environment education across the age-ranges.

The World Scout Environment Badge – Following the request at the last World Scout Conference a new World Scout Environment Badge is being proposed, based on the framework for environment education. This approach and some activities on environment education have been field tested in 14 countries around the world. The new badge will be available at the Conference and a toolbox of activities is being developed to support the badge.

Re-activation of SCENES – SCENES (Scout Centres of Excellence for Nature and Environment) has been reviewed and the concept and a support network is being re-launched. Details are available in Conference Document No. 15 and it is hoped that many more SCENES centres will be recognised in the coming triennium. These centres are seen as an example of Scouting's care and commitment to the environment and each centre should be a flagship for the association.

Strengthening partnerships – There are many organisations working on environment education for young people and it is important that where synergies occur these are developed. The work on environment education has been supported by a number of partners, but particularly UNEP, Volvo Adventure, the Jane Goodall Foundation and the Web of Hope. These organisations have provided feedback on the content and approach to environment education and they have also extended the opportunities for Scouts to be involved in activities and projects at a local level.

A key partnership in the development of this work has been the Alcoa Foundation, which has provided funding for the core development work, the production of a toolkit to support the World Scout Environment Badge and environment projects in five European NSOs: Hungary, Italy, Germany, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Possible future orientations

The framework for environment education will be a tool for NSOs around the world to review or design environment education in the Youth Programme that is relevant and meets the needs of young people and society today. For this revised approach to environment education to become fully established it is important that suitable training can be provided for adult leaders and programme developers. Providing support for adult training and Youth Programme development should be a focus in the next triennium.

SCENES Centres have the dual role of being centres of excellence in relation to Scouting and the environment and have the possibility of supporting quality environment education in Scouting through the activities provided and the management of the centre. The SCENES network will be supported and developed so that good practice can be shared.

There are many other organisations working in environment education for young people so partnerships will be developed where resources and ideas can be shared for mutual benefit.

e. Spiritual Development Task Team

Faith and Beliefs (FAB) Zone at the World Scout Jamboree - The FAB Zone at the World Scout Jamboree was an opportunity to build relationships with the different faith communities and produce material to support Scouts and leaders in spiritual development during the Jamboree. The response to the FAB Zone and to the resources

that were developed has been very positive. The team has recognised that events such as a World Scout Jamboree are excellent opportunities to help young people to engage in inter-faith dialogue.

Guidelines on Spiritual Development – These guidelines are designed to support NSOs develop the spiritual dimension in their members so they are a practical guide to the design of the Youth Programme, rather than a more detailed discussion on the nature of spiritual development. The guidelines will be finalised towards the end of 2008 and further resource material is in the pipeline, particularly to support and strengthen adult training in this area.

Spiritual development and faith development – The Spiritual Development Task Team is working closely with members of the Inter-religious Forum so that there is an integrated approach to spiritual and religious development in Scouting. Through the Inter-religious Forum, the Inter-religious Symposium that takes place every 3 years and events such as the World Scout Jamboree, there are opportunities to help Scouts to engage in inter-faith dialogue, sharing aspects of their faith with people of other faiths in Scouting.

Possible future orientations

Further support materials to complement the Guidelines on Spiritual Development are planned so that there is a fuller resource on this aspect of Scouting to help NSOs incorporate it more fully in the Youth Programme and adult training.

There is the possibility of further exploring inter-faith dialogue with young people in Scouting and incorporating this in the plans to extend the work on peace education in Scouting – see the Centenary of Scouting below.

3. THE CENTENARY OF SCOUTING

Gifts for Peace - The Gifts for Peace project for the Centenary of Scouting has had a tremendous response from NSOs, with over 110 countries declaring a 'Gift for Peace'. These projects have been designed to meet the particular needs of the specific country and communities so they have all been individual and very different and have covered an enormous range of social issues. They have also been very imaginative and many have incorporated peace education into the projects which has helped the results to be long-term and sustainable. A small group of people met to review the Gifts for Peace project and begin to think of how to build on the work that has been undertaken in the future.

Possible future orientations

The Gifts for Peace project has been very successful in developing peace projects in NSOs and getting peace on to the agenda of Scouting at many levels. This builds on the substantial work that Scouting has already done in relation to peace over many years. It is recognised that there are still many actions that can be taken at many different levels to support peace education in Scouting – including promoting partnerships based on the Marrakech Charter, focussing on the World Day of Peace, strengthening the peace component of the Scouts of the World Award and working on inter-religious dialogue in Scouting.

It is felt that a framework for peace education in Scouting would be helpful so that NSOs could work systematically to build peace education into the Youth Programme for all ages in the association. There are also opportunities to develop partnerships with other organisations that are already working in this area.

The World Scientific Congress - The Scientific Congress 'Education and the World Scout Movement: Experiences and Challenges' took place in Geneva in November 2007, as the final world event for the Centenary of Scouting. The Congress brought together over 220 people to hear inputs from academics, researchers, Scout leaders and other practitioners on Scouting and non-formal education in relation to personal development

and social development. The participants had the opportunity to take part in 12 workshops on these topics and there was also a workshop on the History of Scouting. A summary report is being prepared and the full proceedings will be available by the end of 2008.

The Congress was preceded by a Youth Event, sponsored by the Council of Europe, which brought together 28 young people from around the world. This event enabled the participants to consider topics that were of particular importance to them which helped them to contribute fully to the Congress.

Possible future orientations

The Scientific Congress succeeded in making links between the scientific community and Scouting and it is important that these links are strengthened, further developed and perhaps include links with the business community. The topics for the Congress were very wide so there are plans to develop the links in a more focussed way, from the priorities that exist within the EMC and new areas of work that may arise. It is also important to facilitate research in Scouting by academics and other people involved in research.

The World Scout Jamboree – The World Scout Jamboree was an opportunity to focus on excellence in Youth Programme for Scouts aged 14-18 and there were many developments in the programme of the Jamboree e.g. in the area of global development. The Jamboree also provided an opportunity to work with partners and other organisations to provide new and interesting opportunities for participants.

Possible future orientations

The World Scout Jamboree is an excellent opportunity for programme development, to test out new approaches and to introduce new ideas to young people and leaders. It is hoped that future Jamborees can be used as an opportunity to promote good practice and support Youth Programme development.

4. CONCLUSION

The focus for the triennium 2005-2008 has been to strengthen aspects of the Youth Programme, particularly in relation to the strategic priorities and the Conference Resolutions adopted in 2005. There has also been work to strengthen aspects of volunteering and adult training. It is hoped that the approach to Youth Programme and Volunteering is seen as a driver for change, providing an opportunity for NSOs to focus on these developments and identify how these need to be underpinned in the future to make them sustainable.

The triennium 2005-2008 has shown limited success in securing funding for work in the area of educational methods. While projects can support developments in this area there needs to be a careful analysis of the costs and benefits before engaging fully with a project that is being funded externally.