



The First Centenary of Scouting in Chile

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In March 1909, the founder of Scouting himself, Sir Robert Baden-Powell, made a presentation to an audience of Chilean society influential people gathered at the Honour Room of the University of Chile and motivated them to work for the youth, following the principles of the proposal he had created and that was just taking its first steps towards becoming, at a later stage, a world educational Movement. This was the starting point for Chile to become the first country outside the British Empire that would grant Scouting an international dimension.

Within the frame of the celebrations held by Guías y Scouts de Chile for the first Centenary of Scouting in this country, a special event took place in the city of Santiago on October 16th. During the ceremony 100 adults, *the Centenary's 100*, were acknowledged and awarded for their valuable work along the past few decades for the development of Scouting in Chile and for the institutional strengthening of the Association.

Several outstanding people from Chilean society who had also been Scouts attended the ceremony. Senator Gabriel Valdés among them, former President of the Chilean Senate and Vice-President of the World Scout Parliamentary Union. He was one of the key speakers addressing an over 900-strong audience of young people and adults that celebrated with joy such a special opportunity.

Mr. Osvaldo Navas, ISC member who came from Ecuador especially for this occasion represented the Interamerican Scout Committee. Acting Regional Director Mr. Gabriel Oldenburg Arraiz addressed the audience on behalf of the World Scout Bureau-Interamerican Region. He gave words of congratulations to all those in attendance, celebrated with joy that the volunteers were recognized for their efforts and achievements, and invited everybody to work for the ongoing strengthening of the association all over the country. Messrs. Navas and Oldenburg then presented a recognition plate to the Asociación de Guías y Scouts de Chile on behalf of the Interamerican Region to celebrate the 100 years of the Scouting in this country. In this way, the Regional Committee starts the process of recognition of the Scout Associations in the region that celebrate their first national centenary.