



Conclusions

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In April 2008, at a follow-up meeting of the Scientific Committee of the World Congress of the Scout Movement, members of the World Scout Committee and the academics who served on the Scientific Committee that organized the November Congress gathered to plan the present document as well as the Proceedings of the Congress. We had a fruitful discussion of the possible future relationships of key stakeholders in the Movement with the Academy in the short- and medium-term. We considered the following actors: The NSOs who deliver Scouting; the World Scout Bureau (WSB) charged with implementing the vision of the World Scout Committee and the World Scout Conference driving the Movement's policy; and the Academy defined as academics, researchers and universities committed to and supportive of the Scouting tradition.

Among our outcomes we concluded that team-building knowledge is one of the great contributions of the World Scout Movement to world civilization, including the Academy.

Turning to what the Academy could offer the Movement, we identified some of the priority work areas:

1. Conceptual work:
 - distinguishing further between the terms non-formal and informal education and their respective practical implications for action in the world of Scouting; what do such educational practices offer, both inside and outside Scouting? Researchers could offer comparative analysis, identifying best practices to share with Scout leaders
 - analysis of the influence of post-modernism on Scouting and particularly the role of a Movement based on common principles and values in a global society which increasingly rejects global solutions. The implications of such analysis for both the practical/active work of Scouting and, more broadly, for thinking on governance of the Movement.

2. Identifying significant trends among young people and the opportunities for constructive Scouting work
 - in the industrialized countries
 - in the emerging countries

3. Thinking on and researching the optimal ways of teaching—formally/informally; through discourse as well as through Scouting activities—in critical areas such as
 - Leadership development
 - Team building
 - Environmental consciousness - raising and action
 - Peace education
 - Gender issues

4. Thinking on optimal, cost effective methods for working with at-risk youth

The Scientific Committee's implicit assumption, in closing, needs to be made explicit. We are aware that most of these issues already feature in Scouting's strategy but we believe that if the Movement's leadership opts to continue to draw on a pool of intellectuals charged with the analysis of trends affecting youth in a post-modern society, such a relationship would enhance the leadership's ability to continue to reinforce the Scouting tradition while serving the world's youth. Scouting has long challenged the youth in its Scout Troops with action based on thoughtfulness, constructive criticism and reflection. The question that the Scientific Committee poses to Scouting's governance is: how might it realize this opportunity to continuously engage with intellectuals committed to Scouting's ideals?

The Congress held in Geneva in November 2007 suggests to us clearly that engagement between the Movement and the Academy promises multi-dimensional benefits at a relatively low cost. For this reason, we hope that the Movement will decide to find constructive ways to continuously engage with the Academy and build on the work, contacts and conclusions of the Congress.

As Scouts ourselves, we stand prepared to help.

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