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Всемирная Организация Скаутского Движения
Organización Mundial del Movimiento Scout
المنظمة العالمية للحركة الكشفية

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To: International Commissioners

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Scout & Guide National Organizations (SAGNOs)

Dear friends and colleagues,

At its last meeting, the World Scout Committee adopted the attached definition, for use within WOSM, of a Scout & Guide National Organization (commonly known as a "SAGNO"). This is a response to one of the recommendations from the Governance Review Task Force.

We would ask you to use this definition consistently in all references to these national organizations.

Yours sincerely,

Luc Panissod
Secretary General WOSM

SCOUT AND GUIDE NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Note: For the avoidance of doubt, nothing contained in this paper is intended to change the current policies of the World Organization of the Scout Movement or the World Scout Committee concerning "Scout and Guide National Organizations". The paper is intended simply to clarify the definition of "Scout and Guide National Organizations" as it stands today from a WOSM perspective.

Background

Over many years, in a number of countries, organizations which began as separate "Boy Scout" and "Girl Guide" organizations have merged to form one national "Scout and Guide" organization.

These organizations were originally, in the case of "Boy Scout" organizations, members of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM); and, in the case of "Girl Guide" organizations, members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). When they merged into a single national "Scout and Guide" organization, in virtually all cases they continued their membership of both world organizations.

For a number of years, WOSM and WAGGGS co-operated under a joint "Statement on Relationships" which, *inter alia*, defined these national organizations as "Scout and Guide National Organizations" (commonly known as "SAGNOs") and described certain rights and obligations of both WAGGGS and WOSM concerning relations with these national organizations. This included, *inter alia*, that female members of a SAGNO were members of WAGGGS and male members of a SAGNO were members of WOSM.

With changes in the membership policies of both world organizations, including WOSM's stated purpose that it is open to both boys and girls, young women and young men, it became increasingly difficult for both WAGGGS and WOSM to continue to operate under the terms of the "Statement on Relationships". In 1998, this was declared no longer valid and opened the possibility for existing SAGNOs to register their female members within WOSM.

Current context

Although the quasi-legal basis under which the term "Scout and Guide National Organization" existed is no longer valid, the term (and, more commonly, the expression "SAGNO") has continued in common usage, for it accurately - though imprecisely - describes the nature of national organizations which are open to "Scouts" and "Guides".

The specificity which previously applied to a "Scout and Guide National Organization" (i.e. that its female members belonged to WAGGGS and its male members belonged to WOSM) no longer applies. Over recent years, a number of these "SAGNOs" have registered both their male members and their female members with WOSM - and, during a period when WAGGGS permitted this to happen - some may also have registered all their members, female and male, with WAGGGS¹.

There is, therefore, a need for WOSM to state clearly what it understands to be the definition of a "Scout and Guide National Organization" today.

1 While not directly relevant to the purpose of this paper, WAGGGS has recently announced a decision that it will no longer permit its Member Organizations to register their male members with WAGGGS.

Definition

In view of the above, the following definition of a Scout and Guide National Scout Organization (SAGNO) will be used within WOSM:

A national organization which is a member of WOSM and is also a member of WAGGGS is known as a "Scout and Guide National Organization" (SAGNO).

The use of this term does not imply any particular status of the individual members of the Scout and Guide National Organization vis-a-vis WOSM and WAGGGS.

Membership

The following options with regard to membership of WOSM are open to existing SAGNOs:

1. register their male members only with WOSM
2. register their female and male members with WOSM.

It is the policy of the World Scout Committee (WSC) to encourage existing SAGNOs to register both their male and female youth members with WOSM.

It is also the stated position of the WSC that, in keeping with WOSM's constitutional position that it is open to both boys and girls, young women and young men, the WSC will not recommend the admission to WOSM of any new Organization which states that it intends to register only its male members with WOSM and its female members with WAGGGS.

WOSM holds no position with regard to how a SAGNO chooses to register its individual members with WAGGGS.

World Scout Committee
Corr: May 2010