



## Active Citizenship Programme in Brazil "Scouting in Action"

PROMISING PRACTICES

### The Results

A programme in active citizenship has been set up for young people at risk in the Sao Paulo Region in Brazil. This programme is supported by the government and run by Scouts in partnership with other non-governmental organizations.



Young Scout Leaders run programmes for disadvantaged young people

The aims of the project are to:

- Contribute to the development of society through the application of social projects related to the Mission and educational objectives of the Scout Movement.
- Empower the development of young people and volunteers to promote the significance and strengthen the Scout Movement through partnerships, agreements and social actions.

The Active Citizenship Centre is run by a team of young professionals with expertise in different areas and all of them are Scouters. They are educators, biologists, environmentalists, business administrators and communicators. They are responsible for designing, applying and evaluating the social projects that form the Active Citizenship Programme.

Three programmes are currently being offered to young people

*The Wells of Knowledge Project* – which offers young people professional training as environmental tourism guides. This project has reached 200 young people who are in a situation of social risk.

*The Young Agent Project* – offers training in leadership and teamwork. It is a government run initiative, which is supported by Scouting. The programme is based on the Scout method and activities in nature and it's long term aim is to prepare the young people for community leadership. The participants are usually young people who are recovering from drug rehabilitation programmes or young people who are on parole following arrest for various crimes.



Young people at risk learn skills to help their employment prospects

*The Citizenship Education Project* – which helps children and young people develop values and explore topics such as the environment, peace, health and citizenship. This project is run by Scouting in partnership with another NGO. It has two aspects as; in addition to the programme for young people, teachers, community educators and Scout leaders are also trained in these topics so that they too can deliver the workshops. It is hoped that this project will reach about 400 children and around 100 adults during each school term.



# Strategic Priority 2

Adolescents – supporting their transition to adulthood



The World Organization of the Scout Movement

## The Reasons

There are many social problems that affect the young people in this part of our community and both Scouts and non-Scouts are affected. The problems range from poor education, unemployment, lack of health care and pollution to crime, violence, drug abuse and a high incidence of teenage pregnancies.



The programme works in partnership with local government, the Education department and other NGO's

Scouting has the capacity to respond to these challenges, particularly through use of the Scout Method and focusing on service in the community as a means of personal development.

It will also help to develop local Scout Groups, extend their range of activities and provide new training opportunities for leaders.

## The Methods

The initiative for this programme came from Scouting and it is supported by the government in the Region of Sao Paulo. A network of non-governmental organizations was created so that efforts and resources to support community action and environmental projects could be shared. For Scouting this meant that the programmes and projects are open to Scout Groups across the state.

The second phase of the project started when the government bought a former youth detention centre and decided to convert it to an Active Citizenship Centre. The centre is located in one of the poorest regions of the state, in a park covering 543 hectares, which is 10% of the total area of Sao Paulo. The park is surrounded by slums, and from a total population of nearly 800,000, 12% live in favelas. The building is shared by different NGOs who work on social and environmental programmes.



Young Scout Leaders are totally responsible for managing the Active Citizenship Programme

Young Scout leaders now have responsibility for totally managing the Active Citizenship Programme.

## Our Learning

It is important to seek partnerships to support the development of Scouting. This project offers a firm partnership with the local government and it strengthens the links and partnerships with other non-governmental organizations.

The programme validates the importance of the Scout method in the development of young people. It is also a very good way of helping young people who are at risk and outside the formal education system. Scouting should promote this and work with other agents and partners for the development of this group of young people.

There has also been an expansion of the professional team which supports Scouting. The young professionals are an important asset to the association and will be a key resource in the growth and development of Scouting in Brazil in the future.

## Our Future Plans

The topics covered in this programme, particularly in relation to the Citizenship Education project, link very closely to the Scouts of the World programme developed by the World Scout Bureau. In the future we hope to be able to offer Scouts of the World to young people so that they receive recognition for their efforts.

There is a real need in the community and we hope to be able to expand the programme and work with more young people so that together we can have a positive impact on the community.

For more information on the project, please contact Luiz Mazetti  
luizgcmazetti@terra.com.br



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Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout



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World Scout Bureau  
P.O. Box 241  
1211 Geneva 4, Switzerland

www.scout.org  
worldbureau@world.scout.org