



SCOUTS[®]
Creating a Better World

World Organization of the Scout Movement
Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout
Всемирная Организация Скаутского Движения
Organización Mundial del Movimiento Scout
المنظمة العالمية للحركة الكشفية

For Immediate Release

Ordinary people step up and step in to make a difference, to create a better world

10 December 2014, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: Overnight, a historic milestone was achieved – a counter, set at zero just over 24 months ago, passed the 600 million mark. That's 600,000,000 hours of service provided to local communities around the world by over 10 million people whom King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia and King Carl Gustaf of Sweden have recognised as "Messengers of Peace".

These Messengers of Peace are young men and women – members of the Scout Movement worldwide. They have helped their communities recover from disasters in Haiti, the Philippines, Salvador and the USA. They have taken care of street kids and their families in Bangladesh, Honduras, Kenya and the Philippines. They have intervened in divided communities in Burundi, Indonesia, Kashmir and Rwanda. These are but five or six million projects recorded by Scouts in these 24 months.

Prime Minister Salam of Lebanon hailed as national heroes the 100,000 Scouts in his country who work every week to take care of refugees from war-torn Syria.

[Messengers of Peace](#) is a global initiative of World Scouting, launched on its scout.org platform, which inspires Scouts the world over to do amazing things. Any action that contributes to harmony and peace in a local community qualifies as a Messengers of Peace service project – and Scouts around the world have responded with energy and enthusiasm.

The Swedish King explains: "We believe Scouting is the greatest leadership development organisation in the world. And they exercise this leadership in practical ways within their communities. Different problems, different solutions, one common factor – a young man or a young woman, inspired by their time in Scouting to take leadership and make a difference."

"That's why Messengers of Peace has been so successful", says Scott Teare, Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement. "What a gift to the world today!"

For example, a young Scout in Indonesia recently started a reading programme that inspired young people in India, the USA and all over the world to do something similar in their communities. That's simply amazing. This young woman, [Atta Verin](#), from Jakarta feels part of a global network of young people, connected by a common set of values and a sense of leadership and responsibility to make a difference! And she has!

"There is, however, more than that meets the eye. Not all of our 40 million members are connected yet. The digital divide is real, and in many parts of the world, Scouts are doing community services but they simply can't log on. Their service hours are not reflected. Imagine the impact Scouts are really making in communities worldwide," says Teare.

Scouting is one of the world's leading educational youth movements, engaging millions of young people around the world to be active citizens to create positive changes in the communities they live in. Since 1907!

Founded by Lord Baden-Powell, WOSM is a confederation of 161 National Scout Organizations in a network of over 40 million members, including some 7 million volunteers. As it has been doing for more than a century - creating a better world - it will continue to do so, and even better with the many Messengers of Peace across the globe.

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For information on the support of King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia and King Carl Gustaf of Sweden for Messengers of Peace, please contact:

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