



# Scouting Around the World

July 2016

National Capital Area Council International Committee

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[http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/open\\_rosters/ViewOrgPageLink.asp?LinkKey=17085&orgkey=1988](http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/open_rosters/ViewOrgPageLink.asp?LinkKey=17085&orgkey=1988)

The International Committee meets the third Thursday, every other month at the Marriott Scout Service Center, 7:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

Upcoming meeting date: Dinner, July 21, 2016

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## B-P Bits:



Various sources have attributed the origin of the left handshake as an ancient sign of bravery and respect. According to the Ashanti warrior version of the story from South Africa, then-Colonel Baden-Powell saluted them with his right hand, but the Ashanti chiefs offered their left hands and said, "In our land only the bravest of the brave shake hands with the left hand, because to do so we must drop our shields and our protection." The Ashantis knew of Baden-Powell's bravery because they had fought against him and with him and they were proud to offer the left hand of bravery.

## Collectors' Corner: Refrigerator Magnets



2016 marks the 100th year of Cub Scouting. Since it was officially founded by Baden-Powell in 1916 (then known as Wolf Cubbing), generations of young people have embarked on an adventure filled with laughter, excitement and camaraderie; an adventure inspired for many years by Rudyard Kipling's fascinating classic, *The Jungle Book*. While Cub Scouting may vary slightly from country to country, they remain united by their love for nature, enthusiasm for doing good turns, singing, dancing, acting, playing games... In other words, doing fun things with their fellow Cubs.

## Scouting in: El Salvador



The membership badge of El Salvador is formed in the shape of a Cross of Saint James, the ends having a shape like a fleur-de-lis.

The Asociación de Scouts de El Salvador was founded in 1938 and became a member of the WOSM in 1940. The association has 2,820 members as of 2011. The program emphasis is moral values, earth conservation, ecology and community service. It has been co-ed since 1981. Scouts are working to promote peace and have been involved with UNICEF on refugee projects. They worked with the Red Cross during many disasters, such as earthquakes and hurricanes.

Program: Lobatos/Cubs - ages 7 to 11; Scouts - ages 11 to 15; Caminantes - ages 15 to between 17: Founded on May 1, 2003, Caminantes (Walkers) are the newest branch, and try to give vent to the high school-age needs; Rovers - ages 17 to 21,



The President of Republic of China exchanges of Scout Salute and Left handshake at the Presentation Ceremony with Dr. CHAO Shou Po, former CC of Scouts of China and Chairman of WOSM-APRSC (2012-2015). Dr. CHAO was being Awarded the Bright Star Grand Award 2nd Class from the President of ROC for his service to the Country and for Scouting in Taiwan.



The World Scout Foundation Annual Report for 2015 is out! The report highlights some of the most amazing and inspiring stories of Scouts around the world who have embraced the essence of Scouting and the Messengers of Peace Initiative and are impacting, in a real and lasting way, the lives of their communities worldwide. Read the report or download at

[https://issuu.com/worldscouting/docs/wsf\\_annual\\_report\\_2015/1](https://issuu.com/worldscouting/docs/wsf_annual_report_2015/1) <http://worldscoutfoundation.org/annual-report/annual-report-2015>.



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Men are more interested in sports, women are better caretakers; men cannot cook, women do not like hands-on activities like repairing stuff... The list of things we hear all women and all men supposedly like or do is endless. Yet, looking around, these are generalizations and stereotypes that prove to be wrong and harmful a lot more often than right and beneficial.

In Scouting, we recognize that a person's interests and abilities don't depend on their gender. We believe women and men to be equal in the responsibilities and opportunities they should receive. In our movement, the many tasks and challenges demand all hands on deck to provide young people with a life-changing environment – regardless of whether these hands belong to women or men.

When all of us overcome out-dated perceptions of what is “appropriate” for one gender and what is not, both women and men are liberated. Yet Scouting is embedded in a society, in which people who act differently than their gender's assigned roles and stereotypes still face sexist discrimination. This can range from being mocked and excluded to being denied career opportunities just because of your gender – damning fates, particularly for young people. Especially women are at a structural disadvantage across many areas, leaving them with fewer opportunities to unleash their full potential. But when some of us are held back, they cannot fully contribute to society or a cause such as Scouting. So in consequence all of us are held back.

In Scouting, we pride ourselves on creating the world we want to see: one in which every individual finds self-fulfilment and plays a constructive role in society (see WOSM Mission). That's why we need to take extra special care to level the playing field when it comes to leaving gender stereotypes and sexism behind. Within our daily volunteering activities, here are some of the things to look out for:

- Let's make sure women's and men's opinions are valued and appreciated the same, that both have equal opportunity to speak their mind. Think national assemblies, working groups, regular Scout meetings. How leaders and peers respond to someone speaking up will determine their engagement with our movement in the future.
- Representation matters. Let's have both women and men equally represented in positions of responsibility so they can inspire generations to come.
- Let's encourage boys to do traditionally feminine things and let's encourage girls to do traditionally male things as well. Really, encourage everyone to find what they love and what they are good at. And then make sure they feel comfortable doing this.
- Call out sexism: in a world riddled with harmful stereotypes, comments that devalue a person based on their gender will sometimes spill over into Scouting. “That's not ladylike.” “Boys do not cry.” See it and say it, take a stand that a person's interests and abilities are not determined by their gender.

It is really that simple: As Scouts we want campfire baked bread rolls, not gender roles.

*Christine Pollithy, Team Leader, International Team, BdP - Bund der Pfadfinderinnen und Pfadfinder, Germany*