

Scouts of the World Award



The Scouts of the World Award (SW Award) is an initiative to give young people more opportunities to face the challenges of the future as identified by the Millennium Declaration unanimously adopted by the 189 member countries of the United Nations in 2000.

The SW Award is granted to young people who have successfully accomplished a “Scouts of the World Discovery” (SW Discovery) and a “Scouts of the World Voluntary Service” (SW Voluntary Service). The SW Award is a special award showing that a young person is aware of world issues and has acquired through a voluntary service the necessary experience and skills to become a citizen of the world.

The SW Award concerns global citizenship-preparation and emphasises three core-themes which demand understanding, skills and knowledge, for improved life on a small planet: Environment, Development or Peace.

Any person under the age of 26 years old can obtain the SW Award. The following steps have to be followed:

- Contact National Office and ask how to register for and accomplish a SW Discovery.
- Register for and accomplish a SW Discovery in order to acquire more knowledge and skills.
- Upon completion of the SW Discovery, prepare a SW Voluntary Service.
- Carry out the planned SW Voluntary Service either individually or within a team project.
- Complete an evaluation process and record your experience in the SW Passport, and send it to a Scouts of the World Base (SW Base) or to National Office.

If the recorded experience fulfils the requested criteria, the SW Award is delivered.

All those who are granted the SW Award are entitled to join the Scouts of the World Network (SW Network).

The SW Discovery

This is an adventure lasting several days, organised with a focus on Environment, Development or Peace. At the end of a SW Discovery, the participants should be able to:

Explain the Millennium Development Goals in reference to an active discovery of a local situation where a community is facing issues related environment, development or peace.

Develop a feeling of empathy and personal commitment regarding these issues.

Set up a personal plan of action in order to play an efficient role in increasing awareness of people and helping communities facing such issues.

The SW Award uses a three-staged process of education that allows participants to explore issues through the SW Discovery, to develop the skills and knowledge to respond and to prepare for taking action in a personal service project.

Exploring (“What is it about?”)

An active discovery of an issue related to Environment, Development or Peace. Examples might include hiking with rangers in a forest threatened by pollution, visiting an ethnic community suffering from prejudices and racism or meeting people in a refugee camp.

This exploration enables the participants to gain an in-depth knowledge of the issues involved, to identify possible solutions to a given problem and to examine the steps to implement a project.

Responding (“What does it mean for me?”)

Processing the collected information and developing a



feeling of personal commitment towards the issue. This involves the development of skills and techniques for analysing the information collected during the exploration. The development of skills is made in association with experts who help participants formulate a strategy for action.

Taking Action (“What can I do?”)

Developing a personal project of action in order to increase community awareness about the issue and contribute to solving the problem.

This step involves the participants by encouraging them to design a project, which could solve the problems they have discovered or to develop an action plan to support an existing project.

The SW Voluntary Service

After having accomplished a SW Discovery, a young person willing to obtain the SW Award has to do a period of voluntary service in order to contribute to solving a problem related to the Millennium Development Goals. A SW Voluntary Service is a period of personal commitment to support a community project in the field of Environment, Development or Peace.

A SW Voluntary Service can take two forms:

Planning and developing a project with a team of friends. For example, a Rover Crew develops a campaign in their university to prevent drug abuse or to prevent HIV/AIDS.

Working to support an existing project launched by the Scout Movement or another organization. For example, a Rover leads recreational and educational activities for children in a refugee camp managed by the UNHCR.

To be recognized as a real SW Voluntary Service, which would count towards the attainment of the SW Award, a voluntary service should respect the following criteria:



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A voluntary action commitment. This implies that the young person made the decision without influence and without receiving any remuneration, except the reimbursement of travel costs and accommodation/ food.

A concrete and individual action. One cannot recognize as a voluntary service the passive accompaniment of a team during a project. An active and responsible contribution is required.

A minimum duration. The voluntary service should correspond to a period of 2-week full time work (14 days) at least. This period can be served in one stretch or in several bursts. For example, working full time for 2 weeks or for 7 full weekends over a period of 2-3 months.

A real service to the community. The voluntary service should really be a community service, that is, an action for the benefit of a community. One cannot recognize as a SW Voluntary Service a period of working for private interests, for example being intern in a company.

Make a difference. The voluntary service should contribute to making a difference in the field of environment, development or peace. It should have a real positive effect for improving the conditions of life of a community or for preventing a threat.

A training experience. The voluntary service should be an opportunity for developing/implementing personal skills. The evaluation of the voluntary service should show that the young person has acquired a new capacity to serve the community.

The voluntary service will be evaluated on the basis of a detailed report made by the young person him/herself, accompanied by a testimony from those who have benefited from the action (community leaders or NGO leaders).

SW Bases

A SW Base is a place where SW Discoveries and SW Voluntary Services can be organised. Contact National Office for details of the locations of these Bases.

SW Network

The SW Network provides a unique opportunity to enter into the real adventure of today's world by protecting the environment, working for development, challenging ethnic and nationalistic prejudices and building peace within and between the communities - in one thought, contributing to making the world a better place.

To become member of the SW Network, please register in the SW Network website and send us an electronic copy of your SW Passport or SW Certificate to network@scoutsoftheworld.net

The SW Network is a concrete opportunity for young people to be involved in the development of society and provides them with real social responsibilities. It can make the Scout Movement more appealing to adolescents and young adults because many of them may want to stay in Scouting or to join Scouting to be part of a network of young people committed to making a difference in their local, national and international communities. Furthermore, young people that are part of the SW Network may become more aware of the global dimension of the Scout Movement.

To download the full Scouts of the World guidelines as presented by the WOSM, please click on the following link: http://scout.org/en/about_scouting/the_youth_programme/youth_involvement/scouts_of_the_world_award/sw_resource_centre/sw_guidelines

To view some samples of best practice, please click on the following link:
http://scout.org/en/about_scouting/the_youth_programme/youth_involvement/scouts_of_the_world_award/sw_best_practices

To register on the SW Network website, please click on the following link:
<http://www.communityzero.com/swnetwork>



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