



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

Images courtesy of Scouting America, the World Organization of the Scout Movement, and members of the International Committee.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the International Commissioner	4
Letter from the Deputy International Commissioner	5
Letter from the World Scout Committee Chairperson	6
Spotlight on the World Scout Conference	7
Letter from the Interamerican Regional Committee 2 nd Vice Chair	8
International Committee Updates	9
Program Pillar	9
Events Pillar	11
Administration Pillar	13
Tools for Councils Pillar	14
Ad Hoc Relationship Committee	15
Communications Committee	15
International Committee Membership	16
Interamerican Leadership Training	17
Silver Buffalo Award	17
Distinguished Messengers of Peace Project Awards	18
16 th World Scout Moot	20
Summit Bechtel Reserve SCENES Certification	20
World Support	21

Letter from the International Commissioner



Welcome to the International Committee's Annual Report. As you will see in the following pages the International Committee has been busy. You will also see a change in our Committee structure.

When Bankruptcy started, volunteers on the International Committee stepped up and filled the gaps that were created due to the reduction of professional staff in the International Department. The increased responsibilities placed on our volunteers meant that our committee structure did not align with the current reality of the organization. Therefore, we have made a change and reorganized the committee to better serve the needs of International Scouting in the USA.

Some of the Pillars remain unchanged. Tools for Councils and Administration are the same – if anything Administration has taken on more responsibilities. We have eliminated Supporting World Scouting and Promotions to Scouts and shifted their work into other areas. As you will see, we have placed a spotlight on our programming and created a dedicated Program Pillar. We want to make sure that we are bringing the power of the World Movement to our members and the best way to do that is through programs.

We also decided to recommit our efforts in safety and access to National Scout Organizations and World Events by establishing an Events Pillar. This group will not only give our members the opportunity to experience Scouting outside the BSA, but it will also make sure that there are prepared and trained leaders supporting these events as well. Finally, we added an Ad Hoc Task Force to work with the various Consultative Status groups in World Scouting. This will help our youth that want to experience Scouting through a nontraditional structure to have the ability to do so.

But this report is not just about the Committee structure, please take time to learn about some of the amazing Scouting experiences that have happened this past year. All done by volunteers.

The BSA International Committee is a group of over one hundred individual Scouters who are dedicated to making sure that for the BSA, International Scouting is a World of Opportunities for our members.

It is my honor to serve with them as we all try to Create a Better World.

In Fellowship,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lou Paulson".

Lou Paulson
International Commissioner
Scouting America



Letter from the Deputy International Commissioner

Dear Scouters and friends,

In 2023, the International Committee continued to be tasked with providing international scouting opportunities and programs to our scouts and scouters alongside supporting other National Scout Organizations (NSOs).

The Committee rose to the occasion, staffing the National Scout Jamboree at The Summit, as well as the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea. The BSA was prominent at the World Jamboree serving in a multitude of roles, staffing a very popular booth, hosting a reception, and supporting more than 1000 BSA Scouts and Scouters who were in attendance as part of the 43,000 attendees from 150 countries.

As many know, a multitude of challenges were encountered in Korea. The health, safety, and welfare of our Scouts and Scouters was paramount, resulting in collaboration between the United States Embassy in Korea, the US military – especially Camp Humphreys military and civilian personnel, and BSA leadership (both at home and at the Jamboree). Volunteers and professionals worked together to safely mobilize the BSA contingent and provide a meaningful international experience.

2023 also saw the introduction of the expanded Messengers of Peace Award Program recognizing Scouts who continue to serve and benefit their community with meaningful projects. In this Annual Report, you will read about two Scouts who were recognized with the Distinguished Project Award for their outstanding service. Each of the projects tie into the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which address 17 key areas where Scouts and others can work together to create a better world.

2024 promises to be a year of continued Committee growth providing enhanced connectivity with councils, units and Scouts through the International Representatives. Coupled with the programs and opportunities that have begun in 2023, the International Committee looks to support membership growth creating a better world through Scouting. In particular, the Administration Pillar has developed a mentoring program that will encourage young adults and others to take an active role in world scouting by volunteering within our committee pillars.

As outlined by International Commissioner Lou Paulson, the reorganized International Committee composed of dedicated volunteers working with the committed professional staff continues to serve our youth for the betterment of the world in which we live. Thank you for all that you do.



Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bray Barnes".

Bray Barnes
Deputy International Commissioner
Scouting America



Letter from the World Scout Committee Chairperson

Dear Scouting friends,

This past year, we saw the strong resurgence of Scouting and an increase in membership of 5% from the 2022 Census, showing a full membership recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic across all regions. We also welcomed the Antigua and Barbuda Scout Association and Scoutisme Congolaise as the 173rd and 174th Member Organizations of WOSM, respectively.



We continued to deliver on the objectives outlined in the World and Regional Triennial Plan Plans through dozens of volunteer-driven projects to support National Scout Organizations (NSOs) to recover from the impacts of the pandemic and enhance their operations and programming. We delivered a total of 122 WOSM Services and trained an additional 120 volunteer consultants to better support Member Organizations to modernize their Youth Programs, implement Safe from Harm policies, grow their membership, strengthen youth leadership in decision-making, and more.

This past year, we supported NSOs to implement World Scouting's Messengers of Peace and Earth Tribe initiatives, and further developed two new educational initiatives focused on health and well-being, and skills for life. Together these initiatives, under the banner of Scouts for SDGs, will offer relevant and transformative opportunities for NSOs to integrate education for sustainable development into their Youth Programs. We also piloted ScoutPass as a digital wallet for Scouts to earn digital badges, and released a new version of the Scouts for SDGs hub which now offers more than 100 educational activities to inspire and engage young people and adult leaders in taking action for the Global Goals.

Child and youth safeguarding remained a top priority for us, and we accelerated this area of work by developing new assessment tools and annual reporting mechanisms to ensure that every NSO can meet the new Safe from Harm requirements for WOSM membership, and that we provide a safe and inclusive environment for everyone involved in Scouting. An upgraded version of the Global Support Assessment Tool (GSAT) was also released to empower NSOs to meet global standards for quality Scouting and good governance.

Undoubtedly, one of the main events of the year was seeing 43,000 young people and volunteers from 150 countries come together at the 25th World Scout Jamboree in Korea. Despite the unprecedented challenges faced during the event, our Movement showed incredible resilience, leadership, and Scouting spirit to make the most of the experience. Guided by the insight and recommendations of an independent panel review, we are now working to enhance future World Scout events by strengthening our standards and guidelines to make them safer, more sustainable, and more engaging for all.

Together with the World Scout Foundation, we launched a revamped Scout Donation Platform to support Scouts to fundraise for community service projects and to enable NSOs to raise donations for large-scale humanitarian response and disaster relief efforts in countries such as Türkiye, Syria, Madagascar, Morocco, and Libya. This past year we also granted a total of \$2,275,000 to 75 national, regional, and global projects implemented by 104 NSOs in all Scouting Regions.



Our partnerships and advocacy work took center stage during the United Nations (UN) General Assembly and recent UN Climate Change Conferences where World Scouting's leadership and Youth Representatives were on hand to call for urgent action and accountability from decision-makers to make meaningful progress on the SDGs. These efforts go hand-in-hand with our own work to produce a climate impact strategy for World Scouting that will aim to achieve climate neutrality in our operations by 2033.

Finally, following an extensive research phase, we developed the first draft of our next Strategy for Scouting, which will set a forward-looking vision and agenda for our Movement over the next decade following its adoption at the upcoming 43rd World Scout Conference.

Through all of these activities and initiatives, we are laying the groundwork for a stronger, more resilient Movement capable of meeting the evolving needs of our members and communities.

As we celebrate the successes of 2023 and look forward to the opportunities that await us in the new year, let us continue to uphold the values of Scouting and work together to build a brighter future for generations to come.

Yours in Scouting,



Andy Chapman

Chairperson

World Scout Committee



Spotlight on the World Scout Conference:

The World Scout Conference (WSC) is the governing body of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM). It takes place every three years and provides an opportunity for Member Organizations to play an active role in shaping the standards, policies, and shared goals of the Scout Movement worldwide. The conference defines the general policy of WOSM and takes decisions to advance the purpose and interests of the Scout Movement. It also elects the voting members of the World Scout Committee, admits new Member Organizations to the Movement, and decides the host countries of future World Scout Events.

The 43rd World Scout Conference will take place from August 17-23, 2024 in Cairo, Egypt. World Scouting develops a new strategy roughly every ten years, reflecting new trends and opportunities for our Movement. This year, the WSC will vote on the proposed next Strategy for Scouting, an ambitious project that captures the long-term ambitions and direction of Scouting for the next decade. The strategy will outline key focus areas for Scouting to remain relevant, enhance impact, and foster growth.

Although there will not be a Youth Forum prior to the Conference, WOSM has encouraged all NSOs to ensure involvement of young adults (ages 18-30) in their delegation and requested that at least 1/3 of each delegation is under 30. We have recently formed the USA delegation to the WSC and are excited that 50% of our delegation of dedicated international scouting volunteers are young adults (including the Head of Delegation, Seth Griffith).



43rd World Scout Conference
Conférence Mondiale du Scoutisme
المؤتمر الكشفى العالمى

Letter from the Interamerican Regional Committee 2nd Vice Chair



Hello brother and sister Scouts,

We are excited to welcome our new Regional Director, Diana Carrillo, who joined us early in 2024. She has a strong background in International Relations and project management, including working for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). You may recognize Diana from her time as a Youth Advisor to the World Scout Committee or as a member of the World Scout Jamboree Dream Team, who worked to plan the incredible jamboree in 2019. We are looking forward to Diana bringing her strategic vision and innovative leadership to the region.

Since we are halfway through our current triennium for the Interamerican Region, the Regional committee alongside the Regional office are working diligently to deliver the Regional Plan and Resolutions voted on at the conference in Paraguay in 2022.

We have assigned specific committee members to the topics of Growth, Strategy and Safe from Harm, monitoring these 3 priorities for developments. Key highlights include a 17.9% increase in membership in our region, 2022 over 2021, supported by a rebounding of BSA membership after the pandemic. We are looking forward to the release of the new Strategy for Scouting at the conference this summer in Egypt, developed with the help of volunteers from the region, including from BSA.

In addition, to deliver the resolutions from the conference, we established 5 working groups in 2023, led by committee members and volunteers from all over the region. These groups are Diversity and Inclusion, Environmental Sustainability, Youth Platforms Assessment, Candidates and Advocacy and Partnerships. Advocacy and Partnerships has released the applications for Regional Youth Representatives, modeled after the world version, this spring.

We will have our planning workshop for the next Regional Triennium Plan known as the Regional Summit (or Cumbre in Spanish) this November in Medellin Colombia. This will start the process of developing the next triennial plan, which will be presented at the next regional conference in Curacao in 2025.

I had the opportunity to attend several regional and world events in the last year, which demonstrated how Scouting is continuing to inspire young people to become the leaders of tomorrow. The region put on a ScoutsGoSolar Ambassador training in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Participants are now delivering solar energy training to leaders and scouts around the Americas, to prepare young people for the future.

I attended in December my first Interamerican Leadership Training, hosted in the Dominican Republic, where almost 100 young people gathered to develop their leadership skills. It was the 10th anniversary of the revolutionary training and an honor to be there to recognize BSA's Armando Aguirre for his vision, along with the other founders of the program.

Yours in Scouting,

Meghan Pierson

2nd Vice Chair

Interamerican Scout Committee



P R O G R A M P I L L A R

The newly created Program Pillar is responsible for developing, maintaining, and helping deliver all international programs. Lynn Brooks will serve as the Vice Chair for Program.



INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

International Awards are the first step towards a world of opportunities. International Award offerings include the International Spirit Award, the Interpreter Strip, the World Conservation Award, the International Scouter's Award, and the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The International Awards Team streamlined the awards process by ensuring each award for both youth and adults can be earned and recorded through the National BSA database. This process is simpler and makes it easier to record awards for our Unit and Council volunteers.

The International Awards Team has encouraged Councils to implement awards especially the International Spirit Award as Unit enriching programming that is most impactful when earned as a series of Unit activities. The International Awards Team has also recommended that local Council International Representatives take an even more active role in the promotion, implementation, recording and presenting of International Awards.

We look forward to many Scouts beginning their exciting International Scouting journey through achievement of International Awards.



MESSENGERS OF PEACE

This year has seen the Messengers of Peace (MoP) subcommittee's hard work come to fruition. We officially launched Scouting America's expanded Messengers of Peace recognition structure, introducing the Champion, Ambassador and Unit awards. Our team completed an overhaul of the MoP pages on the International Scouting section of [scouting.org](https://www.scouting.org), which includes explanations of the MoP program, FAQs, promotional videos, training decks, program guides, application forms and much more. Additionally, the Distinguished Project Award Committee reviewed several nominations for the inaugural award and two recipients were chosen to receive the new distinction - read more about their projects on page 18 of this report.

At the National Jamboree, the MoP team held several training cells, reaching 300+ scouts, educating them on what it means to be a Messenger of Peace and how to earn the new recognitions. Additionally, several MoP committee members worked in the International exhibit, teaching visitors about the program and spear-heading a Jamboree-wide MoP project for first responders.

We are also diligently working on a proposed young adult International Scouting MoP service project in cooperation with Scouts Belize that we anticipate will take place in late 2024 or early 2025. Our team will also continue to educate and spread awareness about the MoP program at this year's NOAC, taking place at the University of Colorado, Boulder this July.

Work is also underway to align Scouting America's MoP implementation with changes taking place within the updates to WOSM's educational framework being rolled out in conjunction with the new triennial plan that will be ratified at the World Scout Conference in Cairo, Egypt this August.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

After submitting its initial report in 2023, the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Task Force has been busy charting its next steps. The Task Force recruited several new members whose experience, time, and excitement have been invaluable to ongoing conversations about the role of the SDGs in the future of Scouting America. Late last year, WOSM rebranded the Better World Framework (now simply “Scouts for SDGs”) to more succinctly connect the Scouting program to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our SDG Task Force has been busy learning about this redesign and understanding its implications and opportunities for Scouting America Programs.



INTERNATIONAL ADVENTURES IN SCOUTING

The International Committee has been hosting an annual open conference for all BSA Scouters who are looking to integrate "International Scouting" programs into their unit, district, and council. The format has been changed from closed IR training to an open conference at Philmont Training Center. The conference was unfortunately cancelled in 2023 due to low enrollment, but it is a go for 2024! The program committee has set two key objectives for this year; 1) keep the positive and strong momentum for International Scouting after the 25th World Scout Jamboree and 2) develop a sustainable pipeline from youth to young adult to adult Scouters who will lead BSA International Scouting programs. The event has also become a venue to expand the International Committee network.

The conference is designed to meet the interests of Scouters intrigued by international scouting and its opportunities. Topics include leading youth on international adventures, engaging in WOSM gatherings, participating in online scouting, collaborating with National Scouting Organizations globally, and more! Participants will learn about the structure of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, BSA's interactions with other National Scouting Organizations, and navigating cross-cultural interactions.

With a focus on readiness for international adventures as part of Scouting America, additional topics include upcoming international events, risk management considerations, program preparation, local unit integration with international scouting, the expanded Messengers of Peace initiative, and alignment with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Additional topics include onboarding training and mentoring new International Committee members and securing council participation in the International Camp Staff Program.

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE TOOLBOX

The International Representative (IR) Toolbox and other informal guides are available for councils, units, and individuals on the BSA website, [scouting.org](https://www.scouting.org). These include a Unit Guide to World Scouting and a WOSM & International Scouting slide deck showing the breadth of the World Movement with ideas to be a part of it at home or abroad.



JAMBOREE ON THE AIR – JAMBOREE ON THE INTERNET

Jamboree On The Air – Jamboree On The Internet (JOTA-JOTI) connected an estimated two million young people from more than 170 countries in October for Scouting's annual digital and radio Jamboree. Some participated locally, either individually or in groups, in their own programs. Others participated in the official JOTA-JOTI program, a digital campsite that offered a Fun Zone with games and activities, the Innovation Lab, a chat room, live shows, and an Amateur Radio Hub. Scouts also learned about online safety, a priority in all Scouting events. The world's largest digital and radio Scout event will next take place October 18 – 20, 2024. We encourage all to participate through the world scouting website (jotajoti.info) or by joining in on a local Scout group's JOTA-JOTI activities.

E V E N T S P I L L A R



The Events Pillar, a newly formed team of the International Committee, is a great step toward better focusing on what is important and attractive to the youth and adults served by scouting. Taking over the responsibility of organizing USA Contingents and attending World Scout Events, our team's primary aim is to build on this foundation. We are committed to increasing access and opportunity for scouting experiences that foster international fellowship and service, engaging both youth and adults. Brad Valdyke will serve as the Vice Chair for Events.

In 2023, our Scouts were part of some remarkable international activities, a testament to the hard work and dedication of the International Committee and World Scouting Pillar Team. These included:

- BSA National Order of the Arrow Conference: Exhibition of international opportunities and sessions exploring the WOSM "Better World Framework" through Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- 25th World Scout Jamboree, South Korea: 700 unit members and 300 International Service Team members of BSA adapted and overcame logistics and weather challenges, achieving Baden-Powell's goal of the events "to assume new responsibility for promoting peace and goodwill"
- 2023 Jamboree On The Air – Jamboree On The Internet (JOTA-JOTI): The world's largest digital and radio Scout event promoting friendship and global citizenship, BSA's participation in the annual WOSM event gets bigger every year. BSA is one of the NSOs supporting the 2024 pilot to engage world youth with program offerings from their country. There is more exciting innovation to come!



Looking ahead, the Events Pillar is poised to launch a series of strategic initiatives. These innovative plans are designed to not only expand, but also enrich the scouting experience on a global scale. Our forward-thinking adjustments include:

LEADER TRAINING

Specialized training programs for contingent management teams and unit leaders, ensuring preparedness and effective event management. These initiatives underscore the International Committee's central role in facilitating impactful and safe international interactions that resonate with the core values of Scouting America.

STREAMLINING CONTINGENT LOGISTICS

Improved logistical frameworks that handle the complexities of international travel and event execution, ensuring seamless experiences for scouts and leaders alike and comprehensive safety protocols tailored to the specific needs of international gatherings, ensuring the well-being of all participants.

BOOST GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Dedicated to providing unparalleled international experiences that promote global citizenship, leadership, and cooperation among scouts. We look forward to enhancing participation in USA-based international events; such as council-sponsored International Camporees, cross-border scouting activities, and of course, the annual JOTA-JOTI. These also foster the interconnection of the global scouting community through shared experiences and mutual understanding.

With a clear vision for the future and a commitment to continuous improvement, we have already begun planning for the next several years of global engagement:

- BSA National Order of the Arrow Conference, University of Colorado in July-August 2024
- 43rd World Scout Conference, Cairo, Egypt in August 2024
- 16th World Scout Moot, Portugal in July-August 2025
- 2026 BSA National Scout Jamboree, International participants and service teams
- 26th World Scout Jamboree, Poland, in July-August 2027

As well as annual events of the BSA or attended closer to unit's homes...

- BSA Far East and Transatlantic Council programs
- BSA and Council International Camporees
- JOTA-JOTI, October 18-20, 2024

See the International Events Calendar at <https://www.scouting.org/international/calendar/>

And if you haven't heard – five National Scout Organizations (NSOs) have allied to bid for the 2031 World Scout Jamboree, offering to host it at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia, USA. These NSOs are Ecuador, Egypt, Kenya, Bangladesh, and the United States. The 27th World Scout Jamboree host will be selected by vote of the World Scout Conference this August 2024.

Through these Event Pillar efforts, the International Committee continues to foster a worldwide scouting movement where every participant can thrive and contribute to a better world!

ADMINISTRATION PILLAR

The Administration Pillar is responsible for disseminating information to the International Committee and providing procedural support which enables the other pillars to focus on external initiatives. John Dozier will continue to serve as the Vice Chair for Administration.

The Administration Pillar worked on the following initiatives over the past year:



ONBOARDING & MENTORING TRAINING

Onboarding new committee members is designed to create a close-knit culture that embraces new members and helps orient them to the operations, membership, and aspirations of the International Committee and its pillars. An updated orientation program will be offered at the International Adventures in Scouting conference planned for June 2024 at the Philmont Training Center.

Mentoring Training is a companion to Onboarding Training. We developed a mentoring program that addresses the needs of new committee members and prepares them for their role by training mentors to provide support to new members, through modeling and examining best practices in mentoring. The training is focused on the process of mentoring and how to cultivate a strong relationship between a mentor and their mentee. This training will also be rolled out during the International Adventures in Scouting conference.

TRAINING SUPPORT

The Administration Pillar also provides promotional and content support to the Philmont Training Center International Conference - International Adventures in Scouting. In addition to demonstration of the training programs shared above, a new training in risk management to support units leading their own international adventures is planned.

With the realignment of the committee structure, the administrative team has also taken on some additional responsibilities.

CREDENTIALS

The pillar acquired management of International Letters of Introduction and other credentials from the former Supporting World Scouting Pillar. In less than one month, we have already processed more than twenty requests for International Letters of Introduction. We will assume full responsibility for providing International Letters of Introduction, International Letters of Endorsement, and visa support for youth and leaders from NSOs participating in events hosted in the United States.

We look forward to building on the success already established and to create a system that is rapid, accurate, and supports the credentialing needs of the international scouting community.

MERCHANDISE

The Administration Pillar will ensure that recognition items for committee members are available to all who would like to promote their affiliation and commitment to World Scouting.

OPEN CALLS

The pillar is investigating how a system for recruiting and integrating new volunteers into the various tasks of the committee might operate, with the goal of creating an engaged, talented, and diverse body of members.

TOOLS FOR COUNCILS PILLAR



The Tools for Councils (TFC) Pillar is focused on supporting Councils and their International Representatives in their efforts to bring World Scouting to the Council, Unit, and individual levels of Scouting in the United States. Mark Beese, who previously served as the Deputy Vice Chair, will be the Vice Chair for Tools for Councils.

The Tools for Councils Pillar collaborates closely with the others pillars in promoting international scouting but particularly focuses on the following areas:

- Onboarding, training, and supporting International Representatives in their mission to promote World Scouting events and programs
- Promoting BSA International programs and contingent events, such as the International Camp Staff Program, JOTA-JOTI, Messengers of Peace Award Program, International Spirit Award, and the World Scout Jamboree and the World Scout Moot
- Promoting tools and resources local Councils can use to promote World Scouting, such as the “Unit Guide to World Scouting” available to download on [scouting.org](https://www.scouting.org), as well as presentation decks on international scouting for use at Council training events
- Collaborating with National, CST, and Council Commissioners to support International Representatives and their work to promote World Scouting

In 2023, the Tools for Councils Pillar made significant progress developing and promoting programs that enrich the Scouting experience in the United States, including:

Looking forward, the pillar will focus on engaging and supporting Councils in their expansive work to bring transformative World Scouting experiences to all Scouts.

INTERNATIONAL CAMP STAFF PROGRAM

The International Camp Staff Program (ICSP) will be supported by both the Tools for Councils & Program Pillars over the next year. ICSP had a bit of a bumpy road this past year, but progress was made toward restoring the program. It is anticipated that four ICSP participants will be at summer camps this year. This is more than in any year since the program resumed in 2022.

Applications were received from 84 potential participants located in a total of 24 different countries and 4 continents. Many of the applicants were from the recruiting efforts at the 1st Africa Rover Moot in Nairobi, Kenya, led by Michael Files of the ICSP team. Pete Armstrong of the ICSP team also recruited a dozen or so Scouters and was able to meet with representatives of several NSOs in his travels this past year.

As summer approaches, we are viewing each bump as a lesson learned and identifying opportunities to help the program grow in the future. By early Fall, a thorough review of the program will be completed, and changes made that should improve things for all involved for the summer of 2025. Please watch for your chance to participate in this review.



AD HOC RELATIONSHIPS COMMITTEE

Scouting America enjoys fellowship with many friends around the world. We remain one of the strongest and most enduring supporters, with a long history of collaboration with WOSM and many, many friends abroad. While many of the responsibilities that previously fell under the Supporting World Scouting Pillar are now under the purview of our Program, Events, Administration, and Tools for Councils Pillars, there remains a need to support and develop the relationships that the International Committee has created with partner organizations.



The Ad Hoc Relationships Committee has been created to engage, work with, and provide awareness to those organizations that provide a variety of support to Scouting; including charter partners, faith-based organizations, and BSA Alumni in order to enhance international opportunities. Dave Sears, who previously served as the Supporting World Scouting Vice Chair, will lead the Ad Hoc Relationships Committee.



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE



The International Committee and Scouting America members across the globe are constantly supporting and participating in a range of international scouting activities. The communications committee exists to share all the great work that is being done, and the world of opportunities that are out there. Emily Hale will continue to serve as the lead of the Communications Committee.

Over the past year, the Communications Committee has brought back several resources that were on hiatus following the reduction in staff in the International Department. Our first quarterly newsletter was released at the beginning of April and the calendar of international events on the scouting.org website is again being actively maintained. A key goal for the future, is to refresh and restructure the international website to make it easier to find relevant and up to date information.

The Communications Committee is reliant on stories from Scouts and volunteers in order to share the message of international scouting. We encourage you to share with us the ways you are engaging with the work of the International Committee, whether that is attending world events, fundraising for Scouts overseas, or participating in international programming locally with your unit.

2023-2024 INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

The following individuals served as members of BSA's International Committee for the 2023-2024 term.

Executive Committee

Lou Paulson (International Commissioner)	Bray Barnes (Deputy International Commissioner)
John Dozier (Vice-Chair, Administrative Support)	Brad Valdyke (Vice-Chair, Tools to Councils)
Phil Krajec (Vice-Chair, Promotion to Scouts)	Dave Sears (Vice-Chair, Supporting World Scouting)

General Members

Armando Aguirre	Bill Daggett	Marshall E. Hollis	Meghan Pierson
Council Jordan Armstrong	Charles W. Dahlquist, II	Conner Huey	John Pyfer
Manuel Bagaco	Dr. Wayne Davis	Peter Hyman	Gilbert Ramon
Ben Beese	James Delorey	Tanadet Itsarapakdetam	Ron Ratto
Mark Beese	Joshua Dick	Archer Jones	Gus Sanchez
Bryan Bell	Joey Dierdorf	Rick Kagawa	C. Bari Saunders
Marcia Bettich	John R. Donnell	Kurt Kalafsky	Dave Shelburne
Gary Bird	Robbie Dzierzanowski	Reece Kilbey	Robert Sinclair
Del Bishop	Clark W. Fetridge	Ken King	W. Scott Sorrels
Rick Bragga	Michael Files	Inga Klusa-Curit	Andrew Steckner
David L. Briscoe	Dr. William "Bill" Finerty	Jeffrey Lam	Jun Takei
Lynn Brooks	Eugene Foley	Ed Lynes	Brigitte Therivel
Allen D. Brown	Dwayne Fontenette	Matthew J. Mann	James S. Turley
Dottie Brown	Pat Fountain	Bruce McCrea	Pratik Vaidya
Amy Burdick	Tom French	David L. Nakabayashi	William Wallace
Ajey Chandra	Jack D. Furst	Arija Noel	Aiden Wang
Edward Andrew Chapman	Seth Griffith	Paul Noel	Christa Waterwiese
Neal Clayburn	Emily Hale	Ynes Ortega	Bobby Ray Williams
Patrick Claytor	Jennifer Hancock	Jean Perea	James S. Wilson, D.M.
Benton Cole	Don Harris	Wayne M. Perry	Tony Woodard
David Cowan	Rick Hathaway	Laura Philpot	Willy Xiao

Interamerican Leadership Training

At the end of December 2023, three young adults from BSA travelled to the Dominican Republic to participate in the 9th Interamerican Leadership Training. We asked Spencer Gerdes, one of the participants, to share his experience with us.

“ILT was unlike any other Scouting experience. Where else can I meet Scouts from so many countries and be put in a small group with some of them to learn leadership and bond as new friends? You can’t get that at World Jamboree. Learning valuable leadership skills was enhanced by the opportunities to develop meaningful connections with other Scouts from across North, South, and Central America and the Caribbean.

The leadership skills and lessons at ILT are unique from NYLT, Wood Badge, NAYLE, etc. so despite having been to all of those, I found great value in the course. It wasn’t all just about leadership... from the moment I arrived I was able to engage with other Scouts to learn about their culture, language, and how Scouting works in their home countries in addition to sharing my own experiences. There is nothing like celebrating Scouting with 50 new friends on a boat sailing the coast of the Dominican Republic or ringing in the New Year with a group of Scouts that has become like family.

The most valuable things from the course are what you take away. I brought back the newly learned leadership skills and other countries’ Scouting culture to my Council and to my units. I also keep in touch with the new friends I made; we are constantly talking with each other and coordinating plans to visit each others’ countries.”



Silver Buffalo Award



Established in 1925, the Silver Buffalo Award is Scouting America’s highest commendation of the invaluable contributions that outstanding Americans make to youth. The service must be national in scope and can be independent of, or directly through, Scouting America. We are thrilled that the International Commissioner, Lou Paulson, has been selected to receive this award in 2024.

In addition to his service to International Scouting, **Lou Paulson**, is President Emeritus of California Professional Firefighters, a member of the National Fire Protection Association board of directors, and has served as a BSA Area President, Deputy Area President, and Vice President of Council Relations. He has served as the President of Mt Diablo Silverado on the Golden Gate Area Council and as a member of its board. He has been a district chair, merit badge counselor, and assistant Scoutmaster. For his volunteerism, he has earned the Silver Beaver, Silver Antelope, Alumnus of the Year, and Distinguished Eagle Scout awards.

Distinguished Messengers of Peace Project Awards

The BSA International Committee was honored to select Daniel Thomas (Eagle Scout, Troop 1905, Longhorn Council) and Mason Schlafer (Eagle Scout, Troop 1053, Michigan Crossroads Council) to receive the inaugural Messengers of Peace Distinguished Project Awards. The award recognizes outstanding service by individuals who have made contributions within their respective communities towards the promotion of peace. Through their work in Scouting, which aligned with one (or more) of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), they have acted locally to effect global change.

Daniel Thomas (Troop 1905 – Longhorn Council) – *SDGs #6 Clean Water & Sanitation, #14 Life Below Water, #15 Life on Land, and #17 Partnership for the Goals*

Daniel Thomas was selected for the award for his work on the LitterScout project. The LitterScout project is a local conservation group that Daniel founded in 2019, as a 5th grader, with the goal of inspiring, organizing, and engaging youth to be educated about litter and its impact on waterways. Through research, Daniel determined that 75% of the waste in his local Dallas-Fort Worth community waterways is generated from land-based litter. To help address this issue, Daniel began organizing monthly litter clean-ups in three cities (Euless, Grapevine, & Colleyville) with the help of friends, school organizations, and local scouting units. Daniel cooperated with the municipal governments of Euless, Grapevine and Colleyville to conduct his project efforts. This project has run continuously for over three and a half years and involved over 75,000 collective hours of service.



The LitterScout project also features monthly blogs, podcasts, and YouTube videos. Pursuing his passion to inspire, Daniel wrote and published a children's book titled, "Sustainable Living: Environmental Tips for Kids". He also created a phone app called "LitterScout" which decentralizes litter clean-ups by crowdsourcing litter hot spots. Using GPS and photos, it enables individuals and groups to participate in litter reporting and clean-ups. The educational material he created, as well as the LitterScout App, can be found at LitterScout.com.



Additionally, Daniel was awarded the 2023 Texas Environmental Excellence Award by the Texas Governor's office, the state's highest environmental conservation award for leading community members in conservation projects & educational outreach. Congratulations Daniel on inspiring peace through environmental action in your local community! Mason decided to take action and partnered with Feeding America, Muskegon County Cooperating Churches, and St. Gregory's Episcopal Church to expand their mobile food truck operations. The mobile food trucks operate to bring the food to the people. Families are able to sign up to receive food monthly. One food package is able to feed a family for about one week. The pantry operates like a drive-thru, in which people can drive (or walk) in and pick up their package of food. A single pantry can feed between 150-200 families at each stop.

Mason Schlafer (Troop 1053 – Michigan Crossroads Council) – *SDGs #1 No Poverty, #2 Zero Hunger, #3 Good Health & Well-Being, and #17 Partnership for the Goals*

Our second awardee is Mason Schlafer, who was selected for his Muskegon Mobile Food Pantry project. As a young scout, Mason was inspired to research food insecurity in his local community. He learned that 1 in 6 Muskegon children are suffering from hunger and that several non-profit food relief organizations were already hard at work tackling the problem and needed more help. Despite having more than enough food to feed everyone on Earth, over 800 million people still unfortunately end up going hungry every day. Issues such as natural disasters, poverty and homelessness, unsafe water and sanitation, and government conflict can all contribute to putting the hungry in even more dire straits.

Mason decided to take action and partnered with Feeding America, Muskegon County Cooperating Churches, and St. Gregory's Episcopal Church to expand their mobile food truck operations. The mobile food trucks operate to bring the food to the people. Families are able to sign up to receive food monthly. One food package is able to feed a family for about one week. The pantry operates like a drive-thru, in which people can drive (or walk) in and pick up their package of food. A single pantry can feed between 150-200 families at each stop.

Mason's project has contributed over 2,200 hours of direct community service to end hunger over 33 events since 2018 and continues still. What makes Mason's project even more outstanding is that he has used the proceeds from his title as BSA's top popcorn seller for six years to fund his Mobile Food Pantry project with Feeding America of West Michigan. He has sold more than \$400,000 of popcorn to help feed an estimated 10,000 people with around 150,000 pounds of food. His message of peace has inspired several scouting units from outside the area to come and join the effort as he expands the mobile food pantry and plans for its sustained operation. Congratulations Mason for making a lasting impact on ending hunger in your local community!



Daniel and Mason are both dedicated and passionate Scouts who are committed to making a difference in their community, exemplify what it means to be a Messenger of Peace, and embody the Scout Oath and Law in their work. They are role models for others, and their work is an inspiration to us all.

Messengers of Peace Distinguished Projects are chosen annually by the BSA International Committee's Messengers of Peace (MoP) committee. The award is open to registered Scouts who have made significant contributions to the promotion of peace and have met the requirements laid out in the MoP Program Guide. Scouts may be nominated for this award by any registered Scout Leader and must be approved by their Council International Representative and Scout Executive. The deadline for 2024 award nominations is October 31, 2024.

16th World Scout Moot – 2025

The 16th World Scout Moot is set to take place in Portugal from July 25th to August 3rd, 2025. This grand event will host Scouts from around the globe, utilizing various regions of Portugal to showcase the country's diverse, natural beauty and rich, cultural heritage. The Moot will incorporate outdoor activities, cultural exchanges, and educational programs, all designed to foster international understanding and cooperation among Scouts.

The Moot is open to Scouts aged 18 to 25 years and gives them a platform to engage with international peers and develop global perspectives. Participants will primarily engage as part of international patrols, living and working together throughout the event. Additionally, older members of the Scouting community can attend in supportive roles such as members of the International Service Team (IST) supporting the event's logistics and activities. Our contingent is committed to bringing 300 young adult participants and members of the IST. We expect our contingent to fill up rapidly.

We are excited that Ken King will serve as BSA's Head of Contingent. Ken has vast Scouting and leadership experience that will benefit our young adults as they travel abroad to enjoy Scouting fellowship at the World Moot. Asked what he was looking forward to as planning began, Ken said "I'm looking forward to opening a door to a new experience for young adults in the BSA. The moot is an opportunity for them to experience Scouting in a way that - unless they have previously attended a moot - is unlike any Scouting experience they have ever had. It's their first step toward really becoming an engaged citizen of the world - and to have a great time getting there."

Prospective participants and IST can sign up for more information at scouting.org/international/world-scout-moot/.



Summit Bechtel Reserve SCENES Certification

WOSM recognizes Scouting facilities around world as Scout Centers of Excellence for Nature, Environment, and Sustainability, or SCENES, who are committed to protecting their natural environment, minimizing environmental impact, and enabling everyone around them to engage with nature. SCENES lead by example and act as positive role models to other Scout centers, non-Scout centers, their guests, and their local community. They provide hands-on educational activities for Scouts and training opportunities for leaders to build a passion for nature and make positive changes for the environment at home and in their communities. In April, the Summit Bechtel Reserve became the second site in the USA to be SCENES Certified (Florida Sea Base is also SCENES Certified).





INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES



WORLD SUPPORT

We are incredibly grateful for the generous gifts that BSA Scouters make abroad. Whether at the World level, the Region level, or to a specific Scouting heritage site, these gifts make a tremendous impact. Please review the following information if you are considering a gift abroad. Gifts should be made directly to the institution per the links provided, and should always come above and beyond local support to Friends of Scouting.

The World Scout Foundation

The WSF is the official fundraising arm of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM). Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, the WSF has served as World Scouting's strongest supporter and continues to invest millions of dollars annually into the movement. Donors who contribute \$10,000 and above are formally recognized as "Fellows" and are individually recognized at an annual gala dinner.



Official WSF Donation Page: <https://worldscoutfoundation.org/donate>

Interamerican Scout Foundation

The ISF is the official fundraising arm of the Interamerican Scout Region. This foundation makes capacity-building investments in National Scouting Organizations, funds training events throughout the Americas, and directly supports the region's strategic priorities. Individuals who contribute \$1,000 or more are recognized individually as leadership donors in the Order of the Condor. The ISF is a United States recognized 501(c)3 charity and is eligible for tax-deductible gifts in all 50 US States.

Official ISF Donation Page: <https://iscoutfoundation.org/donations/order-of-the-condor/>

Please note, we also wish to thank those young adults who have lent their support to these meaningful causes. Young adults can join the Order of the Condor starting at \$150 and the Young BP Fellows at \$1,000. Please keep these options in mind when reviewing the sites above. Thank you!

United States Fund for International Scouting and The World Friendship Fund

Scouting America manages two funds that support international Scouting initiatives. This includes capacity building abroad, training activities, scholarships, and much more. Donations -- of any amount -- are accepted from Cub Scouts to Wood Badgers in support of this deeply meaningful work. Scouting America has been proud to offer this special Scouting olive branch since the conclusion of WWII.

Official USFIS/WFF Donation Page: <https://donations.scouting.org/#/council/NCFD/appeal/1647>



Gilwell, Kandersteg, and the Summit Bechtel Reserve

Within World Scouting, there are only a handful of camps that have truly global recognition. Among those are Gilwell, Kandersteg, and the SBR -- each of which have staff, alumni, and/or benefactor organizations. Maintaining these facilities is vital to continuing the adult training, youth programming, and special opportunities these camps afford World Scouting. Your support is deeply appreciated.

Official Gilwell Fellows Donation Page:

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/about-us/support-scouts/1st-gilwell-park/>



Kandersteg
International
Scout Centre



Official Kandersteg Donation Page: <https://www.kisc.ch/donate>

Official SBR Donation Page: <https://donations.scouting.org/#/national/give/appeals>