World Scouting Draft Policy Summary Brief
Youth Leadership

1. Introduction

World Scouting is updating the World Scout Youth Involvement Policy to support the improvement of the quality, relevance, and impact of Scouting education provided through National Scout Organizations (NSOs).

Following consultations with NSO representatives from all five World Scouting Regions, WOSM Consultants, and volunteer experts, the policy review team developed an initial draft. This was further refined through cross-policy reviews, resulting in Draft 1.

This brief introduces the main proposed directions of the revised policy and guides NSOs, national teams, and other relevant stakeholders through the review and feedback process.

It aims to help readers:

- Understand the main proposed policy directions and their potential implications for NSOs.
- Review Draft 1 of the policy and assess its relevance, clarity, and applicability.
- Engage relevant national stakeholders in discussing the proposed changes.
- Provide feedback through the consultation form or by commenting directly on the policy draft.

The proposed directions are not yet final and may change based on the feedback received during the consultation process.

2. Main directions of the policy

The revised policy proposes ten main directions for NSOs to maintain, strengthen, improve, or develop as they adapt and implement the policy nationally. Directions representing significant changes or greater emphasis compared with the current policy are identified as **New** or **Strengthened**.

1.	NSOs should recognise young people as leaders of today. **Move beyond participation** or representation alone and create opportunities for young people to exercise autonomy, responsibility, influence and leadership in Scouting and society**.** ***(NEW)***
2.	NSOs should **connect three areas of youth leadership**. Embed youth leadership through the Youth Programme, build meaningful Intergenerational Partnership, and strengthen Youth Leadership in Decision-Making as interconnected parts of one approach. ***(NEW)***

3. NSOs **should support a progressive Leadership Journey.** Offer age-appropriate opportunities to develop competencies through Leading Self, Leading with Others, Leading for Communities and Leading the Movement. These dimensions are interconnected rather than fixed stages. ***(NEW)***

4. NSOs should **embed leadership throughout the Youth Programme**. Use the Scout Method, especially learning by doing, the Team System, personal progression, reflection and community action, to enable every young person to practise leadership. ***(Strengthened)***

5. NSOs should make **meaningful influence the quality standard**. Ensure young people can contribute to relevant decisions, decision-makers genuinely consider their views, and young people understand how their contributions shaped the process or outcome. ***(NEW)***

6. NSOs should strengthen representation alongside influence. NSOs should establish inclusive governance structures and processes, raise the benchmark to ensure at least 40% representation of young people in decision-making bodies at National, Regional and World levels of WOSM and operational frameworks, and support their meaningful participation and full engagement. (***NEW)***

7. NSOs should build **meaningful intergenerational partnerships**. Prepare adults to facilitate, mentor, coach and share appropriate responsibility, so young people and adults learn, contribute and lead together with trust and mutual respect. ***(Strengthened)***

8. NSOs should **provide safe, inclusive, and accessible leadership opportunities**. Ensure young people can develop and exercise leadership at different levels of Scouting, while identifying and reducing financial, cultural, geographic, structural, accessibility, gender-related and other barriers. ***(Strengthened)***

9. NSOs should **ensure organisational systems support youth leadership**. Integrate youth leadership into governance, culture, adult development, communication, resource allocation, organisational planning and accountability rather than relying on isolated initiatives. ***(Strengthened)***

10. NSOs should **monitor experience, influence and impact**. Use evidence and feedback from young people to assess access, progression, representation, partnership, learning, meaningful influence and impact, and continuously improve practice. ***(NEW)***

3. What these directions mean for NSOs

The proposed policy directions establish clear responsibilities for NSOs to strengthen youth leadership by providing leadership opportunities through the Youth Programme, supporting intergenerational partnerships and ensuring young people have meaningful influence in decision-making.

While NSOs are expected to take action in these areas, the policy recognises their different cultural, legal and organisational contexts and allows flexibility in how they implement these directions.

If adopted, NSOs would progressively translate these directions into practice through:

1. **Policy alignment:** Review national policies, educational frameworks and organisational practices so youth leadership becomes part of both the Youth Programme and governance.
2. **Educational and leadership opportunities:** Strengthen age-appropriate leadership experiences in units, teams, community initiatives and decision-making bodies, connecting these opportunities into accessible pathways.
3. **Adult and organisational capacity:** Equip adults to mentor and share responsibility; strengthen governance arrangements, resources, safeguarding, communication and coordination across policy areas.
4. **Meaningful decision-making:** Review not only who sits on boards or committees but also how young people receive information, contribute, influence outcomes and obtain feedback.
5. **Monitoring and improvement:** Listen to young people and examine progression, access, representation, influence and impact to decide what to maintain, improve or develop.

Implementation should connect with the Youth Programme, Adult Volunteering, and Safe from Harm policies. NSOs can build on their existing strengths and adapt their approach to their own context.

4. How to Participate in the Policy Review

NSOs, national teams, and other relevant stakeholders are invited to review Draft 1 of the World Scout Youth Leadership Policy and contribute to its further development.

Step 1. Read the Policy Draft - Read Draft 1 of the World Scout Youth Leadership Policy. Pay particular attention to the proposed policy directions, their explanation in the draft, and the expectations for NSOs.

[Read the World Scout Youth Leadership Policy – Draft 1]

Step 2. Reflect on the Proposed Directions - As you review the draft, consider:

- **Relevance:** Do the proposed directions respond to the needs of young people and the realities of Scouting in your country?
- **Clarity:** Are the policy directions, concepts, and expectations clear and easy to understand?
- **Applicability:** Can the proposed directions be adapted and implemented within your national context?

- **Gaps and challenges:** Is anything missing, unclear, or difficult to apply? What additional guidance or support might be needed?
- **Areas to maintain or strengthen:** Which elements should be retained, improved, or further developed?

Step 3. Organise a Stakeholders Discussion - National teams are encouraged to organise a discussion session to review the proposed policy collectively and prepare consolidated feedback. Where possible, involve relevant stakeholders, including Youth Programme teams, youth representatives, Adults in Scouting teams, adult volunteers, and other national teams or groups involved in the development and implementation of Youth Leadership

During the discussion, consider the proposed directions, identify areas of agreement or concern, and consolidate the main recommendations from your NSO. The objective is to provide a collective national perspective that reflects different experiences and realities within your organisation.

Step 4. Provide Your Feedback - There are two ways to contribute to the consultation process:

Option A. Submit feedback through the consultation form	**Option B. Comment directly on the Policy Draft**
National teams are encouraged to submit consolidated feedback following their discussion session. Individual stakeholders may also use the form to provide feedback. **[Access the Policy Consultation Feedback Form]**	This option is particularly useful for suggesting changes to specific sections, requesting clarification, or identifying wording that could be improved. **[Access Draft 1 to Provide Direct Comments]**

5. Your Contribution Matters

Your feedback will help ensure that the revised World Scout Youth Leadership Policy is clear, relevant, practical, and applicable across different national contexts.

At this stage, the aim is not to assess how well NSOs are implementing the proposed directions, but to understand whether the policy provides appropriate guidance and expectations for the future.

By reviewing the draft, engaging in national discussions, and sharing your recommendations, you can contribute to strengthening the quality and relevance of Scouting education worldwide.

Deadline for submitting feedback: 11 January 2027.