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

Circular 14/2021

Fact sheet of the Solomon Islands Scout Association



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COUNTRY INFORMATION

Solomon Islands is an archipelagic state situated in the southwest Pacific Ocean, approximately 2,000 kms to the northeast of Australia. Its land mass of 28,400 km² extends over nearly 1,000 islands comprising nine main island groups. The capitol, Honiara, is located on Guadalcanal, the largest island.

The population of Solomon Islands, estimated at 686,884, is predominantly Melanesian (about 95 per cent) although there are also small Polynesian, Micronesian, Chinese and European communities. There are 89 distinct languages in the country, with numerous local dialects. English is the official language but Solomons' Pijin is the lingua franca for the majority of people.

The United Kingdom granted Solomon Islands internal self-government in 1976, followed by independence on 7 July 1978. At independence, Solomon Islands joined the Commonwealth with Queen Elizabeth II as its Head of State, represented by a Governor-General.

SCOUTING HISTORY

The Solomon Islands branch of The Scout Association was founded in 1928, as a branch of the United Kingdom Scout Association for historical reasons. Scouting in Solomon Islands was started by a Catholic Priest based at Tangarare Parish, West Guadalcanal. Scouting was then very active in Schools around the country from the 1950's to the 1990's. As part of the plan for strengthening its capacity, the branch was working towards recognition as a National Scout Organization by the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

The Solomon Islands Scout Association has a great track record in establishing partnerships with Scouts from Australia, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, New Zealand and the UK. These include exchange programmes, trainings and Rover expeditions. Scouts from the Solomon Islands regularly participated in World Scouting events starting with the 19th World Scout Jamboree in Chile in 1998.

In 1992, Solomon Islands became one of the founding members of the South Pacific Emerging National Scout Organization Council or SPENSOC, now known as the Council of the South Pacific Scout Associations or CSPSA. This council was formed to encourage mutual cooperation, coordinate support from external organisations, and establish lines of communication with members and WOSM.

LEGAL REGISTRATION

The Solomon Islands Scout Association (SISA) is legally registered under the national Registry of Companies since July 2015. SISA is also registered as an affiliate member of the Development Exchanges Services, the umbrella body that looks after the affairs of all non-governmental organisations operating in Solomon Islands.

The Constitution of Solomon Islands Scout Association was forwarded to the Constitutions Committee for review in December 2020. It was endorsed and deemed compliant with the WOSM Constitution in February 2021.

OBJECTIVES OF SCOUTING IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

- Non-formal education for young people using the popular Scout method;
- It provides an attractive programme for youth with many outdoor activities that will ensure the development of intellectual, psychological, spiritual, social and emotional aspect of every young person;
- Scouting promotes active citizenship;
- Scouting promotes youth activism;
- Scouts support community development at local and national levels;
- Scouts promote and practice democracy through stimulating meetings and processes;
- Scouts work and support other youth organisations and youth networks, and work with other institutions.

Target group members of SISA include children, young people and older people. By completing the programme of the units, SISA is taking part in activities in their communities that help to increase quality of life.

ORGANISATION

Scouting in Solomon Islands is composed of more than 10 local Scout groups distributed in nine districts in all larger islands. The total membership is about 500 young members and 50 Scout Leaders and the NSO aims to reach 3,000 members by 2025.

YOUTH PROGRAMME AND TRAINING SCHEME

Solomon Islands Scout Association is further developing their Scout manuals including training schemes. WOSM Consultants are assigned to support SISA on the development of their Youth Programme and Adults in Scouting.

MANAGEMENT

The Organizational Structure of SISA is being finalised in line with its Constitution. SISA headquarters is stationed at the National Youth Congress office located at Panatina, Tanakake Drive, behind the old Telecom field.

SCOUT CENSUS

Solomon Islands Scout Association has reported a Scout membership of 500 beginning 2021. Below is the breakdown per Scout section. Of the nine Provinces of Solomon Islands, Scouting exists in seven provinces.

Provinces	Cubs		Scouts		Venturers		Rovers		Subtotal
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Guadalcanal	10	10	12	12	15	8			67
Malaita			24	12	18	10	14	10	88
Honiara	12	18	30	15	64	42	35	21	237
Ysabel			12	15					27
Central					18	10			28
Western					25	5			30
Makira			12	10					22
Temotu			10	16					26
									TOTAL 525

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES, POLICIES AND MANAGEMENT:

The Solomon Islands Scout Association has developed a roadmap for the development and sustainability of the organisation. It is based on a holistic development through four strategic areas:

- Good Governance
- Growth
- Youth Programme
- Adults in Scouting

RECENT DEVELOPMENT AND EVENTS

- A team comprised of members from the Regional Committee, Asia-Pacific Support Centre and Scouts Australia visited Solomon Islands in 2016 and 2019.
- Sir David Vunagi, the Governor-General, was inducted as Chief Scout on 27 November 2019.
- Mayor of Honiara City Council was inducted as President of Scouts on 20 March 2020.
- St. Nicholas College Scout Group Patrol Leaders Training was conducted in November 2020 and will continue until 2021. The training will help Senior Patrol leaders who will support Scout leaders to run local Scout groups.
- Graceland Nature Park Scout Rangers conducted a Vouza Scout Award Bronze Level training programme during their camp between 20 to 22 November 2020.
- 30 members of the Kingdom Harvest Church Youths have received their Bronze level award last 13 December 2020 after going through a seven week training programme.
- Solomon Islands Scouts were given the honor to lead the lowering and raising of the Solomon Islands' national flag at the newly built Unity Square at Honiara Sea Port by the Solomon Islands Ports Authority.
- 10 Scout Groups revived Scout programs in February 2021.
- SISA celebrated World Scout Day last 22 February 2021 and was featured in a local newspaper of Solomon Islands.
- New Leaders are taking up Oath of Office as the organisation is reforming its new structure.
- Annual General Meeting will be held at the British High Commission in Honiara on 31 March 2021.