



Youth Programme Policy

This Circular substitutes “Youth Programme Policy” attached in Policy Circular No. 16/2018 issued on 1 January 2018.

To implement the fundamental principles of the World Scout Movement and to suit for the diverse development needs of youth members of different age groups in Hong Kong, Scout Association of Hong Kong has revised the “Youth Programme Policy” (“the policy”) so as to nurture our youth members holistic development through educational activities in a non-formal education setting as characterized in Scout Movement.

The Policy was adopted by the Executive Committee and comes into effect on 1 August 2022. Please refer to the appendix for details.

Joseph LAU

Chief Commissioner

Scout Association of Hong Kong Youth Programme Policy

1. Aim

To implement the fundamental principles of the World Scout Movement and to suit for the diverse development needs of youth members of different age groups in Hong Kong, Scout Association of Hong Kong (“the Association”) formulates the “Youth Programme Policy” (“the policy”) so as to nurture our youth members holistic development through educational activities in a non-formal education setting as characterized in Scout Movement.

2. Effective Date

This policy became effective from 1 August 2022 onwards.

3. Principles

- Scout Association of Hong Kong Ordinance (Chapter 1005 of the Laws of Hong Kong)
- “Constitution” of the Association
- “Policy, Organisation and Rules” (“POR”) of the Association
- Scout Law and Promise of the Association
- Aims and Methods of the Association
- Vision, Mission and Values of the Association
- “Adults in Scouting Policy” of the Association
- “Safe from Harm Policy” of the Association
- “Youth Involvement in Decision-making Policy” of the Association

4. Basis of the Policy

- “World Scout Programme Policy” published by World Organisation of the Scout Movement (“WOSM”)
- “World Scout Youth Involvement Policy” published by WOSM

5. Definition

5.1 Youth

Refers to all children, adolescents, and early adults who involved in and/or benefited within the Scout Movement. Scout Movement provides youth with educational activities and learning experiences with clear objectives and cares for their growth and development through different age sections and/or other structures within the organization to meet the individual needs associated with personal growth.

5.2 Youth Members

As defined in Rules 1.3.3(a) of the Association’s POR.

5.3 Age Sections

According to age ranges and different stages of physiological development, youth members are divided into five scout sections, namely Grasshopper Scout Section, Cub Scout Section, Scout Section, Venture Scout Section, and Rover Scout Section. Age ranges of respective scout sections are defined in Rules 2.3.3(c), 2.3.4(e), 2.3.5(f), 2.3.6(d), and 2.3.7(d) of the Association’s POR.

5.4 Youth Programme

The Youth Programme in Scout Movement provides useful and beneficial learning opportunities, and through personal experience under the Scout Method to achieve the purpose of Scout Movement.

5.5 Adult Members

As defined in Rules 1.3.3(b) to 1.3.3(f) of the Association's POR.

6. The Policy

6.1 General

6.1.1 The subjects under this Policy are Youth Members, Adult Members and external stakeholders involved in supporting Scout Movement.

6.1.2 The Association endeavors to operate an education movement for the youth by using the distinct Scout Method that encourages each individual the principal agent in his or her development as a self-reliant, supportive, responsible and committed active citizen.

6.1.3 In formulating this Policy, references are made to Youth Involvement in Decision-making Policy, Adults in Scouting Policy, Safe from Harm Policy and other appropriate policies of the Association.

6.1.4 The implementation of this policy and its related support will from time to time be reviewed so as to keep them up-to-date and relevant.

6.2 Youth Programme Policy Framework

6.2.1 This Policy is coordinated by Programme Branch of the Association. Accountability for implementation of this Policy falls upon Adult Members, particularly those responsible for the youth and/or executing youth programme at the levels of Association Headquarters, Subsidiary, Region, District and Scout Group.

6.2.2 All institutional levels of the Association, viz, Association Headquarters, Subsidiary, Region, District and Scout Group are vested with the responsibility to strive to provide pertinent resources for implementation of this Policy, having regard to respective level and scope of their roles.

6.3 Aim of the Scout Movement

6.3.1 Scout Movement characterized by non-formal education is to encourage the physical, intellectual, social, spiritual and aesthetic development of the youth, so that they will be active citizens and take a constructive place in society.

6.3.2 Scout Movement is "learning for life" with its fundamental principle of non-formal education; whereas Youth Programme is to practise the three core elements of the fundamental principle of Scout Movement, viz, Duty to God, Duty to Others, and Duty to Self. Therefore, Youth Programme is the major means for youth to having lifelong education, the core elements of the Scout Movement, and the vehicle to achieve the aim of the Scout Movement.

6.4 Learning objectives of Youth Programme

6.4.1 The Youth Programme is to help the youth to have holistic development growth in physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual dimensions, so that they will be :

6.4.1.1 Autonomous – able to have independent thinking, uphold the spirit of democracy, and to make their own decisions and choices.

6.4.1.2 Supportive – able to show concern for others, able to act with them and for them, and to have empathy.

6.4.1.3 Responsible – able to keep commitments, and to take responsibility for

their actions.

- 6.4.1.4 Committed – able to assert themselves in respect of values, a cause or an ideal, and to act accordingly.
- 6.4.1.5 Leader – able to effect change in the surrounding community.
- 6.4.1.6 Culturally Sensitive – able to respect others’ views irrespective of others’ gender, ethnicity, religion, language, or culture.

6.5 Learning opportunities in Youth Programme

6.5.1 The Youth Programme of the Association are youth-centered, timeliness, attractive, challenging and meaningful, and meet the needs of the youth for their nurturing and personal growth. In general, Youth Programme provides the youth with:

- 6.5.1.1 Life education: in addition to school and family education, learn the way of getting along well with others, learn leadership, experience the meaning of group life and develop team spirit.
- 6.5.1.2 Opportunities to develop their own potential: enrich knowledge, learn skills and explore new horizons.
- 6.5.1.3 Exercises to challenge oneself: go through physical training, strengthen physique, enhance intelligence and capabilities.
- 6.5.1.4 Chances to communicate and cooperate with others: learn the way of getting along with others through group activities.
- 6.5.1.5 Activities to serve society and concern for the community: participate in community development and serve others.
- 6.5.1.6 Activities to achieve the five education goals: enhance physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual development as well as to learn self-reliant, self-confidence, self-discipline and self-development.

6.5.2 Youth Members are divided into five age sections for Grasshopper Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Venture Scouts, and Rover Scouts, according to their age, physical and mental development stage, needs and learning ability. Each section provides a variety of learning opportunities in accordance with its educational objectives, in which format and content are kept pace with the time to cater for the interests and needs of the youth.

6.5.2.1 The learning objective of Grasshopper Scout Section is “Joyful group activities”. Grasshopper Scouts, making use their spare time at home or after school and through games / life-learning experience / group activities, learn self-care and participate proactively with curiosity about things and thirst for knowledge. They start to explore different interests, experience group life and grow up happily and healthily.

6.5.2.2 The learning objective of Cub Scout Section is “Learn while you play”. From Pack Meetings, group activities and training, Cub Scouts learn Scouting and living skills, train and strengthen their physiques, learn to be self-disciplined and self-care; through group games and activities, experience esprit de corps and cooperation, care others and foster sense of responsibility; and at the same time explore different interests, learn new skills to develop potential and creativity.

- 6.5.2.3 The learning objective of Scout Section is “Learning by doing”. Scouts focus on engaging outdoor activities / training and practicing leadership skills; Scout Troop is formed by Patrols with Scout Leaders and Patrol Leaders planning and organizing activities for the troop meetings. Scouts learn Scouting and living skills, experience group life, strengthen their physique, challenges themselves, build self-confidence and perseverance, develop leadership skills, and practice what they have learnt.
- 6.5.2.4 The learning objective of Venture Scout Section is “Self-programming, self-governing, self-reliance and self-improvement”. Venture Scouts adopt a self-programming and self-governing approach, and through outdoors lives, self-challenging activities and progressive training to learn self-learning, to be self-reliant and self-disciplined, strengthen their physique, enhance planning and organizing capabilities as well as leadership skills, learn collaboration with others, enhance interpersonal skills, practice esprit de corps and get prepared for the future.
- 6.5.2.5 The learning objective of Rover Scout Section is “Persistent self-improvement and commitment to the community”. Under the democratic, self-programming and self-governing approach, Rover Scouts among themselves coordinate and plan favorite and suitable activities and training to experience esprit de corps and cooperation, challenge themselves, develop their potential and nurture leadership skills; furthermore, through care for the society and serve the community to enhance the sense of civic mission, and contribute to the society.

6.6 Using the Scout Method

- 6.6.1 Scout Method is a system of progressive self-education, empowerment and cooperative learning that flexibly meet the ever-changing need of the youth and the community, enabling youth member be self-responsible for their growth and development with educating, interesting and happy experience. The Scout Method has eight elements:
- 6.6.1.1 The Scout Promise and Law – The Scout Promise and Law is central to the Scout Method, a personal commitment to a set of shared values and the foundation of a Scout does and a Scout wants to be.
- 6.6.1.2 Learning by Doing – the use of real life experience and reflection to facilitate ongoing learning and development.
- 6.6.1.3 Personal Progression – a progressive learning journey focused on motivating and challenging an individual to continually develop through a wide variety of learning opportunities.
- 6.6.1.4 Team System – a youth empowerment tool for cooperative learning and decision making for the purpose of nurturing team spirit, interpersonal skill, leadership and sense of responsibility and belonging.
- 6.6.1.5 Adult Support – adults facilitation and support to young people by creating learning opportunities and turning these opportunities into meaningful experience.
- 6.6.1.6 Symbolic Framework – a unifying structure of themes and symbols to facilitate learning and the development of a unique identity of Scout

Movement.

6.6.1.7 Nature – the nature providing infinite learning opportunities for physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual developments; and through learning opportunities in the outdoors encouraging a better understanding of and relationship with the wild environment.

6.6.1.8 Community Involvement – active exploration and commitment to communities and the wider world, fostering greater appreciation and understanding among people, and letting the youth to be a world active citizen.

6.7 Implementation of Youth Programme

6.7.1 Youth programme shall be carried out at safe place and facility according to Safe from Harm Policy and pertinent rules and guidelines of the Association so as to provide our Scouts a safe environment for Scout activities, and protect them from harm during their time in the Scout Movement.

6.7.2 Under adults' support, creates the right circumstances for the youth to gain positive learning opportunities; evaluates, analyses and designs the programme according to the youth's needs, taking into account any new trends that arises so as to facilitate the development and implementation of the Youth Programme.

6.7.3 Based on the Scout Promise, using of Scout Methods through joyful, progressive, diverse and challenging activities / training together with team collaboration and sectional progressive award system.

6.7.4 Use multiple learning means, including multilateral learning, networking, online interactivity and reflective and experiential learning.

6.7.5 All institutional levels of the Association viz. Association Headquarters, Subsidiary, Region, District and Scout Group shall encourage youth involvement in decision-making; using teams, task forces, councils (Venture Scout Council, Rover Scout Council) and committees, etc., to allow the youth to participate in Scout affairs through activities, posts and meetings at different levels with their engagement in decision-making.

6.7.6 Through the Wood Badge System, POR and appointment system of the Association to ensure having sufficiently qualified leaders and adults for the implementation of Youth Programme.

6.7.7 Work along life and formal education as well as closely with both internal and external stakeholders.

7. Evaluation and Revision

To cater for the changes in the society and the needs of our Youth Members, this Policy will be reviewed at least every 5 years or as required.

8. Enquiry

For enquiries, please contact Scout Executive (Programme) at 2957 6415.