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|  | Quality management Systems & Procedures Manual | Document No: SAJ/ QMSPM/12 | Number of Pages 6 |
| | TITLE: NATIONAL YOUTH PROGRAM POLICY | Revision No.: 00 | Revision Date: 1 st January, 2024 |
| | | Process Owner: Executive Committee | |

Preamble

The Scout Association of Jamaica (SAJ) is a registered non-government organisation in Jamaica. The Youth structure of SAJ is described in five youth sections:

- Busy Bee Scouts 4-6
- Cubs Scouts 7-10
- Scouts 11-14
- Venture Scouts 15-17
- Rover Scouts 18-24

Special notes have been taken regarding the youth program of SAJ. In particular the need to have a revised youth program, the need to have clearly defined starting an ending age for the total youth program, the need to provide a current, relevant and exciting Youth program for our Youth membership and the need to ensure the involvement of the young people in the proposal of a youth program.


The present youth program is a proposal by a team of Caribbean adult leaders from 1976. The idea was that, a skeleton structure would be presented to each participating association and in turn the body of work would have been done by each respective association for Cub Scouts, Scout Standard and Chief/Venture Scout.

The program closely resembled the British model which had been used since Scouting came to the Caribbean. Jamaica made some head way in putting "flesh" on the proposed structure but only completed work for Cub Scouts and Scouts Standards. No record can be found of material for Advanced, Chief Scout and Queen Scout award. Since then, no revision work has been done nor has there been any definite policy regarding the Youth Program. This policy proposal is an attempt to address the short fall address above. A document that clearly express the policy of a youth program will allow relevant individuals present and in the future to handle, more efficiently and effectively, the issues surrounding the Youth Program of the SAJ.

PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

The purpose of the Youth Policy of The Scout Association of Jamaica is to:

- Present the core concept of Youth program development in SAJ

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- Adapt the policy of the Inter-American Scout Region which is in line with The World Organisation of the Scout Movement and tailor it to the needs of SAJ
- Use as a framework for the development of a National Youth Programme now and in the future.

APPLICABILITY

The Youth policy of The Scout Association of Jamaica is to be adopted by all Scouting districts in Jamaica to ensure a standard is maintained and is the supporting document for any other policy document developed by SAJ which affects the youth programme.

PRINCIPLE OF THE POLICY


The youth Policy of The Scout Association of Jamaica will address the following:

- Relevant to the era
- Adaptable to the population of each district and provides for timely review
- The initiative for the youth programme is youth led and the young people are involved in the decision making process.
- It is non-discriminatory. Inclusion of young people in the Jamaican society regardless of race, religion, societal or educational background, gender or ethnicity.
- Through the program; youths develop at their own rate. Success is measured by individual achievement more than group achievement
- The provision to develop skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary for today's and tomorrow's society
- It does not deviate from the fundamentals of Scouting (Law and Promise)
- Works locally but have a global outlook
- It is aligned to the youth's everyday experience.

FUNDAMENTAL DEFINITIONS

The Youth Programme is the totality of the experience proposed to young people:

- *What*- what the young person does in the movement, i.e. the activities;
- *How*- the way in which it is done, i.e. the method

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- *Why-* the educational objectives, in accordance with the purpose and fundamental principles of the Movement

- The Mission of Scouting

The mission of Scouting is to contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law, to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society

- The purpose of Scouting

The purpose of the Scout Movement is to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

- Education for life

Scouting, as an educational programme for life is one that provides, in a progressive manner, the opportunity to fully grow as individuals, to be inserted into the realities of the world, to understand it and to transform it, to make decisions according to a code of ethics based on the Scout Law and to function as responsible, caring, autonomous, committed individuals, and in search of their significance. (IAR, regional policy)


- Principles of the Scout Movement

The principles of the Scout Movement are the main idea embedded in the Law and Promise:

- *Duty to God-* adherence to spiritual principles
- *Duty to Self-* responsibility for one's own development
- *Duty to Others-* loyalty to one's country, ready to promote peace, understanding and cooperation. Show respect to all humanity and seek to contribute to the development of society

- Scout Method

The Scout method is a system of progressive self-education, which is complementary to the family and the school, and is based on the interaction of several elements. These are: progressive system of educational objectives; stimulating adult presence; learning by doing through play; life in nature and serving others; adherence to the Promise and Law; symbolic

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framework; Team System.

ELEMENTS OF THE YOUTH PROGRAMME

- The sections of the association is organised into four unique groups; Cub Scouts, Scouts, Venture Scouts and Rover Scouts. This organization is done based on the age of the youth and their developmental stage.
- The program will address the areas of personal growth (Physical, Intellectual, Spiritual, Affective, Social and Character)
- The policy will speak to a general goal that is in line with the Scout Movement’s explicit goal which is contained in the following *“to help young people develop their potential to enable them to grow as individuals and contribute to the development of society”*.
- The programme will ensure that each section of the SAJ will have its own Sub-Sectional goals
- The Programme will promote a system of personal progression
- The autonomy of the Troops, Packs, Crews and Units is recognised and encouraged
- The programme must be written in a way to facilitate appropriate evaluation
- Within the programme is an allowance to for young people to acquire skills, knowledge, and attitudes relevant to his/her society through educational activities.

OPERATION OF THE POLICY

- It is the overarching responsibility of The Scout Association of Jamaica to see to the National implementation and development of the policy. This should be the priority of the National Scout Council.
- The National Scout Council will ensure there is in place the necessary mechanism to ensure the programme is constantly evaluated and updated.
- Also, the council will see to it that there is a dedicated individual/team tasked to ensure this policy is maintained (director of Youth Policy).
- The directorate will report to the Scout Executive.
- There will be close collaboration between the National Youth Protection Policy directorate and the directorate of

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the National Youth Policy and the directorate of the Adults in scouting policy.

- There is a well-established method of evaluating the Youth Programme
- Scouting is a youth organisation, supported by adults. It is important to ensure the participation of young people in the decision making process of the creation of the Youth program
- The implementation of the National youth policy will be supported by the District Commissioners and the Assistant District Commissioners with specific responsibility within the district.
- The National Headquarters of the SAJ will provide training for all adult members of the association and will provide technical and any other support needed to districts to ensure the proper and timely implementation.


RESPONSIBILITY OF DISTRICTS

- Coordinate the training of leaders
- Offer support to the groups
- Give feedback to the national headquarters on the progress/challenges of groups as they implement the programme
- Ensure youth participation in the decision making process within the district
- Create a youth programme in line with the National Youth programme
- Acquire resources that will enhance the programme within the district.

EVALUATION UPDATE AND REVISION

- The Youth Programme will be evaluated each year
- The Youth Programme will be updated as the need occurs
- The Youth Programme will be revised every five years

The quality of the National Youth Programme is determined by how best it meets the criteria of the principles as outlined in this policy.

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