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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

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To: Chief Commissioners
International Commissioners
Chief Scout Executives

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TEN REASONS FOR NSOs TO DECLARE ACCURATE CENSUS

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings from Manila!

As you are aware, obtaining accurate annual census from some NSOs is a very challenging task, and it has been felt over the past years that announced census figures could be much lower than the reality on the ground. There are various thoughts on the possible reasons why actual numbers are not reported, and one of them is the WOSM fee being linked to the number of members.

You will recall that the WOSM fee structure was revised at the World Scout Conference in January 2011 in Brazil. The purpose was to maintain the current fee level of each NSO (except for minor inflation adjustment) for the next nine years effective 1 October 2011. Hence there will be no basic change for the WOSM fee for the next nine years, regardless of membership figures, as an "incentive for growth".

Therefore, we encourage all NSOs to declare their true and accurate annual census, to be reflected in the 2011 census.

For this reason, we are pleased to attach the "Ten Reasons" why NSOs should declare their accurate membership census to guide you in this effort.

May I also remind all NSOs to submit the 2011 census latest by March 2012. You will shortly receive the census form from the Central Office.

Please see the attached document for your guidance.

Yours in Scouting,



Abdullah Rasheed
Regional Director

AR/llt/thb
11.01.12

Ten reasons for NSOs to declare accurate membership figures

1. **NSO's Obligation.** The NSO has the obligation to its individual members by recognizing them as legitimate members and ensuring that pertinent data of their members are recorded at all levels. As WOSM member, the NSO is responsible for declaring their membership in the annual membership census of WOSM.
2. **Right of every member.** Once an individual subscribes to the Scout Movement, either as a Scout or adult member, he/she has the right to have his/her entry as a member and should be reflected in the census.
3. **Image.** With numerical back-up, each NSO as well as WOSM can authentically claim to be the largest voluntary youth organization nationally and globally.
4. **Protection.** The NSO has the right to protect its image from unscrupulous practices of any non-members, and at the same time, has the responsibility to protect its legitimate members.
5. **Membership Growth.** With proper membership figures, NSOs can offer Scouting to more young people, even to those underprivileged, and this would have a greater impact on children around the world. Therefore, membership growth is no longer linked to registration fee.
6. **Strong Membership Management System.** Without functional systems and methodologies to control membership census, NSOs could lose a lot of financial resources that would otherwise enable them to strengthen their operations and delivery of Scouting. Putting in place a strong membership management system (with or without the use of IT) is central to resolving many organizational issues.
7. **Quality of Scouting Programme and adult support.** A proportionate ratio of membership between adults and young members is a good indicator of adequate adult support to young people. Without clear membership data, it is nearly impossible to determine how many adults are required to support the various needs of Scouting.
8. **Partnerships.** A global presence with strong membership at national and world level makes WOSM a valuable and widespread ally with other global, international and national entities, and therefore, can be a reliable partner in achieving a common goal.
9. **Sense of belonging.** With proper census recording, there is a true sense of pride and belonging to this great Movement of a larger number of young people and adults who are truly recorded as members.
10. **Honesty.** Scouting begins and ends with the Scout Promise and Law, where honesty is a much-lauded value and should never be compromised. Treating the value of honesty with shallowness is a clear lack of respect of what the Movement stands for.