

**UGANDA SCOUTS ASSOCIATION  
POLICY ON SCOUTING WITH SPECIAL  
NEEDS**

**INTRODUCED 2013.**

**WELCOME**



**TO  
SCOUTING WITH  
DISABILITIES**

## FORWARD

Article 35(1) and (2) of the Uganda constitution stipulates that persons with disabilities have a right to respect and human dignity.

(2) The state and the society must take necessary steps, to ensure that persons with disabilities realize their full mental and physical potential.

Scouting is an educational movement for young people. Scouting purposes to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual potential as individuals' responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

As stated in Article 2[2.1] of the Uganda scout Association constitution in definition, Scouting is open to all without distinction of origin, race, or creed in accordance with the founder Lord Smith Baden Powel (B.P). It includes all the four pillars of education; learning to know, to learning to do, learning to live together and learning to be, but the last two requiring a particular emphasis.

Scouting belongs to the category of non-formal education; it is an organized institution with an educational aim and is addressed to specific client.

In addition, scouting's education approach is characterized by the following: -

- ❖ It adopts a holistic approach to younger person's education.
- ❖ It seeks to achieve its educational purpose on the basic of an educational proposal.
- ❖ As a non-formal educational agent and it recognizes that it can only make a contribution to the education of young people with disabilities inclusive.

According to article 3(3.1) of the Uganda Scout constitution, membership is open to all people living in Uganda who agree to conform to the purpose, principles and methods of the Scout movement and pay membership fee as determined by the council.

Whereas (3.2) of the Uganda Scout Association spells out categories of membership, this policy brings out that , in the categories mentioned in the clause above for all since scouting was introduced to Uganda in 1915, there has been no literature and evidence to show that scouts with disabilities and special needs have been catered for till this year 2013 when the chief commissioner Eng. George Onep initiated it and appointed assistant Chief Commissioner for scouting with disabilities and special needs Sheikh Kabali Idris, Assistant leader trainer assigned to put down a policy for the same.

It is therefore important that this policy first of its kind in Uganda Becomes a steppingstone for the scouts with disabilities and special needs in Uganda.

It is embracing that the constitution of WOSM and all resolutions made to strengthen scouting for persons with disabilities and special needs per the founder B.P' S, Philosophy of young people with disabilities and special needs which spells out that scouts with every kind limitations or disabilities have been present in scouting since the very beginning of the movement. It is observed that writing in "Aids to Scout mastership as early as 1919,

B.P realized that “Though scouting, there were number of crippled, deaf and dump, and blind boys who gained greater health, happiness hope than they ever had before “9 This policy furthermore is to bring to our attention that B.P had this idea of constant concern in his mind. In May 1920, while he involved in the preparations for the first time world jamboree which was held at Olympia (London, England) Later that Year, in August 1920, B.p wrote the “Headquarters Gazette” I quote “In addition to more muscular activities at the Olympia, Jamboree, we have to give consideration and opportunity to those boys who are not physically capable of extreme competitions of endurance. We want the weaker not to feel their weakness, and to gain hope and strength”. He also realized that some adoptions were needed since most of these boys were not able to pass all the ordinary scouts and were supplied with special or alternative tests. B.P emphasized the general rule of education. Therefore, this policy is timely to help fulfill the founder’s dream of helping scouts with disabilities and special needs to become autonomous in such as possible and gain in self-esteem.

The most important for us is to understand that “scouting helps young people with disabilities and special needs by associating them in a world-wide brother and sisterhood, by giving them something to do and look forward to, by giving them an opportunity to prove to themselves and to others that they can do things and difficult things too, for themselves. B.P used to call them `Duller boy’. He said, “Go by the pace of slowest” and this was 1919. And 1929 in this book “Scouting and Youth movement “he insisted, “In the cavalry we were taught to go by the pace slowest horse”

When we refer to the WOSM policy, which is in the constitution and resolutions, chapter [1], one and article [1] one very well confirms that role in the prevention, rehabilitation and integration process.

The concept of duty to self in the promise and law is particularly relevant to scouts with disabilities and special needs.

The resolution WOSM No.51 strengthens the founder’s idea of scouting amongst those with disabilities and special needs. Therefore, the times is now if not late support and establish scouts’ units for those with disabilities and special needs in Uganda.

I sincerely hope that these scouts with disabilities and special needs, the policy will encourage critical debate, especially among scouts, scout leaders and trainers. This shall definitely and to the quality of scouting to be undertaken in the region and in particular Uganda.

Sign.....

**SHEIKH KABALI IDRIS**  
**Assistant Chief Commissioner Disability.**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION:**

### **1.1 NEED FOR THE POLICY:**

In order to keep the founder's philosophy and to abide by the constitution of the WOSM and that of Uganda Scout Association, there is need that the young people with disabilities and special needs are directed in specific ways which are in conformity with the culture and way of living of each national Association Uganda in particular.

This therefore has made it important for Uganda scouts Association to come up with this policy focusing on scouts with disabilities and special needs that incorporates all the objectives of the world organization of the scout movement visa-vi, the cultural setting of our country Uganda.

Since such policy is yet lacking in Uganda Scout Association, yet the movement has to continue to operate, it is therefore important that one such policy be developed and therefore the reason for the document here under:

### **1.2 PURPOSE OF THE SCOUT WITH DISABILITY[S] AND SPECIAL NEEDS POLICY.**

To have a global movement, making a real contribution to creating a better world for scout leaders to effectively deliver quality youth disability friendly and accessible integrated programs to the growing youth with disabilities and special needs membership that may arise while keeping the scout units operating efficiently and inclusively.

### **1.3 EXPECTED OUT COMES OF THE POLICY:**

To see scouting entering its second century as an influential value based educational movement focused on achieving its mission, involving young people with disability working together without discrimination to develop their full potential, supported by Adults with skills and knowledge of handling youth with Disabilities and special needs, willing and voluntarily able to carry out their educational role.

- ❖ With the policy in place we expect to see scouting world-wide as attracting and retaining more and more young people especially adolescents with disabilities and special needs, of both gender and coming from broader segment of society.
- ❖ We expect to see scouting attractive to Adults both women and men, in all culture, a movement through which they can make a significant contribution to society by working with young people with disabilities and special needs.
- ❖ We hope to see scouting as a dynamic, innovative inclusive movement with adequate sources, simple structures and democratic decision-making processes where organization, management and communication are disabilities friendly, accessible and effective at all levels.

## **2.0 TERMS**

### **2.1 DISABILITY**

Disability in the context of Uganda as per the disability policy and act, is defined as permanent and substantial functional limitations of daily life, activities caused by physical, mental or sensory impairment and environment barriers resulting in limited participations. Over the years definitions of categories have changed from the impairments approach to limit in participation.

This policy will focus on the following disabilities; -

- i. Difficulty in hearing
- ii. Difficulty in speaking and conveying messages
- iii. Difficulty in moving around and using other body parts
- iv. Difficulty in seeing
- v. Strange behaviors
- vi. Epilepsy
- vii. Difficulty in learning
- viii. Leprosy
- ix. Loss of feeling
- x. Multiple disabilities (combination of any of the above disabilities).

These young people between the ages of 6 to 25 years.

### **2.2: CATEGORIES OF YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES IN UGANDA SCOUT ASSOCIATION:**

The categories remain the same specified in the youth policy of Uganda Scout Association, only which this policy refers to those with disabilities and special needs who may need special integrated programs

### **2.3: YOUTH WITH DISABILITY AND SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM**

This program is designed to be followed by young scouts with disabilities and special needs in order to have inclusive Scouting and achieve its aims by using the methods of inclusive scouting for all.

### **2.4: SCOUTS WITH DISABILITY AND SPECIAL NEEDS POLICY:**

This is a document which guides the Adult scouts both with and without disabilities and special needs to achieve the aims and objectives of scouting through the special disability friendly youth program. It also guides the scouts with disabilities and special needs committee to successfully accomplish their duties. The policy also guides the young people with disabilities and special needs on how to gain self-esteem and be self-reliant, raise hope, care, love and comparison amongst themselves.

### **3.0 SCOUTS WITH DISABILITY AND SPECIAL NEED DEPARTMENT:**

#### **3.1: VISION OF THE DEPARTMENT:**

To create awareness on the right of persons with disabilities, promote social inclusion, decrease prevalence rate, raising awareness of prevention early detection and intervention, decrease the gap between the needs and services provided and mainstream disability and special needs as a development issue in scouting.

#### **3.2: MISSION STATEMENT:**

To keep youth with disabilities and special needs as much in the mainstream scouting as possible to the millennium development goals.

#### **3.3: AIM OF THE SCOUTING WITH DISABILITY AND SPECIAL NEEDS DEPARTMENT:**

To provide the young people with disabilities and special needs with a chance to acquire the life skills that are not attained in formal education system.

To treat members with disabilities and special needs as much like others. A scout with disabilities and special needs/permanent physical or mental disability may select an alternative proficiency/merit badge in lieu of required proficiency/merit badge if his disabling conditions, prohibits him/her from completing the necessary requirements of a particular required proficiency/merit badge. This substitute should provide a similar learning experience.

Full guidelines and explanations should be availed through the committee and on application for alternate practice challenge valley; wood badge practices, Scout with Disability's committee must approve the application. A scout may also request for changes in Tender foot, second class, and first-class ranks. The training committee should describe the procedures to that effect.

#### **3.4. OBJETIVES OF THE SCOUTS WITH DIABILITY AND SPECIAL NEEDS**

- ❖ To make practical suggestion to leaders as to approaches and methods they can use. Thus, a youth in wheel chair can meet the requirements for hiking by making a trip or places of interest in his/her community.
- ❖ To give more time and permitting the use of special aids as an alternative way of leaders helping youth with disabilities and special needs their efforts to advance.
- ❖ To identify and present award as shall be determined by the award committee to an adult in scouting who has demonstrated exceptional service and leadership in the field of scouting for disabled people.

- ❖ To promote and guide young people with is abilities and special needs in their personal growth and character.
- ❖ To design special programs for scouts with disabilities and special needs.
- ❖ To encourage growth in scouts its disabilities and special needs membership.

### **3.5 ASSISTANT CHIEF COMMISSIONERR IN- CHARGES OF SCOUTING WITH DISABILITY AND SPECIAL NEEDS:**

There shall be Assistant chief commissioner in-charge scouts with disabilities and special needs.

The commissioner shall be appointed by the chief commissioner and the appointment shall be ratified by the simple majority of the Board.

#### **3.5.1 TERM OF OFFICE:**

The term of office shall be the duration of the chief commissioner of four years. The Assistant chief commissioner can be re-appointed without any term of unit unless behaves unconstitutional.

#### **3.5.2 ELIGIBILITY OF APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT CHIEF COMMISSIONER DISABILITY AND SPECIAL NEEDS:**

The Assistant Chief Commissioner disability and Special needs affair shall be;

- ❖ Review on regular basis the literature for scouts with disabilities and special needs.
- ❖ Plan and conduct national and scout regional scout's events/camps for scouts with disabilities and special needs in conjunction with youth program policy and training.
- ❖ Participate in vetting youth with disabilities and special needs to participate in International events.
- ❖ Lobby and Advocate for scouts with disabilities and special needs.
- ❖ Identify and recommend adult leader who have excelled in conducting scouting amongst those with disabilities for award as may time to be determined by the chief commissioner.
- ❖ Do any other functions as may be directed by cc, board.

#### **4.1.3 MEETINGS:**

- ❖ The scouting with disabilities and special needs committee shall meet once in every quarter of thee months.
- ❖ The meeting shall be chaired by ACC/SWDS.
- ❖ The secretary to the meeting shall be the NEC or his elected officer.

- ❖ A quorum for this meeting shall be one-third of the members excluding ex-officials.
- ❖ For extra-ordinary meetings two weeks' notice shall be given in advance.

## **5.0 RECRUITMENT AND REGISTRATION:**

- 5.1 The recruitment of youth with disabilities and special needs shall be done by a scout leader identified and appointed by the sponsoring authority to carry out the task.
- 5.2 There shall be consent from filled and dully signed by the parent/guardian.
- 5.3 The scouts with disabilities and special needs shall be free to integrate into other scouts patrol or troop or form their own depending on their type of disabilities, i.e.; Blind troop, Deaf, physically disabled, Intellectual disabilities e.t.c.
- 5.4 The scouts with different disabilities may for up troop/ patrol [unit] inclusively besides their type of disabilities.

## **6.0 CAMPING:**

- 6.1 All scouts with disabilities are free to participate in any camping clearly accepted depending on their disabilities.
- 6.2 Camps for scouts with disabilities must be organized in a value accessible to the category to which the particular camp is targeted for, without any barriers.
- 6.3 Scouts with disabilities and special needs shall very year participate in the disability day [3<sup>rd</sup>] third of every December.

## **7.0 TRAINING:**

- 7.1 Training of youth with disabilities shall be done in a special way that is acceptable to the specific type of disability and mode of communication.
- 7.2 Leaders to scouts with disabilities and special needs shall be trained on how to handle all categories of disability so as to have qualitative scouting not quantitative.

## **8.0 CENSUS:**

There shall be a national census of all scouts with disabilities and special needs in Uganda carried out once every year.

- 8.1.2 Census shall be conducted by the Assistant District Commissioner in charge special needs.
- 8.1.3 The results shall be filled a well- designed form the National headquarters and returned to NEC by the end of February every year.



*GOOD SCOUTING FOR ALL.*