



MAURITIUS SCOUT ASSOCIATION



THE EDUCATIONAL PROPOSAL

Creating a better world

WHO ARE WE

Educational Methods Commission

The Mauritius Scout Association is the country's leading youth organization offering challenging programmes to the youth aged 7 to 23 in Mauritius and Rodrigues. We are a non-formal education movement which was set up under the Mauritius Scout Act of 1971. In the same year we became a member of the World Organization of the Scout Movement and as such we are voluntary, open to all and non-political.



Scouting in Mauritius was founded in 1912 by a young man named Samuel de Burgs Edwardes in Curepipe. In Rodrigues the movement was launched by Reverandee Paul Cathan in 1963

As an educational movement for young people, our aim is to promote the physical, intellectual, emotional, social, character, and spiritual development of young people so that they may achieve their full potential as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

AIM OF SCOUTING

It includes all four pillars of education:



- learning to know,
- learning to do,
- Learning to live together and □ learning to be...

MISSION

OUR

" The Mission of Mauritius Scout Association 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."

Non-formal education is the organised educational activity outside the established formal system that is intended to serve an identifiable learning clientele with identifiable learning objectives" (UNESCO)

Our Mission is achieved by:

- involving them throughout their formative years in a non-formal educational process.
- using a specific method that makes each individual the principal agent in his or her development as a self-reliant, supportive, responsible and committed person.
- Assisting them to establish a value system based upon spiritual, social and personal principles as expressed in the Promise and Law.

THE MAURITIAN CONTEXT

Our society Scouting was founded by Baden Powell in 1907, in reaction to what he saw as the ever-increasing drive to a more materialistic and selfish society. His response at the time was to develop an environmentally based, progressive, outdoor educational program. A lot of these same issues are being faced by our young people; however there are also many opportunities in today's society, such as:

- **Technology:** Advances in technology have brought the world to our doorstep. We can communicate quickly and cheaply with our friends and relations throughout the world. Technology has made our lives easier: information and entertainment are more accessible and affordable.
- **Liberal society:** Mauritian society is become more liberal allowing us to express our individuality, to be who we are and who we want to be.
- **Cultural diversity:** Mauritius is known for its culturally diverse population. This multiculturalism gives us an opportunity to challenge our preconceptions, to experience a wide variety of new things, and to strengthen our own traditions and values.
- **Unemployment:** Education is free in Mauritius since 1976. Today more young people are completing their tertiary education. The job market on the other hand is unable to absorb this qualified potential labour force.
- **Affluence:** Our society is becoming wealthy. We can do more with our lives; we can experience more than previous generations and expand our horizons. We are more comfortable and we have more choices. But it is also a fact that many families are not benefitting from this progress and are living in very difficult conditions.
- **The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child:** Mauritius ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990. Legislations have been passed to protect the rights of children. Mauritius is one of the most child friendly countries in Africa.

- **Media awareness:** More than ever before young mauritians have access to information, communication and networking the world around. Yet, this also means that they can be exposed to information and situations that may not be age-appropriate. Youth are the specific targets of media advertising and marketing campaigns as they are recognized as significant consumers in their own right as well as highly influential on their family's purchasing choices.

SPECIFIC CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY

Young people today face many challenges. Some have been faced by generations of young people before them; others are particularly relevant to today's society. All have an impact on their lives, including:

- **Peer pressure:** This can take many forms. Young people need to gain the confidence and internal strength to assert their own individuality, make their own decisions and stand by their own values.
- **Parental expectations:** There is great pressure on young people to achieve in many areas of their lives, such as education. They need support to keep these pressures in perspective.
- **Family structure** A growing number of young people are now part of what might be considered a nontraditional family: structure and may need help to cope with the impact this can have.
- **Sedentary lifestyle:** Some young people today have less opportunity for outdoor activity or are seduced by television, electronic games, etc. leading to less healthy living. They should be provided with the opportunity and encouraged to lead a more balanced lifestyle.
- **Drugs, Alcohol and other Self-Harming activities:** Today's youth have easy access to inexpensive and powerfully intoxicating drugs. Alcoholic drinks come in flavors and mixes that make them seem more like pop than the intoxicating beverage they are. As well, the rates of cutting and other deliberate self-harming actions are on the rise among youth, considered to be a cry for help from youth who don't know how to deal with the stress they are facing in school and family. Many youth need help and support to avoid substance abuse and to find healthier ways to deal with inner turmoil and stress.
- **Materialism** – In the past years, the overall affluence of our society has been on the rise, giving youth and families access to a greater number of material possessions. While some of these possessions have improved quality of life, the sheer amount available has created a focus on material wealth as a marker of self-worth. Media and advertising encourage people to equate material wealth with happiness. However, numerous studies, carried out on other countries, reveal the fact that material wealth does not lead to greater happiness or happier relationships. Youth need encouragement and support in learning to find their sense of self-worth in a variety of relationships, activities and achievements rather than just in material wealth.

- **Bullying, Violence and Cliques:** While bullying, violence and cliques have always been a part of society, the use of texting, instant messaging, chat rooms and posting inappropriate photos, stories, and other information on various websites.¹⁷ Youth need to find groups where there is safety, respect and support among peers and from the adults mentoring the group
- **Behavioural Challenges:** Various behavioural faced by children, such as Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder and Oppositional Defiance Disorder, are now being diagnosed and treated more frequently.
- **Learning Styles:** Within the learning community, it is recognized that people have different styles or approaches to learning. These may include but are not limited to: auditory, linguistic, logical-mathematical, musical, bodily-kinesthetic, tactile, visual-spatial, interpersonal and intrapersonal. It is important to keep in mind the variety of these learning styles that will be found within each group and to provide activities that encompass the full range of styles of learning. Youth coming to us may be aware of the style of learning that they prefer and may be used to being able to adapt activities to their style within the school system.
- **Body Image** – Due to unrealistic images of the ideal body presented in the popular media, many youth feel uncomfortable about their bodies and have poor self image. Youth need to have modeled for them respect for all types, shapes and images of physical appearance as well as the opportunity to learn to value other aspects of themselves with less focus on physical appearance.
- **Over-scheduled, Over-structured and Over-protected** – Youth today are typically not the creative problem -solvers or self-starters that previous generations were. While they have a greater variety of experiences and are more sophisticated in many ways, they have been over-scheduled and over-protected to the point that many are not able to function as independently as previous generations. Activities are typically so structured with drills and specific exercises that they are not allowed to think for themselves. While they are very capable of being as creative and self-starting as previous generations, they have not been allowed the opportunities and freedom to make mistakes and to take the risks that are needed to develop these capacities.
- **Over-exposure to Violent and Overtly Sexual Images:** The expanse of material available to our youth via the various forms of media and technology as well as the images and themes of movies and video games means that they are being exposed more than ever to violent and overtly sexual images. The question has been raised concerning how much this kind of exposure desensitizes youth and causes increasing levels of aggression and violence among youth. While there is no conclusive evidence, parents often choose to limit what their children view and are exposed to at various ages, and seek activities that provide a healthy alternative.

□

- **Negative image of youth by society:** With all events that has occurred, youth are generally categorized as Violent, selfish, arrogant and with no values.

Young people's needs and aspirations

It has long been accepted in a mature and supportive society, that young people have needs and aspirations. We believe scouting has a significant role to play in meeting these needs, which include:

- **Physical needs**

Young people need to be able to explore their physical capabilities and be provided with physical challenges. They need the opportunity to experience adventure safely and to learn new physical skills.

- **Intellectual needs**

Young people need to be able to develop a sense of right and wrong and gain new perspectives. They need to be able to acquire knowledge and learn new skills. They aspire to setting and achieving goals and taking on greater responsibility.

- **Emotional needs**

Young people need to feel valued, accepted and respected. They need to develop friendships and relationships based on mutual respect and trust. They should be given the skills, support and encouragement to realise their full potential and be able to experience a sense of achievement.

- **Social needs**

Young people need to belong; they need the chance to participate and to be proactive in their relationships with others. They need to have positive role models in their lives; to be proud of their culture; and accepting of the cultures of others.

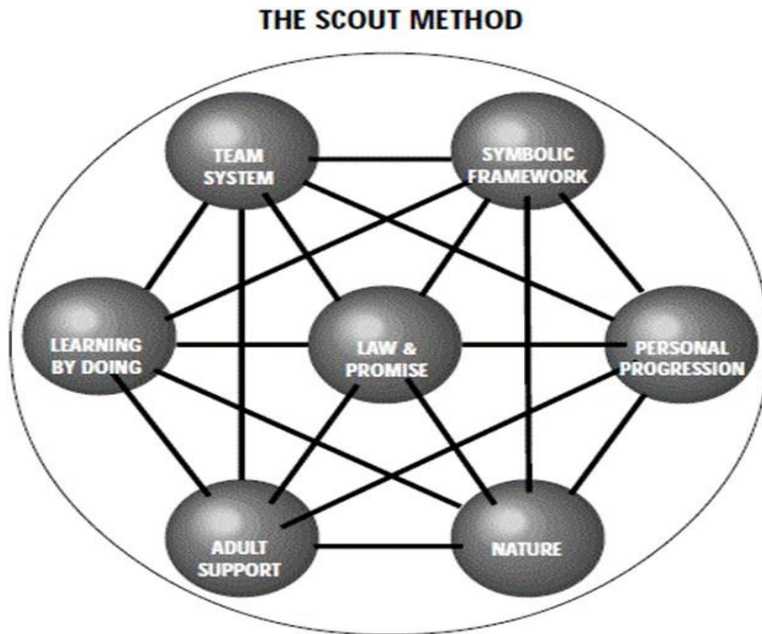
- **Spiritual needs**

Young people require the courage to be true to themselves and to identify their own spiritual beliefs. They need to be given the opportunity to explore their own beliefs and their relationship with themselves, others, God and nature.

Our methodology

We achieve our aim to encourage the physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual development of young people so that they may achieve their full potential and as responsible citizens to improve society through:

- The use of the Scout Method.



The Scout Method is a system of progressive self-education through:

- a. A promise and law.
 - b. Learning by doing.
 - c. Membership of small groups (for example the patrol), involving, under adult guidance, progressive discovery and acceptance of responsibility and training towards self-government directed towards the development of character, and the acquisition of competence, self-reliance, dependability and capacities both to cooperate and to lead.
 - d. Progressive and stimulating programmes of varied activities based on the interests of the participants, including games, useful skills, and services to the community, taking place largely in an outdoor setting in contact with nature.
- An appropriately challenging programme based on developmental age ranges, which is delivered to different sections in a safe and controlled environment.
 - A quality scout programme, delivered by a trained and resourced leadership team.
 - An adult-youth relationship based on mutual respect and trust.
 - Recognizing the value of peer education and the importance of positive role models.
 - Encouraging our members to identify and make use of all the available resources within their community.

Our goal

Using our methodology, the Mauritius Scout Association endeavours to encourage young people to:

- Learn respect for themselves and others, the world they live in, and the environment that surrounds them.
- Have the strength of character to appreciate right from wrong and understand the impact of their actions upon themselves and others.
- Listen to and respect others and their ideas and beliefs.
- Be true to themselves and God, and have the courage of their convictions.
- Be strong in the face of adversity, but be willing to seek help and advice when required.
- React to injustice and inequality and help build a fair society.
- Have the courage to grasp opportunities and the enthusiasm to follow their dreams.
- Be able to generate ideas and create a plan to see them through.
- Try their best at all times but never be afraid to fail.
- Play a constructive role in their community and help those around them when needed.
- Learn the true value of things and the importance of family and friendship.
- Lead an active and healthy lifestyle.
- Understand the importance and benefits of education in all its forms.
- Be an entrepreneur and not hesitate to build up projects.
- Be a “saltimbanque” Animator/Musician