



KENYA SCOUTS

Launches Scouting for Solutions Project on Patrons Day

KENYA SCOUTS TO HONOR PROMINENT PERSONALITIES



**H.E. President Mwai Kibaki,
Patron of Kenya Scouts**

Saturday July 15th will be an important day in the calendar of Kenya Scouts Association when H.E. The President Mwai Kibaki – the Patron of the scout movement - will preside over the Patron's Day celebrations which for the first time will be honoring personalities who have promoted and supported scouting in the country since independence. Over 3000 scouts from all over the country are expected to be in attendance at the state house grounds in Nairobi.

During this auspicious occasion, the Patron will officially launch the Scouting for Solutions Project – one of the

largest projects being implemented by the Kenya Scouts Association in 3200 schools in 65 districts.

Patron's Day in Scouting

Patron's day is celebrated every year by Kenya Scouts Association and is used to pay tribute to all who have made a significant contribution to scouting in this country. These include those who supported and are still supporting scouting materially and morally. They may be individuals, organizations or institutions. It is a day to award the scouts, honor their leaders, and recognize individual and organizations with special medals. On this day, scouts thank and reward many volunteers who have been responsible for strengthening of the scouting movement in the country and recognize the important role scouting plays in developing and building the character of the youth. The day is particularly special to the scouts because it gives them an opportunity to meet their Patron – the person who occupies the highest office in the land.

Scouting is one of the largest voluntary educational movement which contributes greatly to building the character of young people in their formative years by promoting spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional and physical development to become responsible citizens. This is done through a progressive self-learning program.

The activities in scouting are done in small groups of 6 – 8 people called patrols, where young boys and girls find friendship, security and identity. Such activities are camping, progressive badge system, exploration, mountain climbing, community service and awareness campaigns on reproductive health, HIV and AIDS and prevention of, drug and substance abuse. These activities are programmed and done according to various age sections; Sungura (6 -11 years); Chipukizi (12- 15 years); Mwamba (16 -18 years) and Jasiri (19 – 30 years). The scouts who progress to Mwamba and successfully complete the requirements of this section are awarded the Simba Badge by none other than their Patron.

SCOUTING FOR SOLUTIONS

Scouting for Solutions (SfS) is a new project implemented by both the Kenya and Uganda Scout Associations with technical support from Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH). This five-year project whose official launch is coinciding with the Scouts Patron's Day is funded by the President Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The project targets to reach 325,000 girls and boys aged 12 to 15 with intensive information and skills in HIV prevention. It will also directly reach an estimated 1.6 million family members with the same information and skills in order to provide young people with a supportive environment which will protect them from engaging in behaviours that puts them at risk of getting HIV infected. The Scouts movement presents a major opportunity to strengthen and improve school-based adolescent reproductive health programs in Kenya.

PATH chose to work with scouts because the scout movement provides a safe learning environment where young people can learn to grow by making decisions, doing and discovering for themselves, while experiencing fun, adventure and challenge. Scouting fosters "connections" with peers, adults, and institutions that provide a safety net which supports healthy choices and behaviors. Young people working in patrols find friendship, status, security and a feeling of belonging, which are essential ingredients of youth development and positive behaviour formation.

Key Interventions

The SfS project focuses on three key interventions:

- To reach young people with information and skills for HIV prevention with a focus on abstinence and delaying of sexual debut until marriage and avoidance of unhealthy sexual behaviors. This involves sharing information and building life skills of the

Junior Scouts to be able to establish healthy relationships with friends and peers as well as communication with their families.

- To involve parents and guardians and other protective adults in creating a supportive environment for young people to adopt HIV-prevention behaviors. Parents are a credible source of information and have a primary responsibility to ensure that young people have information and support to grow up healthy and free from HIV.
- To improve the quality of scouting by making it more gender sensitive and more accommodating for the girl scouts. Co-educational scouting has many benefits for both boys and girls who have an opportunity to learn to grow up respecting each other.

The SfS project is building on the foundation of the scouts principles and value system of training youth to grow up being men and women of integrity and good character. By learning to abstain, the youth will grow up protecting themselves and others from HIV infection.



photo/courtesy PATH

Chipukizi Scouts: SfS target group

SCOUTS CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

The Scouting movement was founded in 1907 by Lord Baden Powell of Gilwell in the United Kingdom. The year 2007 will mark 100 years of scouting in the world and usher Scouting movement into its 2nd century. Since Kenya is strategically placed on the world scout map as being the country where the remains of Robert Baden Powell lie, Kenya Scouts Association has launched a number of activities building up to the centenary celebrations.

From July 26th to August 4th 2007, over 20,000 local scouts and 10,000 international scouts will participate in the Kenya Centenary Jamboree that will take place in Nairobi, Mombasa, Nyeri and Kisumu.. At the same time a contingent of scouts will be sent to the 21st World Scout Jamboree in Hylands Park, Chelmsford United Kingdom from July 27th to August 8th 2007. Other activities lined up for the centenary celebrations are as follows.

Scout Sunrise

On 1st August 1907 at 8.00 am, Robert Baden Powell blew his "kudu" horn on Brown Sea Island to open the first scout camp, from then on, scouting spread around the world. Today, a total of 216 countries and territories with a membership of 28 million people are members of the World Organization of Scouting Movement. In Kenya, on 1st August, 2007 at 8.00 am, all scouts and their supporters will mark the dawn of a new century of scouting. They will reaffirm the scout promise at the highest point of terrain in their area to welcome the 2nd century in scouting.



photo/
courtesy KSA

**Hon. J. Nyaga
Pioneer Scouter**

Gifts for Peace

The global theme of the centenary celebrations is "One World One Promise". Scouting will continue to work towards the creation of a more peaceful world achieved through a culture of peace. For Kenya Scouts, their "Gift for Peace" to the society is "Trees for Peace Project". Trees are a symbol for peace in the community. In their absence, there is conflict that affects nature and human beings. Scouts will therefore plant 10 million trees over three years (2006 – 2008) in designated areas nationwide. Other scouts support projects geared towards creating a more peaceful nation are:

- Reduction of poverty through extension scouting programs which target young people in difficult circumstances.
- HIV and AIDS prevention Programs.
- Reduction of drug and substance abuse.

The "Gift for Peace" will therefore aim at responding to the real needs in the community and reaching out to people whom scouts have not traditionally worked with, thereby bridging the gap with the community.

Zonal Peace Caravan

Scouts from five Eastern Africa zone countries of Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, and Kenya will form a peace caravan. The caravan will start from Dar-es Salaam and proceed to Dodoma - Tabora - Kigoma - Kibungu - Kigali - Mbarara - Kampala - Mbale - Kisumu - Nakuru - Nairobi and end up in Nyeri where Robert Baden Powell was laid to rest. At every destination, the team will camp and carry out scouting activities together with the host scouts. In every country, the Chief Commissioner will sign the peace message carried by the team. The team will be part of a contingent of 100 scouts that will climb Mount Kenya and reaffirm the scout promise on 1st August, 2007 (The Scout Sunrise).

Scout Flame Project

International Scouts and Girl Guides Fellowship, an organization for adults will participate in the 'Scout Flame'. This will entail carrying a flame from the founder's grave in Nyeri - Kenya through bordering countries to the north up to Brown Sea Island in the time span between Thinking Day (22nd February, 2007) and Centenary Day (1st August, 2007). Volunteers will walk, use bicycles, camels, vehicles and donkeys to carry the torch flame along the route.