

The Bottom Line

An investment in Scouting is an Investment in the Future

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An unlikely Scout Patrol?

It might seem an unlikely Scout patrol. But, together, a retired banker, a stockbroker, a CEO of a multinational engineering company, a Chairman of a waste disposal company, a charity fundraiser, and, oh yes, a Head of State as patrol leader make up the core of “the King’s patrol” every time the World Scout Fellowship meets somewhere in the world.

This patrol has also joined in the recruitment of countless other Baden Powell Fellows – the most recent of whom is the first Baden Powell Fellow from the People’s Republic of China, Mr Zhu Hong!

More important than the financial contribution is the effort which each member of this patrol has made to building the international spirit of each event they attend – always there in good numbers, the King’s patrol turns up in uniform, fans out and meets with as many real Scouts and Scouters as possible and talks to all the new BP Fellows. In this way, their “Patrol Leader” has a clear view of who’s who, of what is happening in Scouting in the country and can link to the supporters and active scouts who are present.



His Majesty, King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden (centre) with his royal “patrol”

An unlikely patrol? “Well, not really,” says Anders Lettstrom, “we are here because we firmly believe in Scouting—we’ve all been Scouts as young men, and we have seen how it has helped us individually. We want to make sure that Scouting continues its great mission. And we want to continue to enjoy the fun of Scouting!”

Collectively, this patrol is responsible for personal financial contributions to the World Scout Foundation in six figures. Recently, in Hong Kong at the 45th BP Fellowship Event, the amount raised came to USD 480,000, and a challenge was set to reach the round half million mark, the King’s patrol competed with a group of Hong Kong Scout Association members by contributing USD 25,000 each – and the final return came to USD 530,000.

“Look around at this patrol”, says Sven Phillip-Sørensen. “Here you have a bunch of guys from a wide range of backgrounds, with one common link – being Scouts. We have followed our ‘patrol leader’, His Majesty, to every corner of the world. We are really motivated by what we have seen in

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Hans Beck-Friis, Senior Advisor to the Royal patrol, coordinates things from Stockholm

Scouting. This Movement has changed many people's lives in this world, but the needs are still great. We hope that Scouting can address issues like child-abuse, poverty and environmental change. We have seen some great examples of these issues being tackled in local groups or National Scout Associations. But if we are to be truly effective in Scouting, we need to share this good practice world-wide. And that is why we are here. By supporting Scouting, we can help to provide the resources and the energy for this knowledge to be widely shared".

What is really satisfying about this patrol", says Sven Erik Ragnar, "is that we have seen Scouting grow and improve with our own eyes over the years. I've been with this 'patrol' since the birth of the World Scout Foundation. All those years ago, we would never have believed that we could be where we are today. I am not just talking about the funds raised – this in itself is impressive – but more important are the growth of Scouting in new countries and the efforts to adapt and change to different times. We're not there yet, but Scouting has certainly been more responsive than many other similar organisations."

Fredrik Gottlieb, one of the newest recruits to the patrol, says – "My father was among the first Scouts in Sweden. He and my uncle started a tradition in our family that I am proud to continue – I was a Scout as a boy, my daughters have been involved also. I am here with His Majesty to support the future of Scouting. I am proud of my family tradition, I am also proud of the achievements which Scouting has made over the years – but I am much more proud of the potential which is yet to be realised. We're here to help!

And waiting at home is the "Senior Advisor" to the patrol ... Hans Beck-Friis. Close to His Majesty since he first joined Scouting, Hans Beck keeps a close eye on what is happening with the patrol – recruiting new blood when it is needed, making sure that Sweden keeps up its support for the World Foundation and its Honorary President.

"And our 'patrol leader'?", adds Claes Bourghardt, "well, His Majesty keeps us all running. He is the powerhouse in the patrol. We hardly get a chance to breathe, he just has to fill every minute of the day. He may be the King, and Head of State of our country, but when he is on a Scout activity, Scouting comes first on His agenda!"

The World Scout Foundation helps the growth and development of Scouting worldwide by providing the financial support for the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

Some priorities include: Improving child health. Helping marginalized youth. Actively protecting nature and the environment. Assisting in the development of Scouting in newly emerging countries. Helping Scouts address community needs in developing and industrialized countries.



Fredrik's father and uncle started a family tradition that still lives ...

World Scout Foundation

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