

The Bottom Line

An investment in Scouting is an Investment in the Future

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Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud greets Garnet de la Hunt, Chairman of the World Scout Committee. "Scouts are prepared and ready to join your call for greater understanding and peace in these troubled times," Mr. de la Hunt told His Royal Highness.

Scouting and Peace

Saudi Royal Family asks Scouts to Spread Message of Peace



Riyadh, Saudia Arabia: His Majesty King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud spoke of his commitment to world peace in a meeting at the Royal Palace with the leadership of World Scouting. His Majesty, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques*, spoke on behalf of Islamic people throughout the world.

Top Scout leaders from some 20 countries around the world were in Riyadh for the 23rd Arab Scout Conference, in November 2001.



His Majesty the King of Saudia Arabia welcomed national, regional and international Scouting leaders to his palace in Riyadh in November 2001. From the left are Dr. Abdullah O. Nasseef (Saudi Arabia), a member of the World Scout Committee; Mr. Fawzi Farghali (Egypt), Director of the Arab Scout Region; and Mr. Mohamed Triki (Tunisia), Chairman of the Arab Scout Region.

Later, speaking on behalf of His Majesty at a separate meeting during the Conference, His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Abdallah Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, emphasised that Islam and all faiths were against terrorism and stood for peace in the world.

He urged the leadership of Scouting throughout the world to work for international peace and understanding. "You (Scouts) are carrying an eternal message of peace, and the people of the world are in real need of love and combating evil..."

His Royal Highness stressed the importance of Scouting in today's world, developing responsibility, problem solving and faith. He praised Scouting's contribution to providing a positive alternative to groups which can misuse the name of Islam and other faiths.

"I have been a Scout and my children..."

The Brother of His Majesty King Fahd, His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud challenged Scouts to do more for world peace: "I have been a Scout and my children are all Scouts" he said proudly. "Please work to help young people make a special effort at this time of tragedy in the world."

The Chairman of World Scouting, Garnet de la Hunt (South Africa) welcomed the messages of peace from His Majesty and the other members of the Royal Family. "Two cornerstones of Scouting are Duty to God and Duty to Others. This is a message which will be welcome to Scouts, their friends, and families throughout the world." *(continued)*

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Crown Prince Abdallah bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud receives Dr. Jacques Moreillon, Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement. In the centre is Dr. Mohammed Al-Rasheed, Minister of Education, and Chairman of the Saudi Arabian Boy Scouts Association.

* Some background for Scouts and Scouters

Saudi Arabia is regarded the centre of the Islamic faith. It is where the Holy Prophet Mohammed founded this religion which now counts one fifth of the world's population as followers.

As Head of State of Saudi Arabia. His Majesty King Fahd bears the title of "Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques" - the Great Mosque in Mecca, and the Mosque of the Holy Prophet in Medina.

In its responsibility as "Custodian" the Royal Family and Government of Saudi Arabia welcome millions of pilgrims to these holy shrines each year from throughout the world. The service they provide is admired worldwide for its efficiency and care. In the three days of the Haj (the main annual pilgrimage) up to three million people visit the Great Mosque, a 10 square-kilometre area (4 square mile), and other religious sites.

Approximately 10 million of the 28 million Scouts throughout the world are Muslim. Their work, together with their brother and sister Scouts from other faiths, can and does make a difference every day. Some examples include:

- Scouts in Bosnia and Herzegovina run cross-community peace education activities in this war ravaged country;
- Scouts in the Great Lakes region of Africa help build bridges between communities terrorised by inter-ethnic violence;
- Scouts in South Africa, Northern Ireland, and the Middle East work every day together to bring young people from different communities together.

All photos courtesy of the Saudi Arabian Boy Scouts Association

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.

The Government of Saudi Arabia was the first major donor to help establish the World Scout Foundation in the early 1980's. Since then it has grown to an endowment of more than 50 million Swiss Francs, with financial support from some 70 countries.

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.

World Scout Foundation

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