

# ISGF

International Scout and Guide Fellowship  
(An organization for adults)



# AISG

Amitié Internationale Scoute et Guide  
(Une organisation pour adultes)

To the NPs and the ISs  
of all NSGFs

11 June 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As you know, some years ago our international organisation changed its name from “International Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides” (IFOFSAG) to “International Scout and Guide Fellowship” (ISGF). The idea behind this change was to affirm that adult Scouting&Guiding is a form of Scouting&Guiding: in other words, for us the Movement is not something belonging to the past, but we are actually members of it, albeit in a way different from that of the young.

It occurred to us that some of our National Fellowships still use an old-fashioned terminology, either in their official name or in their Constitution, which in fact contradicts that vision. This happens when we speak of “former” Scouts&Guides (French “anciens”, Spanish “antiguos”, Portuguese “antigos”) instead of “adults”.

Some national Constitutions also make a difference between “active” Scouts&Guides (the members of the youth organisations) as opposed to “non active” adults. Adult Scouts&Guides are also “active”, in their own way. Their activities are unlike those of the youth, but are genuine Scouting&Guiding nonetheless.

Still other Constitutions say that the National Fellowship “supports Scouting&Guiding” in the country and worldwide. Support for youth Scouting&Guiding is of course a major aim of the ISGF, yet if you do not specify “youth” or “juvenile” it follows by implication that adults do not belong to Scouting&Guiding.

Finally, some of our National Fellowships have “ISGF”, followed by the country’s name, in their official appellation. This is again awkward. ISGF is only our international organisation. Saying, for instance, “ISGF-Italy” would be just as incorrect as saying “WOSM-Thailand” or “WAGGGS-Kenya”.

In general terms, we ought to attempt to bring the ISGF image to align with the work WOSM and WAGGGS have been doing to take Scouting&Guiding into the next century.

You might take a look at your Constitution to see if it lays itself open to the sort of criticism described above. If so, you might wish to introduce a suitable amendment at the first opportunity.

We would appreciate your informing the World Bureau of any action taken in this matter.

Yours,

Mario Sica  
World Committee member in charge of legal matters