



SCOUTS[®]
Creating a Better World

World Organization of the Scout Movement
Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout
Всемирная Организация Скаутского Движения
Organización Mundial del Movimiento Scout
المنظمة العالمية للحركة الكشفية



Agora 2014 "Participation +"

Strasbourg, France
23-27 April 2014

Dear International and Rover Commissioners,

We are glad to invite representatives of your National Scout Association to this year's Agora, which will take place in the gorgeous setting of Centre Culturel St-Thomas, in Strasbourg, France, from 23 to 27 April 2014.

Circular 8/2014

Welcome! ☺

An Agora is an educational tool that uses the Scout Method to reach the educational objectives for the rover age section and that has a special emphasis on youth empowerment. What makes an Agora so special is that it is an event run "for Rovers, by Rovers". As a result, the event looks at issues that are of importance and relevant to young people in our society today. An Agora aims to be a meeting place in which dreams, feelings, concerns, experiences, ideas and paths cross together, are connected and shared; a crossroad that would be a source of inspiration and energy. It is a place where the fundamentals of Scouting are present in a way that is attractive to young people today. It is a place for debate and sharing as well as teaching and learning from one another. And most importantly, an Agora is about getting new motivation and direction to one's path as a rover. Each event is focusing on a major theme, on which the programme is built upon.

This year's theme is "**Participation +**". We plan to take the concept of Youth Participation to a new level. Rather than just exploring why Rovers should participate, we hope to equip Rovers with the tools that they need to actively engage in their communities, their National Scout Associations, and the whole of Europe.

We invite maximum two rovers from your NSA (or four if your NSA is one of the event's promoters) to live this empowering, inspiring, meaningful but also fun and exciting experience built "for Rovers by Rovers", with the support of the European Scout Region and the European Union. We will encourage your Scouts, inspire them, and put them in a position to be actively involved. However, the Agora is not only about education; it is also about letting young adults explore, share, and express themselves in an international environment.

Of course, the **participant's profile is very important** to ensure the relevance and quality of the event for the participants and their National Scout Associations. You will also find attached with this invitation the application form to return before **15 March 2014**. Shortly after this date, all participants will have received an **acceptance letter** giving them the last few details to be ready for the event (international and/or rover commissioners will be informed).

If you have any questions, comments or feedbacks related to the Agora 2014, please, do not hesitate to contact us by e-mail at scout.agora@gmail.com. Here is also the [Agora's website](#).

Yours in Scouting,

Cristi (Romania), **Filipe** (Portugal), **Máire** (Ireland) and **Sophie** (France)

The Agora 2014 Planning Team



Youth
in Action
Programme



AGORA 2014
STRASBOURG 23-27 APRIL

Dates

23-27 April 2014.

Participants are requested to arrive on Wednesday, 23 April, before 17.00. Departures will be on Sunday, 27 April, after 13.00 hours.

Venue

Centre Culturel St-Thomas, Strasbourg, France.

Applications

The enclosed application form should be e-mailed to the planning team scout.agora@gmail.com by 15 March 2014. Please send it through your national office or international commissioner to confirm the support from your National Scout Association. Applications directly sent from individuals will not be considered.

[An online version of the application form is also available.](#)

Objectives

By the end of the Agora, the participants will:

- Have benefited from Agora, **learning** something new and gaining positive experiences from each other and the event.
- **Have worked** constructively and productively in an open and positive environment.
- Have come away with the skillset to use and **apply** what they have learned and shared.
- Have acquired **knowledge** about international rover opportunities as well as about Rovering in other countries, through interaction with peers who have experienced the events first hand, if possible.
- **Have developed** concrete and detailed plans for future community based projects.
- Have gained **experience** in how to effectively verbalise the main benefits, positive aspects and opportunities that Rovering offers.
- Have experienced the **diversity** of participation between European countries
- Have been **inspired** and helped to maintain the momentum; to impassion participants to sustain and encourage them to stay motivated within Scouting and Rovering.
- **Have benefited** from an organised network of Agorians.
- Have had **fun!**

Participant's profile

- Participant profile: willing to talk about personal experiences and have a knowledge of how Rovers operate in their own countries
- Participants should be members of the last age section (aged 16-24) and be enthusiastic, motivated, open to new ideas and willing to share their own experiences.
- Agora being held in English, the participants will be expected to understand and communicate well in English.
- NSAs are encouraged to ensure that their delegations are as diverse as possible (gender, geographical or economic background)
- The main goal of an agora is to empower its participants. In order to appreciate the full potential of Agora, the representatives should not have too much prior experience in adult roles within their NSO/NSAs or in international work.
- Once accepted, the NSA should provide them with sufficient knowledge of the Rover Programme in their own country.
- Each NSA should consider the best ways in which the experience accumulated during the event could be used for the benefit of the programme for the Rover section in the country

Number of participants

This event is designed to accept up to 60 participants. The acceptance letters will be sent to the participants after the 15 March 2014. By then, more information will be sent.

Additional information

If you need any further information please contact the planning team members:

scout.agora@gmail.com

Annexes

Application form

Terminology

Aware that each National Scout Association has different names for the different age sections, for the purpose of this event, we will define Rovers as being members of the last age section (aged 16-24). Be convinced that if your NSA is in the process of creating a Rover Programme, the Agora remains an interesting opportunity for these Scouts who will soon be called Rovers!



Youth
in Action
Programme



AGORA 2014
STRASBOURG 23-27 APRIL

Methodology

The Scout Method is at the core of any Agora. Active methods will be used during the Agora. The event intends to showcase various aspects of non-formal education and its value for youth participation.

Transportation costs & Participation fee

The transportation costs are covered by the participant and/or the Scout association.

The participation fee is EUR 200 per person. The fee covers all accommodation and meals from the evening of Wednesday, 23 April, to the lunch on Sunday, 27 April 2014. The fee does not cover travel costs. Bank details and information for paying the event participation fee will be communicated to all participants by the Agora acceptance letter.

The financial support received from the European Union allows the organizers to sponsor a total of 46 Rovers coming from the 11 partner associations (SGDF-France, SI-Ireland, CNE-Portugal, CNGEI-Italy, Junak-Czech Republic, ASDE-Spain, DDS-Denmark, TSA-UK, EÜ-Estonia, ONCR-Romania and BIS-Iceland).

Four participants from each of the partners will benefit from a reduced participation fee, which is EUR 100 per person. Additionally, approx. 70% of their travel costs will be covered (up to the amount agreed in the project proposal).

Travel arrangements

- Accepted participants will receive an acceptance letter by 17 March 2014. Only afterwards, they should make their own travel arrangements and obtain a visa if necessary.
- If you require an official invitation to obtain a visa, please indicate this clearly on your application form. Be aware that it may take up to six weeks to obtain a visa, so please send your visa form with the application form in order to allow sufficient time for that process.
- You will be asked to send us your arrival and departure details to ensure your proper welcome at Strasbourg.

Insurance

We do not cover the participants during the event neither during the travel to or from the venue. Please, note that this is the exclusive responsibility of the NSA to check and be sure that the participants are covered by insurance (illness, accidents, repatriation etc...).

Cancellation

If for any reason you find that you are not able to attend the Agora, please notify the planning team immediately. If you cancel your participation without notice after the 16 March 2014, we are obliged to charge you/your association for the full price of the event.

