

Her Royal Highness Princess Benedikte of Denmark

Chair of The Joint Committee of Girl Guides in Denmark, The Royal Patron of the Olave Baden-Powell Society

Opening remarks at Nordic Scout Conference May 11th, 2018

Presiding members of the Nordic Scout Conference, delegates and honoured guests.

As chairman of The Joint Committee of Girl Guides in Denmark and The Royal Patron of the Olave Baden-Powell Society, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Nordic Guide and Scout Conference 2018.

Our five Nordic countries have a cultural unity that is unique, and values that we must care for. We have a language commonality, and we have similar guiding and scouting cultures. It is a valuable community that is unifying especially in international contexts.

We are proud, that we currently have several members from the Nordic countries on WAGGGS and WOSM's committees, and it is the consequence of the special Nordic commitment and cooperation. For that, we can thank our strong organisational understanding and influence at the highest international level.

A guiding and scouting movement that makes a difference through simple and strong values. Values in which each of us believes. Values that daily give guides and scouts around the world the opportunities and the confidence to make their everyday lives better. At the local level, we also have a responsibility as guides and scouts. Our promise sets the stage for us to contribute to a bettering the world. Guides and scouts learn about leadership, civic engagement and cooperation through patrol life and outdoor activities and good companionship. Guides and scouts must make a difference – they must leave prints.

Many prominent women and men in the Nordic countries have been guides or scouts, and that still affects them today. Similarly, many women and men from the Nordic countries use their experiences from guiding and scouting in leadership roles and board rooms in firms and educational institutions.

The theme for this year's Nordic Scout Conference is "Reach Out." The theme sets the stage for reaching out to each other across Nordic countries and locally. Working from the UN's development goals, we will inspire each other to become even better at making a difference and leaving prints.

Reach out – come and join us, let the guiding and scouting movement grow.

We have strong values and we have educational methods that children and youths can learn and grow from. Learn about responsibility, learn about obligations and learn to have a positive outlook on life.

I hope all of you will experience a good dialogue about, how we reach out and make a difference. I hope all of you return home with a strong Nordic guiding and scouting community, that can leave prints on the world.

The spoken word applies.