

Annex 1: Factsheet of the Antigua and Barbuda Scout Association



Unit 1 Green Gables Commercial Complex
Mahogany Drive Woods Development, St. John'
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Country Information

The tropical islands of Antigua and Barbuda are located in the heart of the Caribbean about 1,600 kilometres to the east of Jamaica and half that distance from Trinidad on the coast of South America.

The island of Antigua was born out of the sea by a volcano about 30 million years ago. A young island in geologic time. On the northern flank of this volcano, reefs were formed, hence the greater part of Antigua is low lying and is composed of limestone rock. The area of Antigua is 280 square kilometres, while Barbuda is 161 square kilometres.

Barbuda became separated from Antigua by about 45 kilometres, when the sea-levels of the world rose considerably at about 10,000 BC. Today, parts of Barbuda are geologically flooded to form interesting lagoons. Here may be seen the largest breeding and nesting colony of the Magnificent Frigatebird in the world. Barbuda supports a tremendous diversity of native habitats, as yet unthreatened by development. Reef-fringed Barbuda may be one of the best kept ecological secrets in the West Indies. Its rugged scenery, beautiful beaches, (one at least 19 kilometres long), lagoons, and abundant wildlife may be a resource as valuable as its fisheries.

Since the 1600's Antigua and Barbuda was part of the British Empire until gaining independence in 1981, becoming at the same time the 157th member of the UN and remaining a member of the Commonwealth. As a member of the UN, Antigua and Barbuda is fully committed to embracing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. It has a population of 93,219 people but a large majority of those live abroad in countries like the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. More than 25% of the population live in the main cities on Antigua. Its English Harbour is a yachting hub and the site of historic Nelson's Dockyard. In the capital, St. John's, the national museum displays indigenous and colonial artefacts.

Capital: Saint John's

Vernacular language: Antiguan and Barbudan Creole

Currency: Eastern Caribbean dollar

Population: 97,118 (2019)

About Antigua and Barbuda Scout Association

Since the first years of Scouting, Antigua and Barbuda has been very active as an overseas branch of The Scout Association (United Kingdom), always joining major national and international events such as the Caribbean Cuboree and the last World Scout Jamboree in 2019. It was founded in 1917 and continues today moulding future leaders in the country. It has been a long-term commitment of The Scout Association to support its overseas branches to be independent and to apply for direct membership for WOSM. This commitment and support by TSA to help Antigua and Barbuda Scout Association (ABSA) thrive as an independent organization will continue after gaining full membership. The Scout Association is committed to continuing a long-term relationship with ABSA and has offered various types of support including mentoring of senior volunteers and partnerships.

The Antigua and Barbuda national government fully supports ABSA as is represented by His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams, Governor General as Chief Scout. A major project to establish the headquarters and campgrounds is ongoing with government support. Also submitted as part of the membership application were documents to reference the official relation between the government and Scouting and the tacit recognition of the Association's status as a well-known organization.

Legal Registration

In April 2022, ABSA satisfactorily submitted to WOSM their Certificate of Incorporation, signed by the Antigua and Barbuda Intellectual Property & Commerce Office, as proof of its legal registration.

Since December 2020, the WSC's Constitutions Committee supported ABSA in reviewing their Constitution and on 14 June 2021, it determined that the ABSA's Constitution is compliant with all requirements outlined in Article V of the WOSM Constitution.

Future Support from WOSM through the Service Model

The World Scout Bureau, both the Global and Interamerica Support Centres have been in contact with officials of Antigua and Barbuda Scout Association to properly identify their needs in the different strategic areas of Youth Programme, Adults in Scouting, Good Governance, Communications, Youth Engagement, Diversity and Inclusion and Safe from Harm planning. The resulting plan provides support through the WOSM Service Model and the pool of WOSM Consultants worldwide to build their capacity as a new National Scout Organization. ABSA has already participated in support provided by the Region and WOSM Services Consultants and completed a Safe from Harm training, following which they are now the process of developing a policy.

Scout Census

Total 105 members across 7 Groups in Antigua and Barbuda.

	Beavers (Age 4-6)	Cubs (Age 7-10)	Scouts (Age 11-14)	Explorers (Age 15-17)	Network (Age 18-25)	Other
Members	14	21	34	8	3	25

Past Activities

Although there was a cessation of in-person activities due to COVID-19 for a period of time, the NSO has and continues to be an active member of its local communities including engagements with local dignitaries. It has also been part of Regional and World Events, such as the 15th Caribbean Cuboree, the Caribbean Chief Commissioners Meetings, JOTA JOTI, and the 24th World Scout Jamboree.

World Scout Committee Assessment

Although ABSA is a small membership NSO due to the nature of being an island nation, they hold a 0.363% market share of the young people on the island which is higher than several other WOSM Member Organisations from small island nations. The WSC was in its assessment further conscious that membership size in itself is not a WOSM membership requirement, but rather the capacity of

the NSO in a sovereign nation to support its own membership and fulfil WOSM's constitutional obligations as a Member Organization. It noted the strong commitment from the Interamerica Region to build ABSA's capacity further and bringing Scouting to new communities by tapping the potential of more than 21,000 young people aged 10-24 years that live in the country.

The WSC also recalled the success the Interamerica Region has had in the past with ensuring that small island nations in the Caribbean also contribute to the Movement through WOSM's governance. The Region will further facilitate this membership expansion by working closely with ABSA to support their growth plans through WOSM Services and developing a comprehensive growth strategy. As WOSM Services are designed to provide tailored, targeted support to every NSO regardless of their location and size, this support will be able to be tailored to the context of ABSA.