



»» History

1907

Lord Robert Baden Powell, founder of the World Scout Movement, holds the first camp on Brownsea Island (Great Britain). With 22 boys from all social classes, he tries out his concept of experiential learning and responsibility for the individual and the group for the first time.

1908

Baden Powell publishes his book »Scouting for Boys« which immediately sells rapidly and, within a short period of time, leads to the founding of the World Scout Movement. Today, the Scout Movement has 34 million members making it the largest youth organisation in the world.

1909

The idea of scouting sweeps across the channel and also arrives in Germany: the surgeon major Dr. Alexander Lion »invents« the term "Pfadfinder" for the English word »Scout« and develops a concept which combines German conception of youth work with Baden-Powell's ideas.

1914

By the beginning of the First World War, there are already 110,000 Scouts in Germany which are however, due to a different interpretation of Scout educational contents, split into numerous groupings. After the war, the youth movement becomes more important and influences the substance of the Scout movement: simple living, attention to nature, outdoor activities and camping, independent thought and deed – these principles gather significance.

1922

Founding of the World Scout Movement

1928

The first Catholic Scout groups are founded in Wuppertal, Beuthen, Munich, Berlin, Frankfurt/Main and Speyer.



1929

Altenberg, 7th October: the groups merge to form the DPSG - Deutsche Pfadfinderschaft Sankt Georg (German St. George Scout Association). They are incorporated into the Catholic Young Men's Association. The number of members grows from just 800 at the beginning to 9,000 in the 1930s. The DPSG unites the ideas of the Scout Movement with those of the Catholic Youth Movement while simultaneously placing emphasis on simplicity, closeness to nature, truthfulness and the freedom of the creative power of youth. The DPSG also involves adults in the work and admits members from all social backgrounds right from the beginning.

1930

The DPSG formulates its Scout Law which remains in force in the same form until 1971. In addition, the first Bundesthing (later the Bundesversammlung or Federal Assembly) decides upon a uniform and a preliminary Federal Order.

1934

The National Socialists prohibit the wearing of a uniform, banner and badge. In the subsequent years, the pressure on the association's members mounts and there are serious conflicts with the Hitler Youth. Despite this, there are often signs of independence – such as the journey to Rome in 1935.

1936

The groups' freedom is greatly limited. The George's Scouts need a lot of courage if they are to still to declare themselves in public as association members. The result is that the group of those who publicly remain members of the DPSG reduces in size.

1937

The regional Scout Associations of Muenster, Paderborn and Trier are forced to disband by the Gestapo.

1938

The Catholic Young Men's Association and the DPSG are disbanded and banned. However, individual members keep on taking the risk of threats and persecution due to the fact that they cling to their scout life as an independent alternative to the repressions of National Socialism. It is thanks to them that a commitment to youth culture is also lived out during this time. The Scouts carry on underground as the Gemeinschaft Sankt Georg. Some even dare to make contact with Scouts based abroad and thus lay the foundations for later joint activities.

1945

Many Scout groups are newly founded on a local level.

1946

A new Federal Order is resolved through the Bundesthing which resides for the first time after the Second World War.

1947

The DPSG is a co-founder of the Bund der Deutschen Katholischen Jugend (BDKJ)- Association of German Catholic Youth.

1949

The magazines »Die große Fahrt« for members and »Georgspfadfinder« for leaders appear. A new DPSG structure and a new uniform are introduced. Women are permitted to become Cub Scout leaders. The Rüsthaus for equipment is founded and the publishing house Georgsverlag created. Four years after the end of the war, the DPSG has 20,500 members.

1950

Through the Ring deutscher Pfadfinderverbände (German Scout Federation), the DPSG becomes a member of the International Scout Conference (WOSM).

1951

The federal office Bundesamt Sankt Georg e.V. is founded.

1956

The Georgsritter (today named Rovers) are called to perform social work: in Westernohe in Westerwald, many hours of voluntary work are invested to create a campsite and holiday home for disabled people – known today as the Federal Centre of the DPSG.

1961

The first annual campaign is launched: Flinke Hände und flinke Füße (Nimble hands and nimble feet) create a work for physically disabled youths. More than 250,000 marks are collected during the course of this campaign. Such annual campaigns with changing focal points remain an important part of the DPSG's work to this day. The 23rd Bundesthing decides upon the introduction of the junior scouts (11 to 13 year-old boys), furthermore the Georgsritter are renamed Rovers.

1966

The new lily banner is introduced.

1969

At the 31st Bundesthing, the association resolves a new article containing new designations: Bundesversammlung - Federal Assembly -(instead of Bundesthing), Vorsitzender - chairman (instead of field master), Leiter - leader (instead of scoutmaster). In addition, a discussion on educational

subjects is initiated which results in the new version of the association's Order.

1971

Girls and women may now become officially members of the DPSG. The Scout Law from 1930 is replaced and carried on using the Basics of our outlook on life. Live in hope, live in freedom, live in truth, live in active solidarity. The DPSG principle moves away from focussing on nature to group education in which cooperation and responsibility are to be learned thorough experience. Thus, it joins a path which directly leads back to the way envisaged by Baden-Powell.

1984

Leader congress in Westernohe with 4,000 participants. In 50 workshops, the participants spend time discussing social, political, religious and economic aspects of society and develop ideas to encourage contemporary scouting.

1987

The Federal Assembly resolves a new Order for the association. Annegret Buchart is voted to take the position of Deputy Chairperson making her the first woman in the Federal Executive Committee.

1988

6,000 male and female leaders meet for the Exodus congress in Westernohe.

1990

Under the motto We have room in the boat, the DPSG calls for the annual campaign of solidarity and thus turns against the aggravation of the asylum debate.

The first diocesan association in the new Federal States is founded in Magdeburg. Erfurt follows and the diocesan association in Berlin now also includes the state of Brandenburg and parts of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.

1992

In this Wild Summer 2,000 boy and girl Scouts travel all over the Federal Republic to face new challenges in their own country. At the end of the year, they meet up in a disused factory hall of the glassworks in Ilmenau (Thuringia).

1993

Children's Summit in Westernohe: over 1,000 children between the ages of seven and ten from all over Germany demand A world we like.

1995

The 57th Federal Assembly resolves the introduction of child co-determination at group level. 20 Rwandan Scouts are flown out of the country engulfed by civil war and are accommodated by the DPSG. During the course of the Solidarity Campaign for Rwanda 700,000 marks are collected for this worn-torn country.

1996

The DPSG starts its campaign *Tu es jetzt!* (Do it now) to promote political action. Numerous groups take part on a local level. The aim of this long-term campaign is to promote socio-political commitment in six subject areas.

1997

4.000 leaders meet in a former ironworks factory in Duisburg for the major event *Power in the Park*. This meeting forms the climax of the campaign started in 1996.

1998

5,600 Scouts of all ages meet in Westernohe at Pentecost for the start of the annual campaign *Flinke Hände, flinke Füße* design the future for Westernohe.

1999

With their campaign *WölflingsWirbel* (Cub Scout hurly-burly), children from the whole of Germany call for an increase in child-friendliness in their environment. The 8 to 10 year-olds award marks for playgrounds, paint their dull school courtyard, repair ramshackle bicycle stands at the railway station and much more. Visits to local politicians and a collaboration with the local press lead to improvements in many towns. The campaign climaxes in a visit to the Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Christine Bergmann.

Around 1000 Scouts start the annual campaign *Movida Bolivia* in Koblenz. This year, the aim is to benefit the Bolivian Scout Association to help set up teacher training. Groups in the whole of Germany collect money to support their partners in South America.

2000

At Pentecost, 3,000 Rovers celebrate the start of the *Internationales Zukunftsjahr der Roverstufe (IZURO)*, the International Future Year of Rovers, in Westernohe.

The climax of the three-day event is their mission to international meetings all over the world, to which the Rovers set off in the summer.

With their annual campaign *Augen auf! Stoppt Diskriminierung!* (Open your eyes! stop discrimination!) the DPSG supports the fight against the discrimination of minorities. As part of this annual campaign, another

campaign Stoppt Rechts - Pfadfinderinnen und Pfadfinder gegen Fremdenfeindlichkeit und Gewalt (Stop the right – Scouts against xenophobia and violence) is started. A significant logo and stickers appearing everywhere draw attention to their commitment.

In September, the first plenary meeting of the Scout branch takes place in the Paulskirche in Frankfurt. Here, girls and boys from all over Germany decide to organise the major event fettgrün to be held in the summer of 2001. This plenary meeting ends with the Frankfurt declaration.

2001

1,500 young scouts meet as part of their nationwide campaign fettgrün in Cologne. Games and a major parade to the cathedral generate a great amount of hustle and bustle in Cologne. On a national level, the update perspective process is started. The DPSG aims to use this to take a critical look at its work over the next few years.

2002

Together with its Catholic partner associations in Israel and Palestine, the DPSG uses its annual campaign Path to Freedom to campaign for peace and justice in the Near East.

2003

Under the motto Grenzenlos 1 - Flinke Hände, Flinke Füße quer durch Deutschland (No limits 1 – nimble hands and nimble feet across Germany) the Scouts discover their own country and bring Scouting to people in regions which were thus far inaccessible. The update perspective process reaches its climax at the leader congress up2date in Westernohe.

2004

With its annual campaign Kira Rwanda – Love Life, the DPSG supports its partners in Rwanda. The Scouts there show a strong involvement in Aids prevention. In the following year, the focus is directed to health in both Germany and Rwanda. In Altenberg, the association holds a ceremony to celebrate its 75th birthday. At Pentecost, more than 6,000 Scouts had already launched into a serenade to mark the anniversary in the Federal Centre in Westernohe.

2005

The Federal Assembly resolves a new Order which, for the first time, contains a description of the DPSG's concept of man. At the request of a number of members, a modern Scout Law is also resolved.

In the summer, the DPSG joins forces with the PSG and missio, the Pontifical Mission Societies, to design the World Youth Day with the project scoutmission – Faith in Deeds. A huge campsite is set up on the Rheinwiesen in Düsseldorf, in Cologne the Diocesan Association opens the International Scout Centre. Ultimately, more than 7,500 people come to the Scoutmission Festival stage in front of the Düsseldorf parliament.

During the World Youth Day, the DPSG, PSG and missio deal with the subject of HIV and Aids. Famous people, such as the Federal President, Horst Köhler, take part in discussions with the Scouts and Guides.