1st February 2015

CHIEF COMMISSIONER’S CIRCULAR NO. 1 OF 2015

TO: ALL SCOUT LEADERS

Members of the National Executive Committee
County Scout Commissioners
Sub-County Scout Commissioners
County & Sub-County Education Directors
County & Sub-County TSC Directors
Ministry of Education, Science & Technology
Teachers Service Commission

RE: ANNUAL SCOUTS FOUNDER’S DAY CELEBRATION AND FOUNDEREE CAMP IN NYERI

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Kenya Scouts Association has for many years marked the Founder's Day celebration (every February) in Nyeri by the grave of the scouting movement's Founder, Lord Baden Powell (BP). The event, which is the highlight of the National Scouting calendar, is usually attended by over 30,000 Scouts from across the country and beyond, and is always preceded by a three-day camp (Founderere) in Nyeri involving Scouts from all scouting sections i.e. Sungura, Chipukizi, Mwamba and Jasiri. Whereas the event has been one of the major Scout gatherings in Africa, it has posed various challenges to the host organisation, the Kenya Scouts Association (KSA), especially with regard to crowd management and a general lack of upkeep of scouting principles amongst the participants. This has been mainly due to the fact that a large number of some of the participants who turn up in Nyeri are not Scouts, and are neither aware nor inclined to abide by the Scouting principles and discipline. Over the last few years a number of cases have been reported to the Nyeri police and in widely circulated media, of people purporting to be “scouts” involved in general indiscipline, hooliganism, drug abuse and immoral teen behaviour during the Founderere Camp. While KSA has taken responsibility over transgressions of some of its members, it has been reliably established that most of the reckless youth have been non-scouts masquerading as members of KSA and engaging in irresponsible behaviour contrary to the Promise and Law of Scouting. Naturally, KSA has had to bear the brunt of the negative publicity that has followed on this type of behaviour which sadly, has not only brought humiliation to the majority of well-meaning scouts, but also brought about shame for the Movement before the people of Nyeri and indeed Kenya.
The Mission of KSA is to contribute to the education of young people through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law to help create a better world, where scouts are self-fulfilled as individuals and also critically play a constructive role as members of their society.

In view of the foregoing and in order to achieve the KSA Mission objectives within the newly devolved KSA Constitutional framework, the Association wishes to restructure the conduct of and participation at the Founder's Day celebration and Founderee Camp in Nyeri during this and every year henceforth as follows:

2.0 FOUNDEREE 2015

In line with our devolved approach to Scouting, The Founderee Celebrations will be held in the Counties to give more Scouts the opportunity to participate.

Subsequently, the 2015 Founder's Day / Founderee Camp in Nyeri shall attract a limited number of registered Scouts from across the country as a representation of the national participation in the event in Nyeri. Only the best teams from Counties shall be invited to participate at this event and in so doing showcase the best in Kenyan Scouting to other participating scouts and visitors from other parts of the globe.

2.1 Organization

All counties will be expected to organize and conduct Founder's Day Celebrations and County Founderee Camps at selected venues in the respective counties. Where the county Commissioners within a cluster wish to combine their resources to host a Founderee/Founder’s Day event, then a cluster Founderee will be encouraged. All these county and cluster Founderees must be organised before 19th February 2015. The National Youth Program committee will provide the guidelines and evaluation tools for the conduct of these activities.

The National / International Founderee in Nyeri will be held from 19th to 21st February 2015 culminating in the Founder's Day on 22nd February 2015 at the BP Park. The participants will be limited to those who will have received invitation by the National Youth Program committee. The criteria for selection of patrols will be that which only allows participation by the best scouts from all over the country. The Founderee Camp is consequently expected to be lean, well-planned, comprising of not more than 500 scouts all with good scout uniform, who shall be expected to bring credibility back to this globally important scouting event while respecting the dignity of the people of Nyeri as host County.

For Founderee 2015, the following categories shall be invited to take part in the National Founderee competition exhibition:-

I. All patrols that represented Kenya Scouts Association in the 2014 Eastern Africa Zonal scouts competition in Rwanda.
II. The best patrols during the 2014 County Inter-Patrols camping competitions by way of performance percentages (%)
III. Other scouts, special needs' troops, scout leaders, commissioners and sponsoring authorities that performed exemplary well in the year 2014.

NOTE: Invited Scout Patrols from counties are advised to obtain clearance from their respective County Scouts Commissioners before attending.

While the County Scouts Founderees will be organized and run by the county/cluster officials, the national Founderee will be organized and run by the KSA national office with support from Nyeri County Scouts officials.
2.2 Activities
The activities for the 2015 Founderee camp/Founder's Day will include the following:

✓ Scout craft competition such that each campsite will strive to be an ideal campsite. Awards will be given to the best patrols in different categories.
✓ The participants will also give talks/speeches on thematic areas such as peace, environment, climate change, governance, drug abuse, responsible sexual behaviour, leadership and diversity as an opportunity in national cohesion and integration.
✓ Community service - the patrols will be taken out on small groups to carry out community service in Nyeri town.
✓ Tree planting
✓ Interacting with Global Development Villages (GDVs) - KSA partners such as SEMA, Equity Group Foundation, Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Africa Regional Office of the World Scout Bureau (ARO), National Bank of Kenya (NBK), NACCADA, Orange (Kenya), Junior Achievement (K), National Cohesion & Integration Commission (NCIC).
✓ Procession from Outspan to BP Park.
✓ Graveyard ceremonies
✓ Any other activities as may be proposed and adopted by the National Youth Program committee.

2.3 Funding
✓ The Founderee/Founder’s Day 2015 will be funded mainly by the KSA national office.
✓ Invited teams will be charged Ksh. 100 only per participant (principally for a Founderee Certificate and other program materials).
✓ The campers will take care of their own transport and subsistence.
✓ International participants will pay participation fee of USD 50 per scout for a Founderee scarf, badge and certificate. They will also participate in the Founderee Camp activities.

2.4 Caution to uninvited Teams
No team shall attempt to attend the national founderee or the Scouts Founders Day without prior permission or Invitation from the National Youth Program Committee. Logistical measures have been put in place to ensure that this policy is strictly adhered to.

Schools and other scouts that have not been invited to the National Founderee/ Founder’s Day are encouraged to participate at Founderee camps in their respective counties. They are also free to visit the BP Memorial Park at any other time throughout the year.

RAY CHARLES MUSAU
CHIEF COMMISSIONER