



DOCUMENT

1

Joint Guide and Scout Conference 2025

Reframing the Joint Conference: Enhancing focus, reducing formalities

Joint Guide and Scout Conference 2025

Reframing the Joint Conference: enhancing focus, reducing formalities

Table of Contents

Why This Matters.....	2
What's Changing and Why	2
Key Updates in Practice	2
Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)	2
Joint Action Plan	2
Joint Recommendations	2
Rules of Procedure, voting, and Recommendations Committee	2
Joint plenary sessions	3
Summary	3

Languages

The official languages of the Joint Conference are English and French. The European Regions of WOSM and WAGGGS will make all Conference Documents available in both languages. In the event of a conflict arising out of the interpretation of this Conference Document or any other official document, the English text shall prevail.

Why this matters

As we prepare for the 18th Guide and Scout Conference, we have revisited how the joint parts of the event are structured. We want to create a space for our Member Organizations to collaborate and contribute to the joint work between WAGGGS and WOSM.

What's changing and why

We have removed formal procedures like voting and recommendations as the joint conference doesn't have any formal decision-making power. Instead, we will provide further opportunities for you, our Member Organizations, to have direct input into the Joint Work Action plan for the newly elected committee to decide on the outputs for the next Triennium.

These joint sessions will now focus on discussion, shared learning, and shaping future collaboration without the formality of votes or resolutions. This shift allows more time for exploring important topics and building stronger connections between Member Organizations.

Instead of continuing with the old structure, the joint sessions will now focus on discussion, shared learning, and shaping future collaboration — without the formality of votes or resolutions. This shift allows more time for exploring important topics and building stronger connections between Member Organizations.

Key updates in practice

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

The MoU between WAGGGS and WOSM does *not* need to be approved at the joint conference — it's a bilateral agreement handled by the two committees. The current MoU, decided in 2022, is intentionally open-ended, and the two committees have concluded that no revision is needed at this time.

Joint Action Plan

A draft Joint Action Plan will be circulated to all Member Organizations prior to the conference and will also be presented in plenary during the initial session of the joint conference. There will be possibilities for questions to the committees during this session.

Facilitated joint break-out sessions will be the key element for influencing the content of the joint action plan. The committees will collect all input from Member Organizations during this break-out session and present a conclusion of the input in the plenary session concluding the joint conference.

The newly elected committees will agree on a final version of the Joint Action Plan, which will be circulated to all Member Organizations no later than three months after the conference's conclusion.

Joint Recommendations

Previously, Joint Recommendations have been the key tool for Member Organizations to influence the joint work in the coming Triennium. With the introduction of a Joint Action Plan, the system with recommendations becomes redundant as the Joint Action Plan will incorporate what would have been included in the recommendations.

Instead, key ideas and suggestions will be collected during the action plan consultation sessions.

Rules of Procedure, voting, and Recommendations Committee

Since there will be no formal decisions or votes, no rules of procedure or joint recommendations committees are needed, the WAGGGS Europe Committee and the European Scout Committee will be responsible for facilitating the plenary sessions and the break-outs.

Joint plenary sessions

There will be two joint plenary sessions during the conference, one opening and one closing session.

The opening session will focus on reporting on joint work, presentations from the committees and presentation of the draft Joint Action Plan.

The closing session will focus on concluding inputs from break-out sessions and closing the joint conference.

In addition to the opening and closing, there will be two additional joint sessions held as break-outs; one candidate session and one session focused on giving input to the joint action plan.

Summary

This shift is about making the joint conference more collaborative engaging, and relevant — providing the space for our Member Organizations to collaborate, have meaningful dialogue, shared direction and co-creating the joint work plan for the next Triennium rather than formal decisions and allowing the elected committees for both WOSM and WAGGGS to take the plan forward.

This shift is about making the joint conference more collaborative, engaging, and relevant—not weighed down by procedures that don't match its actual authority. By focusing on meaningful dialogue and shared direction rather than formal decisions, the joint sessions will be more productive for all involved, leading to a collaborative joint work plan for the next Triennium or a joint work plan shaped by all.