









The Hong Kong International Scout Youth Forum 2026 (HKISYF 2026) brought together more than 100 young people and youth leaders at Hong Kong Scout Centre and The Chinese University of Hong Kong from 26 to 28 June 2026. Among them, there were 34 delegates from six different Scout Organizations outside Hong Kong, including Japan, Macau, Malaysia, the Maldives, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. Under the theme "Scouting it Out: Driving Change through Volunteering," the Forum explored how volunteering can become a stronger force for education, leadership, inclusion and sustainable social impact.

Script

Nathan POON, Chairperson of 1st Youth Affairs Advisory Council

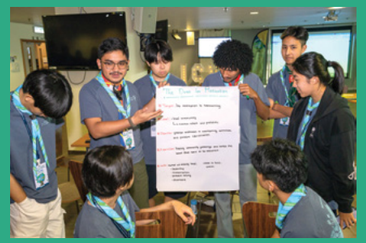
The Forum was designed and delivered by the Youth Affairs Advisory Council and International Branch. This youth-led approach reflected one of its central messages: Young people should help shape, lead and improve the future of the Scouting programme. Through presentations, group discussions, cultural exchange and practical learning, delegates examined how volunteer service can respond to the change of social needs while remaining the meaning and accessibility.

The first topic that the Forum explored was innovating education through volunteering. David BEGBIE, International President of the Crossroads Foundation, spoke about global needs and turning empathy into action. In the discussion session, teams identified a social need, chose a level of action and designed project proposals linking community challenges with members' skills. Short project pitches highlighted how Scouting can address marginalised groups while developing leadership, technical and civic competencies.

The second topic examined flexible and inclusive volunteering models. Gabrielle KIRSTEIN, Founder and CEO of Feeding Hong Kong, explained how her organisation grew from a spreadsheet into an organisation that adapts roles to fit volunteers' lives. Participants then identified barriers in their units and redesigned earlier projects to allow micro-volunteering, virtual options and clearer entry points. Finally, teams outlined partnerships, simple role descriptions and digital tools required to sustain inclusion and ensure young people help shape activities rather than merely deliver them.













The final topic focused on measuring volunteer impact. Benny KWONG, Director of Communications and Community at the GX Foundation, urged participants to move beyond counting hours and instead track real change for individuals and communities. After his talk, each person drafted an action plan naming one key metric and a potential partner. Teams delivered one-minute pitches on how they would define success, collect evidence, recognise volunteers and use data to attract future support.

The programme also extended learning beyond the discussion room. Participants visited the Jockey Club Museum of Climate Change, where they explored global warming and the Sustainable Development Goals with Dr Rebecca LEE. We were also honoured to have Professor Simon HO to share the latest research on the impact of Scouting on youth development in Hong Kong. Social workers from Friends of Scouting were invited to share the current mental health status of Hong Kong youths and Scout Association of Hong Kong's SOUL Keeper initiative. International Night created an atmosphere of friendship through traditional clothing, food, music and performances, while the farewell dinner offered an authentic taste of Hong Kong at a "Dai Pai Dong".

The Forum concluded by turning Discussion into practical recommendations for strengthening volunteering. First, youth-led projects should be supported through digital tools for planning, recording and recognising activities, together with funding or other resources that allow young people to take ideas from conception to implementation. Second, flexible support roles, such as parent helpers and administrative teams should be established, supported by clear role descriptions and trial arrangements to enhance accessibility and aid retention across different stages of life. Finally, the Forum recommended improving systems for measuring and communicating impact. Service hours, skills gained and community outcomes should be recorded systematically, with the findings shared through reports, digital platforms and public recognition. Together, these recommendations aim to make volunteering more youth-led, inclusive and evidence-based, ensuring that service is not only delivered, but also sustained, understood and celebrated.

The key reflection from HKISYF 2026 was that volunteering is not simply an act of giving, but a process through which young people learn, lead, connect across cultures, and create lasting change. While the Forum concluded with group presentations, certificates and a closing ceremony, its wider journey continues: Meaningful youth participation can transform service into a lasting movement for a more inclusive and sustainable future.

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