

Global BSA



International newsletter

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14TH WORLD SCOUT MOOT

What is a Moot?

A World Scout Moot is a gathering of older members of national Scout associations (Rovers and other young adults). World Moots give the young adults in the movement the chance to get together and strengthen their international awareness as citizens of the world. Participants are between 18 and 25 years of age.

The first World Scout Moot took place in 1931, followed by one every four years until 1961. Between 1965 and 1982, the World Moots were replaced by World Moot Years to boost the number of these events and give more of the older Scouts a chance to take part in them.

In 1985, the World Scout Conference decided to reinstate World Scout Moots, and in 1993 decided to hold them every four years. Several national and international Moots are organized every year.

The [Association des Scouts du Canada](http://www.scouts.org), which is in charge of organizing Moot 2013, offers young Francophone and Francophile Canadians an original program that is designed to make them independent and responsible for themselves and able to play a useful role in society. This program also encourages them to live their faith and to develop their culture with an attitude of openness to others and respect for all.

From August 8 to 18, 2013, Moot Canada 2013 will highlight the modern and traditional aspects of Canada and feature seasoned Scouts from around the world. "Once they return

www.mootcanada2013.ca



14th World Scout Moot
Scout Mondial
Canada 2013
du 8 au 18 août 2013
from August 8 to 18, 2013



Jusqu'à 5000 scouts de 18 à 25 ans
ont rendez-vous au Canada en 2013.
Soyez-y!

Up to 5,000 Scouts between 18 and 25
years of age will meet in Canada in 2013.
Be there!

home, we hope that the participants will become true agents of change by spreading their new knowledge throughout their communities," indicated **Robert Nowlan**, national commissioner of the Association des Scouts du Canada, the organization in charge of organizing the Moot.

The official logo of Moot Canada 2013 is a representation of Canada today, with the modern font in graffiti style symbolizing the urban environment, and the dream catcher designating our American Native roots, which are still very much alive, particularly at the heart of the 2013 international gathering at the Awacamenj Mino base camp.

The blue represents water and the official color of the province of Quebec; the brown designates nature, wildlife, and the forest, an important natural resource in Canada; the red is our national color and the green designates the environmental aspect of our event, as well as the province of Ontario.

<http://www.mootcanada2013.ca>

MESSENGERS OF PEACE

I am writing this on the flight home from a most incredible journey to Saudi Arabia to participate in the launch of World Scouting's new initiative "**Messengers of Peace**". I was honored to have been invited to be a part of this launch and am truly excited about the programs potential to help change the world.

Over 5,000 Scouts from 93 nations were on hand for an "International Peace Camp" and participated in the launch event in the stadium at King Abdullah University for Science and Technology. It was a moving and uplifting event that focused on the notion that the more than 30 million Scouts around the world can, indeed, make a difference in attitudes about peace.

The aim of the Messengers of Peace initiative is "to inspire millions of young men and women throughout the world to work for the cause of Scouting: Creating a better world." Scouts throughout the world work for peace in their communities in one way or another every day - solving conflict in school by preventing bullying, doing projects for others that make their communities better and by those actions positively impacting attitudes and outlooks about relationships, the environment and many other social issues.

For the BSA to connect with this program, it doesn't require anything more than encouraging our Scouts to go online and register their community service project – especially Eagle projects – so that they become a part of the global network of projects being posted on the Google Maps and in other social networking sites. As Scouts around the globe post their projects, other Scouts can visit the [maps page](#), put their cursor



on a pin, and see the name of a Scout and a description of their project. It will be a very powerful thing to see what their fellow Scouts around the world are doing to make their communities better.

In addition to registering their project, our Scouts will earn a recognition piece acknowledging them as a "Messenger of Peace." They will also be encouraged to participate in an ever widening circle of dialog on the subject of peace and what impact healthy communities have on peace in the world.

The second element of this initiative will not affect us directly, but will be a powerful adjunct to this global effort. King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia has made a \$37 million contribution to the World Scout Foundation to be used as grants to National Scout organizations to fund Scouting community projects designed to make a real impact on the quality of life in communities. The impact of these funds on many Scout organizations who would not otherwise be able to tackle some of these projects will be huge.

We are now in the process of organizing a small committee and preparing the materials that you will need to help communicate this effort to your Scouts and leaders. I sincerely hope that you will embrace this effort and help encourage participation among your Scouts and Scouters. I am convinced that, with a minimum of extra effort, we can breathe life into this important project.

To me, the magic of this program is that it allows us to connect the dots between what our Scouts already do ... to the reality that they are part of a much larger picture. Their efforts, along with those of their fellow Scouts around the globe, can be a powerful force for good.

Thank you in advance for your support of this effort.

Bob Mazzuca

October 2011

** Information on BSA participation will be released at the BSA National Annual Meeting in May, 2012.*

BSA CONTINGENT PROGRAM

As a member of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, the Boy Scouts of America gets invited to many different international/national events in different countries every year. This is a great opportunity for the BSA to connect with the world upon the interaction with local Scouts and Scout leaders at those special events. Consequently, it provides us, our BSA Scouts and adults, an excellent opportunity to learn about other countries, people, and cultures through Scouting activities, plus learn their Scouting skills and make new friendships as part of the adventure.

Depending on the locations, time, availability of Direct Service units, attendees, and budgets, a contingent may be formed for these international events. Once a contingent formation is approved, BSA Scouts and Scout leaders will be selected to join this contingent (Boy Scout troop or Venturing crew).

The BSA would like to send contingents that represent geographical diversity. Contingents will be formed with Scouts and Scout leaders from all over the country, not just from one troop/crew in the same council.

In order to qualify for a BSA contingent, Scouts and Scout leaders must be nominated to the International Department by their council international representative and approved by their council Scout executive.

Most recent trip: XIX Central American Moot, Panama (10 members)



Upcoming trip:



Korea National Jamboree – Aug 2-9, 2012

Age: 14-18 (Boy Scouts, Venturers & adults)

IST: 18-26

Contingent size: 24 Scouts/Venturers + 6 adults

Contingent gathering: July 30, 2012

Location: Jamboree site in Goseong 17th World Scout Jamboree campsite,

Gangwon Province, Korea (4 hours-247km by bus from Incheon Int'l Airport)

Cost: \$2500 (includes travel, lodging, food, event fee, tent, patches, bags and more fun!!)

Nomination Deadline: Mar 30, 2012

Future event:

14th World Scout Moot, Canada (Aug 8-18, 2013)

Nomination forms can be found at:

www.scouting.org/international

2013 NATIONAL SCOUT JAMBOREE

Are you ready to greet our international friends to the 2013 BSA National Scout Jamboree?

After invitations went out to all other national Scout associations, 37 countries responded that they will participate in our 2013 National Scout Jamboree. According to the responses to date, we estimate around 800 Scouts, 200 adults and 200 International Service Team (IST) members will participate.

For the first time, the BSA national jamboree will allow Venturing members to attend the jamboree as participants, not just staff. Thus, it will be the first time female Venturers from other countries will be allowed to participate in the BSA jamboree.

2013 NSJ will also be the first time the International Department will accept IST members to serve on staff for the jamboree.

International Scouts and adults will stay mainly in the Venturing Village and a few other sub-camps during the jamboree.

23rd World Scout Jamboree (23WSJ)

Theme: 和 WA: a Spirit of Unity

Date: From Tuesday, 28 July
To Saturday, 8 August, 2015

Venue: Kirara-hama, Yamaguchi City,
Yamaguchi Prefecture
Coordinates: N 34°01', E131°23'
Altitude: 2.7m - 15.8m



和 a Spirit of Unity

Theme of the 23rd World Scout Jamboree

The Kanji character “和” means unity, harmony, cooperation, friendship and peace. And it also means Japan! The phrase “a Spirit of Unity” summarizes the idea of the character, and also the concept of the Jamboree.

Scouting is a dynamic movement of young people full of energy. The World Scout Jamboree in Japan is a place where people can feel the energy and unity of Scouts! The diversity that the participants will bring to the campsite in Kirara-hama will create a harmony of different cultures, through meetings and sharing experiences.

Japan is a country where tradition and innovation meets. Scouts from all over the world will join the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in Japan and create a spirit of unity, and together we create a better world.

What does the logo represent?

The logo of the 23rd World Scout Jamboree features symbolic use of the Mizuhiki knot, representing global unity through Scouting.

The Mizuhiki knot is most commonly used in Japan to decorate gifts. The knot symbolises emotional and spiritual ties between people. This knot also represents the Jamboree theme “a Spirit of Unity”.

Mizuhiki is very strong, thin twine made from Japanese traditional paper called Washi, written 和紙 in Japanese (the first character 和 [WA], a feature of the Jamboree theme). Mizuhiki is used to mark special occasions in Japanese life, especially life events such as weddings, and funerals.

Depending on the type of event, the Mizuhiki can be styled using different colours and knots. For example, for celebratory occasions red and white, or silver and gold colours will be used. Even the knot itself can be styled in different ways according to the particular occasion: for weddings, a knot that cannot be untied will be used.



* Information on BSA participation will be released at the BSA National Annual Meeting in May, 2012.

UNITED STATES FUND FOR INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING

The International Committee annually appoints a five-member committee to serve as directors of the United States Fund for International Scouting (USFIS). This fund provides project money for national Scout organizations, World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) regions, and the World Scout Bureau (WSB). A summary of the grants for 2010 and 2011 to date is as follows:

2010	Bhutan Scout Association	National Scout Center – Sanitation
2010	Kandersteg International Scout Center	Renovations for the Uncle Sam Cabin
2010	Kandersteg International Scout Center	Conference Facilities Project
2010	Scouts de Colombia	Better Colombia Project
2010	South Africa Scout Association	Review of Youth Program
2011	Scout Association of Azerbaijan	National Scout Training Center Upgrade
2011	Scouts de Colombia	Better Colombia Project – Phase II
2011	Eurasia Region	Seminar - Making us stronger
2011	Scouts of Georgia	Publishing leader's handbook
2011	Scout Association of Fiji	National Scout Training Centre Renovation
2011	Scout Association of Moldova	Re-rovering – Re-discovering, re-inventing, re-exploring Scouting
2011	Scout Association of Ecuador	First Scout Camp

CAMP STAFF PROGRAM FOR BSA SCOUTERS

The European Camp Staff Program and Suncheon Asia-Pacific Scout Centre in Korea both provide opportunities for registered BSA Scouters, ages 18-30, to volunteer as staff members in an overseas Scout camp.

The aim of the European Camp Staff Program is to assist young people in developing their leadership skills and to encourage intercultural learning. This is achieved by providing the individual with a residential experience as a volunteer staff member at a Scout center in another country. For more information and the application, please visit www.scouting.org/international/ecamp.

In March 2009, the Suncheon Asia-Pacific Scout Centre began offering programs in English based on the Scout method of "learning by doing" - a hands-on experiential learning process in the outdoors - through young leaders from the national Scout organizations. Korean youth may learn real-life, everyday spoken English and global leadership through various outdoor hands-on programs, weekly English camps, and seasonal experiential programs. At the same time, staff members may learn about Korea's rich history, culture, and

tradition as well as share the brotherhood of Scouting with participants and visitors. The staff requirements are: Be endorsed by and be an active, registered member of your national Scout organization; be at least 18 years old and currently enrolled or a graduate of a university; be available for at least 12 weeks; be able to communicate in English fluently; be able to use and teach the Scout method and introduce your country's culture; and be able to live by the culture and laws of Korea.

For additional information and an application, please email lisa.cristiano@scouting.org.

INTERNATIONAL CAMP STAFF PROGRAM

Be sure that your council applies for the International Camp Staff Program for 2012! Applications are being accepted through February 15. You can find the application on our website at www.scouting.org/international/applications.

Check out the success stories in our October 2011 newsletter as well as view the YouTube video made by Matt Ragan of the Central Florida Council:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LrYghys4J0o&feature=em ail>.

WORLD FRIENDSHIP FUND

We can now accept World Friendship Fund donations online! To donate online or to download the brochure, please visit www.scouting.org/international/worldsupport.

Did you know that with 38 million members, Scouting and Guiding together make up the number one youth movement in the world?

GILWELL WEBSITE

Discover your roots at Gilwell Park. The 1st Gilwell Park website is live, so sign up and visit the home of Scouting. The site is for members of the 1st Gilwell Park Scout Group—the largest Scout group in the world. If you hold the Wood Badge, you are already a member and can sign up now at 1stgilwellpark.org. Follow them on Twitter, @1stgilwellpark, or Facebook under Back to Gilwell: Facebook Wood Badgers.



DIRECT SERVICE

The purpose of Direct Service is to make the Scouting program available to United States citizens and their dependents living in countries outside the jurisdiction of the Transatlantic Council (headquartered in Italy, serving U.S. Scouts in most of Europe) and the Far East Council (headquartered in Japan, serving several Far East nations). Here is the current status of Direct Service:

Number of countries: 61 (units and Lone Scouts)

Membership:

Number of units: 97 (**4.3% growth in units**)

- Packs: 39
- Troops: 54
- Crew: 4

Number of Scouts: 3,022 (includes 182 Lone Scouts)

- Packs: 1,584 (includes 63 Lone Cub Scouts)
- Troops: 1,416 (includes 109 Lone Boy Scouts)
- Crew: 22

8.9% growth in Membership!!

JAMBOREE ON THE AIR 2011

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) is the largest Scouting event in the world. Each year on the third weekend of October approximately 700,000 Scouts hit the airwaves from nearly 6,000 amateur radio stations around the world. Through this activity Scouts are introduced to radio technology and to other Scouts around the United States and the world. They get a chance to talk with one another and share information that broadens their perspective on other cultures, geography, as well as on the technology and the hobby that provides the means for their communication.

The most successful JOTA events around the U.S. occur during camporees or other troop, district, or council events. These allow a wide range of Scouts to tour the ham radio stations and, if they desire, talk on the radio with a microphone or even with a keyboard using digital communication modes. In 2011, several locations actually

communicated with the International Space Station where fellow Scout and ham radio operator Mike Fossum spoke with the Scouts.

Overall, reported participation jumped in 2011. The number of stations filing a report moved to 68, an increase of over 100 percent, while the number of Scout participants hit more than 3,000, an increase of 600 percent. However, over 200 stations registered their operations prior to the event, so the unreported participation was even higher.

Among the registered JOTA stations 109 councils were represented, 37 states, Puerto Rico, and a U.S. military base in South Korea, with nearly 16,000 estimated Scout participants. Of course, the broader World Scouting JOTA registration represented most national Scouting organizations around the world. The final 2011 world report is expected to be published soon.

The national Radio Scouting committee has identified nine key areas for JOTA improvement in 2012. Among these are earlier development of the JOTA patch along with earlier promotion to Scouters and amateur radio operators. They are also working on a number of additions and improvements to the supporting materials that are provided at <http://www.scouting.org/jota>

I encourage you to support your local council's efforts for JOTA 2012. If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know at jota@scouting.org

Jim Wilson, K5ND - National JOTA Organizer, USA

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The International Department would like to recognize Jim Wilson, for his commitment, expertise, and creativity to Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA) and Radio Scouting. Jim was one of the valuable members of the JOTA/JOTI Extravaganza planning team in 2009, helping the International Department create a wonderful event that promoted both Jamboree-on-the-Air and Jamboree-on-the-Internet at the National Scouting Museum. In December of 2010, Jim was nominated to be the BSA's national JOTA organizer, the lead person who coordinates the JOTA program for the BSA. Also, Jim Wilson was instrumental in the creation of the memorandum of understanding between the BSA and the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), solidifying amateur radio's presence within Scouting. He then created the Radio Scouting committee and, along with the committee members, has created a new JOTA website, new and improved JOTA fact sheets, and much more.

Jim, we thank you for your service to JOTA and to the International Department. You have been an absolute joy to work with and we look forward to another great year with you!



XIX CENTRAL AMERICAN MOOT A LATIN ADVENTURE

It's funny to think that I was unprepared. In my time, I've been a lot of places and seen a lot of things – most of them related to scouting at that. Yet, many of them didn't prepare me at all for my experiences at the XIX Central American Moot in Panama.

Quite frankly, the place made me uncomfortable at first. Between uncertainties about the water – set off by concern of others' paranoid doctors – and the inability to communicate well because of my linguistical handicap – I studied French – Panama City didn't seem like my kind of place.

To top it all off, the school we spent a week in with roughly 400 other participants shocked me. Its state of disrepair – sinks torn off the walls and fixtures from the 1950s – made me wonder exactly what I'd gotten myself into.

Then it all changed. It's the people that make a place and once I started to get know other Scouts, I realized that everything was fine. It also helped to learn that school's physical state had much to do with funding problems brought on by conflicts with the government. The Panamanians were doing their best to host an international gathering and all participants were doing their best to embrace the experience.



When it comes down to it, the vast majority of Scouts and Panamanians I encountered during my week were friendly. I'm still very touched that the rural farming community we went to for our service project showed their appreciation by cooking us a delicious dinner of stewed beef over rice. As well, the locals were willing to help us out with our half day Amazing Race activity in the old quarter of Panama City.

In the end, I'm thankful for the opportunity to be uncomfortable and to fully experience a different way of

life head on. It's been a wonderful opportunity to grow and learn how to still be myself in the face of communication barriers. It's my hope that by coming together at Moots and jamborees we can continue to promote cross-cultural understanding.

Laura Larsen – Northern Star Council, Minnesota



XIX Central American Moot, Panama City, Panama

TROOP 2

Troop 2 in Hartford, Connecticut, a unit within the Connecticut Rivers Council (#066), consists of Scouts who are all Karen refugees from Myanmar (Burma). About one year ago, several civic organizations arranged for their families to be brought to America, and Scouting was chosen as one of the important vehicles to help the youth become acclimated to their new home.

In the short year since their arrival, the Scouts of Troop 2 have become involved in some cross-cultural activities in their new neighborhood. One activity has been through having an urban garden. The project originally started to help the Scouts earn the Gardening merit badge, but quickly became a social project for the Karen community at-large. The garden developed into a way for the Scouts to share their other cultural traditions with the troop leaders who had a delightful time learning by participating in this fascinating culture. It also provided the Scouts with an opportunity to give back to the community by doing service projects for the foundation that sponsors the garden.

The Scouts' memories of their recent past lives in the camps are very vivid. They still consider themselves a significant part of the culture they left behind. Because of this, they have a larger world view of Scouting. They are avid consumers of current events, and stay abreast of world developments, especially through the electronic media. In the summer of 2011, they got connected with Scouts in Tajikistan with whom they were introduced through a troop committee member. Very recently, while browsing the Rover Scouts International page on Facebook, they learned about some flooding victims in the Philippines. The Scouts were touched by an appeal from the local Filipino Rover Scout crew. It brought back fresh memories of their recent past experiences living with very little. They took to heart the oath, "to help other people at all times." Now the Troop 2 Scouts are looking forward in the very near future to another opportunity to communicate; this time with the Rover crew in the Philippines. They are also awaiting word from another contact about a possible third scouting group in Malaysia.

The Troop 2 Scouts' perspective on life and the world has been a learning experience for all the adult volunteers who are in contact with them. Just within the past year, the Scouts and their leaders have expanded on their concepts of what international Scouting is. These Scouts live the law of kindness, friendliness, cheerfulness, helpfulness, and willingness to bear irksome tasks and weighty responsibilities. The joy which they spread through their enthusiasm to share with everyone is infectious. This has been obvious in the ease of their ability to communicate with other Scouts from other cultures and countries around the world. These Scouts have come from living on a thread on the other side of the world to a strange place where they have been made welcome. Since their homeland of Burma is one of a few countries left in the world where no Scouting organization exists, the scouts of Troop 2 truly consider themselves international ambassadors. Their way of showing thanks is in the way in which they make Scouts from other countries welcome into their lives. They have become true "Messengers of Peace."



SILVER WOLF AWARD PRESENTED TO A BSA SCOUTER FROM SWEDISH GUIDE AND SCOUT ASSOCIATION

At the world Scout jamboree in Sweden, the Svenska Scoutrådet honored Mr. Wayne Perry, a BSA Scouter, with its highest award, the Silver Wolf.



The Silver Wolf was established by the Swedish Scout Association (now the Swedish Guide and Scout Association) in 1920 in order to recognize extraordinary service to Scouting. The badge had previously been awarded to those who had achieved the Rover Scout/Life Scout badge, a sign that a Scout had fulfilled the requirements to be a life Scout. This meant that as well as being a first-class Scout, the individual had also passed tests in health care and an additional 15 different specialty areas. At the time of the creation of the Silver Wolf Award, the Life Scout badge was no longer in use. The first Silver Wolf to recognize extraordinary service was awarded to Ebbe Lieberath in 1920.

The Silver Wolf is the highest award in the Swedish Scout Movement. It is awarded to active leaders at the national level for exceptionally meritorious work for the Scout movement. Today, the Silver Wolf is awarded by the Swedish Guide and Scout Council.

- *The Silver Wolf may only be presented to an individual by someone who already holds the award.*
- *A holder of the Silver Wolf cannot also be awarded with the Gustav Adolf badge.*
- *The Silver Wolf may only be held concurrently by up to 25 active Scout leaders who are under the age of 60.*



Wayne Perry began his work with Scouting as a Cubmaster in 1980. He has filled many positions since then, including assistant Scoutmaster; Scoutmaster; Explorer Advisor; committee chair; district vice chair; council auction chair; council vice president; council president of Chief Seattle

Council, regional president; National Executive Board member, international commissioner; World Scout Committee; World Scout Foundation; vice-president, United States Fund for International Scouting Committee. Perry has been awarded the Silver Buffalo Award, Silver Antelope Award, Silver Beaver Award and District Award of Merit. He is a member of the Order of the Arrow and holds the Wood Badge. In addition, Perry was awarded the BSA Heroism Award for his actions on one of his troop's canoe treks. Wayne and his wife Christine are the parents of four Eagle Scout sons.

The first Silver Wolf was given out in 1920. Wayne's Silver Wolf is number 190.

A HELPING HAND

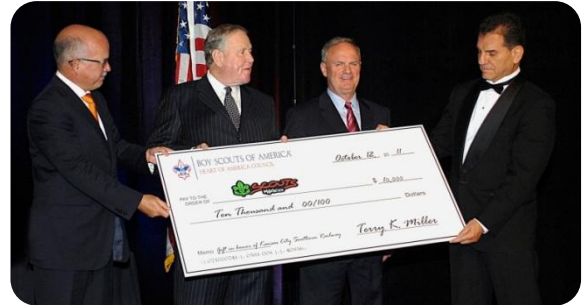
Last fall the Heart of America Council held their Distinguished Citizens Dinner and recognized Michael Haverty, the executive chairman of the Kansas City Southern Railway. During an initial meeting with Haverty it was learned that the focus of development of Kansas City Based Southern Railways, with the International Modal Corridor, provides the only seamless logistics rail system between the heart of America, through Mexico, to ports on both the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. KC Southern's infrastructural commitment provides world class transportation, not only to the USA, but equally important, throughout Mexico and the Pan American region.

With Kansas City Southern having such a strong presence throughout Mexico, the Distinguished Citizens Dinner Committee thought it would be a great connection and outreach to provide \$10,000 of the proceeds from the dinner to help support and grow the Scouts Mexico Association. Thanks to the help of the International Department of the Boy Scouts of America, introductions were made with the Scouts Mexico officials. The incoming president of Scouts Mexico, Mr. Victor Blake, attended the dinner in Kansas City and accepted the \$10,000 check on behalf of the Scouts Mexico Association. Upon accepting the donation Blake said, "It is wonderful to see the support of the Scouting family in Kansas City in allowing Scouts Mexico to serve more youth through this donation. This support will have a positive effect on the quality of Scouting we can provide our youth."

"Undoubtedly, all across America, every council can identify within their market those firms operating internationally and can then set out to bridge the connections for the business community to support local international Scouting efforts. One of the very best ways to start is to identify communities, sister cities across the world and seek to locate firms to support or sponsor their local councils' activities", states Tom Johnson, HOAC's international representative.

The council plans to continue to grow its involvement with the Mexican Scout association, as one of the conduits to reach out to not only Scouting in Mexico, but also with aligning the support throughout the council with the growing Hispanic community.

"Working together with KC Southern, we truly can demonstrate to all businesses within our market, that Scouting really does offer youth the best way to become Prepared. For Life."



RHODE ISLAND BOY SCOUTS VISIT THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

For the sixth time since 2000, eight Scouts and two adults from troops throughout the Narragansett Council in Rhode Island will be visiting the Dominican Republic on a cultural exchange in February 2012.

The expedition, organized and led by long-time Scout leader and former Peace Corps volunteer, Neil Ross of Troop 1, Kingston, Rhode Island, is a unique opportunity for Scouts to actively engage in daily life in a different country. Ross served in the Dominican Republic as one of the first Peace Corps volunteers in the early 1960s. His personal contacts, knowledge, and love of the country and its people proved to be a solid foundation upon which to implement his idea of cultural exchange collaboration. In 1999, he used his Scouting and Peace Corps connections to begin the program by bringing older Dominican Scouts to Camp Yawgoog in Rhode Island to work as international camp staff. It did not take long to reciprocate by taking local Scouts to the Dominican Republic.

In that Caribbean island nation, the Rhode Island Scouts stay with host families arranged through the Dominican Scout Association, perform service projects, travel throughout the island country, and have a distinctly different and unusual high adventure trip. Qualifications are substantial. RI Scouts must be at least 15 years old (most have been 16 or older), have the rank of Life or Eagle, have troop leadership experience, and be highly recommended by their Scoutmaster. They must also pass a Spanish language interview conducted by the visiting Dominican Scout at summer camp. Selections are made many months in advance in order to allow for comprehensive pre-travel planning and time to get to know

one another. Monthly training meetings review such topics as trip budget, health and safety, immunizations, travel documents, language skills, and creating an itinerary. They also watch videos, do research on the culture, history, politics, climate and environment of the country, select job assignments, and elect patrol leaders. A key aspect of trip preparation is visiting a Dominican restaurant to use their Spanish and try the foods that they will be eating daily upon arrival.

Each trip has had similar elements - such as visits to the historic Colonial Zone in Santo Domingo (Spain's first capitol of the Americas), attending Carnival (Mardi Gras) celebrations, special reception at the Dominican National Scout Office, attending a fogata (campfire) with Dominican Scouts, completing a service project, going white water rafting in the mountains, and time to swim in the Caribbean Sea. To ensure every group had its own special adventure, each has done something the others have not such as a whale watch, a visit to the Haitian border, national park bird watching, seeing Columbus' first settlement in the Americas, hiking/swimming up a series of small waterfalls, or visiting pre-Columbian Taino native ruins. The next group will visit a different national park in the far northwest.

"The best testament to the success and impact of the program," said Thomas Brillat, assistant trip leader and Eagle Scout, "comes from the boys. Everyone improved his Spanish skills even after such a short trip. Several have gone on to careers related to their experiences from the trip, including linguistics, ornithology, and teaching." Nearly all remain in contact with Dominican Scout friends. But the most important program assessment happens upon returning home. Parents, friends and family greet the weary travelers with the same question "Would they go again?" A resounding chorus of "Si, Si, Si," eagerly and happily echoes through the airport.



The BSA contingent and Dominican friends at the Panama Canal XIX Central American Moot, Panama City, Panama

COMMUNICATION UPDATES FROM INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT

The International Department is continuing to build more communications with local councils and their Scouts, but needs your help. Not all councils have currently designated international representatives. Council international representatives (IR) are those who help make it possible to keep the council membership informed of the opportunities for program enrichment in the area of international Scouting.

Number of local councils: 295

Number of council international representatives: 245

Number of local councils with no international representatives: 50

Do you know who your council international representative is? Contact your council to get his/her contact information for more information on international Scouting. If your council does not have one, please ask them to appoint an IR to the International Department. Your IR is your resource for information and a bridge of communication for you and your Scouts to learn about and become involved in international adventures.

IR Yahooogroup:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BSA-International-Representatives> (IRs only group)

YAHOO! GROUPS

Global BSA newsletter Yahooogroup:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Global-BSA-Newsletter/>
(general newsletter distribution group)

More information and pictures at the International BSA Facebook page:



<http://www.facebook.com/?sk=nf#!/pages/International-BSA/202254869829537>

International website: www.scouting.org/international

New forms and updated forms are now available in fillable PDF format:

- International Letter of Introduction
- BSA Contingent Nomination (for youth and adults)
- International Scouter's Award
- Online World Friendship Fund
- European Camp Staff Program
- International Camp Staff Program
- Nomination form for council international representative

INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING ITEMS FOR SALE THROUGH INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT

International Scouting flag. White World Crest on a 3X5-foot or 4X6-foot purple flag for indoor and outdoor use; \$65 for the 3X5 flag, and \$100 for the 4X6 flag.

World Scout Foundation–Royal Anniversary Linens. The series was launched to celebrate the 60th birthday of the King of Sweden and the Centenary of Scouting. Each item in the series (tablecloths, placemats, and napkins) bears the woven personal monogram of His Majesty, as well as the world Scout emblem. They are high-quality damask weave made of 100 percent cotton. While supplies last, you can purchase a tablecloth, a set of 10 placemats, or a set of 10 napkins for \$150 each. As a discount, you can mix or match any three items for a cost of \$400.

WHAT'S UPCOMING

Baden-Powell Fellowship event – Madrid, Spain

April 19-22, 2012

Philmont International Representative Conference

June 17-23, 2012

Korea National Jamboree – Korea

Aug 2-8, 2012 (A BSA contingent will attend.)



XIX Central American Moot, Panama City, Panama



BSA contingent: service project in a village, Panama