

THE WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE ON THE INTERNET (JOTI)

18-19 October 1997

Go to this Internet address for the latest information:

<http://www.scout.org/joti/>

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In November 1996 the World Scout Committee, noting that Scouting already had a considerable presence on the Internet, and that there was already an informal and rapidly growing Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI), decided that JOTI should become an official international Scouting event, and that it should be held on the same weekend as the Jamboree on the Air. Therefore, the World Scout Jamboree on the Internet is to be held on the third full weekend of October each year, starting at 00.00 hours local time on the Saturday and concluding 48 hours later at 24:00 hours local time on the Sunday.

Special Internet jamborees may also be organized in conjunction with local, national, and international Scouting events which are held at other times of the year.

- a. Introduction

When Scouting was founded in 1907, the concept of Internet was far from the imagination of Scouting's founder Lord Baden-Powell. So were many other aspects of Scouting today. While society and Scouting have changed over the years, Scouting's fundamental principles have essentially stood the test of time and they remain universal for all Scout organizations which are members of the World Organization of the Scout Movement. Scouts around the world share much in common, and Scouting encourages them to use that mutual understanding as the basis for learning about each other, making friends, and building a better and more peaceful world. The word "Jamboree" is said to have been invented by Baden-Powell as a name for an event which brings Scouts together from around the world. The first World Jamboree was in 1922 and it was a remarkable, historic, event bringing together some 8,000 Scouts from 34 countries. The spirit and drive for Scouts to get together at international events has never diminished, and there are hundreds of "international" Scouting events each year. Getting together does not always require a physical presence. In 1957, the concept of the World Scout Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA) was launched, and it has been a popular event which today involves more than half-a-million Scouts and Girl Guides who communicate with each other on the third weekend of each October by amateur radio, and related technology. In the mid 1990's the means for international electronic communication became available to virtually anyone with a computer. Scouts have been among the first to use every technological development to "get

together" electronically. The spontaneous and overwhelming involvement of Scouts on the Internet is proof that it is a viable way of bringing Scouts together in ways that Baden-Powell probably would have wanted to use to the fullest.

b. Some Characteristics of Scouting on the Internet

1. It is an economical way of communicating locally, nationally and internationally.
2. Worldwide accessibility / availability.
3. Speed of communication: It can be instantaneous, live.
4. Potential quality of communication: Scouts on the Internet can go beyond simply saying "Hi". There is potential for sharing more meaningful information, establishing friendships, improving the Scout programme, starting projects, etc.
5. Educational: The amount of useful information about Scouting available via the Internet is large and growing daily.
6. Languages: It is possible to participate in JOTI by contacting others who share your language; if one is communicating in another language, one can use "off-line" time to more carefully compose messages.

c. Guidelines for organising the World Scout JOTI

1. As there is considerable overlap in programme objectives, and often the technology, the annual JOTA and JOTI should, when possible, be planned in conjunction with each other. (1997 will be the 40th anniversary of JOTA)

2. It is recommended that each national Scout Organization appoint a national coordinator for JOTI.
3. Worldwide, Scouts are in contact with each other via Internet at any moment of every day, but the purpose of JOTI is to bring "together" as many people as possible at a specific time period, with certain objectives.
4. While it is possible for an individual to sit at home alone and participate in JOTI, the emphasis of JOTI should be placed on participating in the context of Scouting: at Scouting events, as groups/troops/ patrols. Of course, JOTI is ideal for lone Scouts who live in remote areas.
5. JOTI activities should offer opportunities for Scouts who:
 - don't have computers,
 - don't have WWW access on Internet,
 - are disabled.
6. JOTI may be only one element in a weekend event such as a camp, or public open house, shopping mall exhibit, etc.
7. JOTI should be the opportunity for Scouts with Internet experience to share their knowledge and skills with others, using the fundamental Scouting principle of "learning by doing".

d. Who can participate?

JOTI is for young girls and boys who are members of national Scout organizations which are members of the World Organization of the Scout Movement. Members of national associations of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts are also welcome to participate.

e. Some "rules"

1. Follow the rules of good Internet behaviour which are called "netiquette".

A copy of these can be downloaded at:
<http://www.scout.org/joti/netiquette.html>

2. Specifically:

* It is courteous to acknowledge messages which are received.

* If you promise to send information, exchange badges, etc., keep your word.

* Do not use language which could offend others.

* Be cautious about giving your address or telephone number on the Internet.

3. Reports: The World Scout Bureau would appreciate receiving reports, news clippings, comments, suggestions about JOTI as soon after the event as possible.

Send them by email to:

JOTI@world.scout.org

or by mail to: World Scout Bureau, Box 241, 1211 Geneva 4, Switzerland

f. Youth Programme Objectives of JOTI

1. To become aware that one is a member of an international movement and that all Scouts share the same fundamental principles of Scouting.

2. To become more aware of Scouting information / programmes in one's own country, as well as in other countries.

3. To offer the opportunity for Scouts to establish a dialogue with other Scouts, mainly in other countries.

4. To offer the opportunity for, and to encourage meaningful communication among young people.

5. To share ideas; make friendships.

6. To learn about computers, Internet and related technology.

7. To help initiate and implement projects of cooperation among Scout groups in different countries.

g. Ways to participate in JOTI

There is a variety of ways to participate in JOTI, and the choice of them will depend on the computer hardware, software, and Internet access which is available. Details and starting addresses for each of these possibilities will be published on the JOTI starter page as they become available.

1. Electronic mail

2. Bulletin boards, discussion forums (usenet, etc.)

3. WWW pages. Start by looking at the world Scouting pages which have more information about JOTI.

4. Chatting channels

5. Video / audio events

h. Some things to do before the JOTI weekend

1. National associations should appoint a JOTI coordinator who is knowledgeable about Scouting and Scouting on the Internet. Please communicate the name and electronic mailing address of this person to the World Scout Bureau so that he or she can be kept informed.

2. National associations should use their normal channels of communication to inform members about JOTI.

3. Translate this fact sheet, and the new Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet (available on Internet and from the World Scout Bureau) into your local language. If you do a translation, please contact us. We would like to make your translation available on our JOTI pages.

4. Local JOTI organizers should organize the event thoroughly. In particular, make sure that your

equipment is set up and tested before the event starts, and prepare alternate Scouting activities to provide your participants with a variety of activities.

5. When preparing contacts through bulletin boards and electronic mail, START EARLY. Post contact requests at least four weeks in advance to give your message a chance to reach all potential Scout groups.

6. Look on the JOTI starter page for activity ideas. Check the page again shortly before JOTI, as this page will be continually updated.

i. Some things to do during the JOTI weekend

1. Prepare a short, standard, message which you can send. It should say where you are and something about your Scouting activities, the JOTI weekend, etc. You may want to prepare more than one standard message, one that provides more details about Scouting in your country; perhaps the same message in different languages.

2. Have available key JOTI Internet addresses. (See the end of this fact sheet.)

3. Prepare small photos of your group, your camp, your group emblem, etc. which can be sent electronically to those who ask for them. (It is not friendly to send photos or other large electronic documents to people who are not expecting them and may not want to pay for the time it takes to download them, or who do not have the hardware or software to view them.)

4. Where in the world? Have a large world map and place pins on the towns/countries where you make contacts.

5. Set up an information section with maps, atlases, encyclopedias and other reference sources to learn more about the contacts you make.

6. Collect the Scout motto "Be Prepared", or the Scout Promise, in as many languages as possible.

7. Download the messages on the World Scout JOTA/JOTI guest book and give them to several members of your group to compose responses and send them.

8. Invite parents and friends to visit your JOTI event. It can be a good way to get them involved in Scouting.

9. Notify the news media; invite them to your JOTI event and also give them key JOTI Internet addresses so they can "look" at the event.

10. Try to establish "pen-pal" contacts with other individuals/groups

11. Use the event to initiate contacts with another Scout group to start a community project.

12. Participate in JOTI contests / scavenger hunts which will be announced.

j. Conclusion

1. Check the JOTI starter pages at the address shown below.

2. If you do not have access to Internet web pages and want the latest JOTI information by email, send an email message to: JOTI@world.scout.org

3. JOTI is a new concept/event, and all feedback is appreciated. Please send it to:

Danny Schwendener, Coordinator,
Jamboree on the Internet
dannys@world.scout.org

k. Some Useful Addresses

Jamboree on the Internet Starter Page:
<http://www.scout.org/joti/>

The World Scout Organization:
<http://www.scout.org/>

JOTI email address:
JOTI@world.scout.org

Some indexes to Scouting information
on the Internet include:

Scouting Jumpstation:
<http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/>

ScoutNet's Scout group directory:
<http://spider.scout.net/>

InterNETional Scout page:
<http://inter.scout.net/>

Published in English and French by the
Public Relations and Communications
Service, World Scout Bureau, Box 241,
1211 Geneva 4, Switzerland. Telefax:
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