



**21st World Scout Jamboree England 2007
Southern Region Newsletter Number 10
June 7, 2007**

50 days until the Jamboree!!! I assume that school is now out for most of you and if you're like me, it's time for summer camp, family vacations, and it seems like there is one other special thing that I'm supposed to do this summer.....oh yeah.....

THE CENTENNIAL WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE!!!

Although there is still the possibility of adding a few additional Scouts and Venturers to our 19 units from the Southern Region, our active recruitment has officially ended. We have now turned in our final numbers to the airlines and your ticket to London is officially reserved. The final total for our 19 units including leaders is 742. That is by far the largest group of folks that the Southern Region has ever sent to a World Jamboree. Congratulations to each of you for making the decision to be a part of this historic and exciting experience!

PASSPORTS: Be sure that yours is safe and secure because you will be needing it real soon. And remember....you will definitely NOT leave home without it!!!!

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: By now you and your parents should have made your final payment that was due on May 30, and if not, you will be hearing from your unit leader. We must have your complete fee now or else you will not be with us at the jamboree. Too bad and so sad.

PRE-JAMBOREE CAMPS: All of the pre-jamboree camps are now complete and you should be hearing regularly from your unit leaders. There is not much time left to get answers to any remaining questions so don't assume things - if you are not sure.....ask your leaders or me.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOU AND YOUR PARENTS: Here are some important points of information for your consideration and final preparations (in no particular order).....

I have posted a good article about jet lag (with some comments from Stan Okrasinski who is Scoutmaster for Troop 212 in Tennessee) on our www.worldjamboree.net website under the F.A.Q. section. I would recommend that all of you read this article before you leave.

Security issues have been discussed with the US Ambassador to the UK and there will be security provided both at the jamboree and during our London tour. The more that we wear our uniforms the more secure they say we will be since they will know it is us. Details related to security will not be published so as not to compromise our safety. Please review previous information on travel and safety that I shared in newsletter no 9 before you leave.

All Scouts and leaders are limited to one (and only one) checked duffel bag weighing not more than 50 lbs with a total dimension of 62 inches (length plus width plus height). This one checked bag per person MUST be the official BSA world jamboree duffel bag issued by the BSA supply with your unit number stenciled on the bag. Each person should also put a baggage tag with name and address information on the bag. Most of you should have these duffel bags by now. Usually the airline requires that the removable carry strap be stowed inside the bag before checking it. I think most of you did packing demonstrations at your pre-jamboree camps and this should prevent having to "dump" or repack items at the airport.

If a Scout wants to bring a musical instrument (guitar, etc) this can be a second piece of checked baggage as long as it meets any applicable airline regulations. (Note: It is NOT allowable to check a musical instrument case containing other items.) There are some very specific details regarding size, weight, etc on musical instruments and if you want to do this you should make sure that you know the restrictions for your airline. Check their website.

As to "carry on" baggage....each of you also have (or will have soon) the BSA issue daypack and this should be carried on the airplane, not checked. You may also carry a coat/jacket, magazine or other small item in your hands. Security controls the details on this, not me!

The most important point is that each individual must be able to carry ALL of his or her baggage without assistance through customs, the airport terminal, to the bus, bus to dorm, bus to jamboree campsite....you get the picture. Nobody will have carts or the time to make extra trips at any of these transfer points so the ability for each of us to carry our own "stuff" is essential. Practice carrying yours around the house to make sure you can handle.

As usual there will be a devotional booklet given to each participant. The BSA chaplains will assist in any way our participation in the religious emphasis of the jamboree. We have Jewish, Catholic, LDS, and Protestant representatives on our contingent staff. There will be representatives of ALL world religions at the jamboree and you may visit them as you wish.

The BSA will have two major exhibits in addition to the BSA HQ booth. One will have a western theme and the other will have a baseball theme. The UK expects interest in both of these to be very high and is placing them in strategic locations. We heard a lot of details about what they will be offering but I will just let you find all of this out when you get there or from any information that may be put on the BSA website.

Brownsea Island event: Your unit leader has been asked to nominate ONE youth from your unit as a candidate for participation in the Brownsea Island event. This youth must be an Eagle Scout or Silver Award recipient (Venturer). This youth must be someone who is personable and can talk comfortably with reporters. This youth must write an essay of not more than 200 words explaining why they wish to participate in this event and represent the BSA. From these 19 youth (one per unit), our regional leadership will select two candidates to submit to the National BSA Committee. We will not make this selection until after we meet the unit nominees during the London tour. We will interview them either while touring or in the evenings at the university. Each region will submit two candidates once we are at the jamboree site and the National Committee will interview all eight candidates and select the final two who will best represent the BSA. The other six will receive some type of special recognition from National. If this item interests you please contact your unit leader ASAP.

As of June 1 most BSA world jamboree catalog items will be available to anyone, not just participants. A few items will remain restricted. UK items are also available "on-line."

Each unit will get tents in proportion to the actual number of registered youth and adults...not a standard 40. The Brits have reserved the right to add international scouts and/or leaders to units with less than 40 members. They will be provided with their own gear but would participate in the jamboree as a part of that unit. This includes food issue and preparation. For our SR units that are less than 40, we know that you would make any such implants completely welcome and if I were you I would hope that this happens. It would be a GREAT bonus for your unit to have international youth with them 24/7.

Tickets are in the process of being issued and will be sent "overnight" mail to unit leaders probably by the end of June. Each individual youth and the ASMs will receive an itinerary and a letter with important travel information but not their actual ticket.

Travel still needs gateway arrival information from many persons. It is important to comply with this request to insure maximum assistance from the BSA travel office and Maritz.

In London, ALL leaders and youth should remain together in the luggage claim area until ALL baggage is accounted for. Do not leave until everything is in hand or a claim form for any missing luggage has been filed. The leader cannot file a missing baggage claim for a youth. The person whose bag is missing must be physically present to file a claim. **STAY WITH YOUR UNIT. NO MATTER HOW EXCITED YOU ARE AND HOW MUCH YOU MAY WANT TO START TOURING, DO NOT SEPARATE FROM YOUR UNIT.** None of us who are already through customs may "go back" to find someone or help deal with missing luggage. **SO STAY TOGETHER.** Your bus and tour guide will be there once you are ready. Even if you don't listen to anything else that I have told you please please PLEASE remember this point.

It has been decided that our travel people will NOT provide any currency exchange on the bus. Although there are many places to change money in and around London and at least one place at the jamboree site...I strongly recommend that each person convert some amount of dollars to pounds BEFORE you leave home. There is no way of knowing in advance how much hassle this may be at the jamboree site. There will be some number of ATMs but I would not count on this as a solution. Check with your unit leader for more information on this.

Our first day of touring (Tuesday) will be Windsor Castle. After the Windsor tour we will proceed to the university and check in. Dinner each day will be in shifts with the first shift around 6 PM. Breakfast each day will be in shifts at 7AM and 8AM. After breakfast units will go directly to their bus and start their day of tours. Lunch will be provided on the bus.

Each person will have a private room at the university. Linens and towels will be provided so there will be no need for sleeping bags etc at the university. **DO NOT LOSE YOUR KEY!!!**

The cooking equipment provided to the patrols will NOT include utensils and plates/bowls. Each Scout will need to bring these items for him/herself. Keep it simple!

Rain boots and/or multiple pairs of shoes are VERY IMPORTANT for all participants and staff. Rain, Rain, and more Rain is the norm. Wet feet will make you have a miserable time! Don't let a lack of preparation in this area keep you from having fun at the jamboree.

One final issue that needs a bit of clarification is related to uniforms. Some participants are members of several different Scouting programs in their home area and have different uniforms for each one. There are only two acceptable "official" uniforms for participation in the world jamboree as a representative of the BSA. If you are in a troop, it is the standard "BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA" tan field uniform shirt worn with either shorts, long pants, or "switchbacks." The shirt should be outfitted with red shoulder loops and approved patches including the BSA contingent emblem on the right pocket. For our Venture Crew it is the standard dark green field "VENTURING" uniform shirt worn with some variety of Venturing pants. The shirt should be outfitted with green shoulder loops and approved patches including the BSA contingent emblem on the right pocket. These are the ONLY two uniforms that should be worn during travel from the USA to London, during our London tour, and at the world jamboree opening ceremony. The socks, belt, and other accessories appropriate to each of these uniforms should also be worn at all times. Also, the BSA neckerchief that was issued to each leader and participant should be worn with either a neckerchief slide or the friendship knot during travel and touring and at the jamboree site until the UK issues an official participant neckerchief. After that time the BSA N/C may be saved or traded as an individual desires. Any other variety uniform that you may want to bring to the world jamboree, for example a Sea Scouting uniform or a troop Senior Scouting uniform, should NOT be worn in lieu of the above but may be worn during certain other times, such as sub-camp activities or during evening meals. And of course extra uniforms may be interesting for trades with scouts from other countries if you wish to do this at the end of the jamboree.

SCOUTMASTER'S MINUTE: On August 6, 1920 at the first World Scout Jamboree in London Baden-Powell was acclaimed Chief Scout of the World. This has not been planned as a part of the Jamboree program but was a spontaneous decision by the assembled Scouts. The next evening B-P gave the following parting message to those boys from all over the world:

"Brother Scouts. I ask you to make a solemn choice. Differences exist between the peoples of the world in thought and sentiment, just as they do in language and physique. The war (note: B-P was referring to World War I) has taught us that if one nation tries to impose its particular will upon others, cruel reaction is bound to follow. The Jamboree has taught us that if we exercise mutual forbearance and give and take, then there is sympathy and harmony. If it be your will, let us go forth from here fully determined that we will develop among ourselves and our boys that comradeship, through the world-wide spirit of the Scout Brotherhood, so that we may help to develop peace and happiness in the world and good will among men. Brother Scouts, answer me. Will you join me in this endeavour?"

There was a great cry of "YES!" from all of the audience, and B-P concluded his message:
"God speed you in your work, and fare you well."

After a last post of the bugle was sounded in memory of the Scouts who had fallen in the Great War, the Scouts sang "Auld Land Syne" and then lifted B-P high and carried him across the great Olympia arena amidst tremendous cheering. Thus ended the first Jamboree.

NEXT (AND LAST) NEWSLETTER JUST BEFORE WE LEAVE FOR LONDON!