



**21st World Scout Jamboree England 2007
Southern Region Newsletter Number 8
February 27, 2007**

The final countdown begins and it is now just **150 Days until the Jamboree!!!**

Did you pause for a moment on February 22 to observe "Founder's Day" as the 150th birthday of Lord Baden-Powell? We did so at the winter meeting of our Southern Region Executive Board in Orlando FL this past week. All in all I hope that the first two months of 2007 have gone well for each of you and things will only get more exciting as the year goes forward!

Our "numbers" continue to hold steady with our capacity for 684 Scouts and Venturers in our 19 units from the Southern Region. We have had a few Scouts choose to withdraw for various reasons but we have also added others to take their place. Right now our units seem to stay "full" or maybe have 1 or 2 spaces vacant. There is always the chance that a spot may open up so continue to encourage your friends who know that YOU are going and maybe they now feel "left out" to send in an application or at least call us to see if a spot is available.

PASSPORTS: I really really really hope that most of you now have your passport. You should have copies to give your unit leaders at your pre-jamboree camp and also for your records. If you have any problems please let me or your unit leader know about it as soon as possible. As I have said from the get-go....you will NOT leave home without it!!!!

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: The BSA has now made many commitments on the costs, fees, and airline tickets for the jamboree. So it is absolutely positively necessary that you stay current on your Jamboree payments. At this point in time you should have made a total of \$2,800 in payments. Your next payment is due February 28, 2007. If for any reason you are not current on payments please call either me or your unit leader to discuss the situation so that you will not be "dropped" from our roster for non-payment. Also, \$1000 of your jamboree fee is non-refundable after March 15, 2007.

- Sixth payment of \$575 due on February 28, 2007 and
- Final payment of balance due on May 30, 2007 - PROBABLY \$600.
- TOTAL OF ALL PAYMENTS - \$3,975.

UNIT ORGANIZATION: Yes, we had to make a few adjustments on the assignment of Scouts among our provisional jamboree troops and crews. As you know there is a maximum of 36 youth in any unit and units in some of our provisional areas ended up with a few more and some with a few less. You should hear from your unit leader within the next few days (if you have not already) if this situation affects you. Unfortunately there can be no promise about specific unit assignments to new Scouts or Venturers who sign up from this point forward.

The following paragraph is a repeat from newsletter number 6 and 7.....

MEDICAL FORMS: There is one and only one allowable form for your medical history and that is the one that can be found on the jamboree website. Look under the "FORMS" heading and download it for your use. You may visit the doctor and get your form completed ANYTIME. If you happen to have one of the "MEDICAL ALERT" conditions (see the bottom of page 3 of the Medical Form for a list of those conditions) then your form MUST be completed and mailed to the BSA National Office. Be sure and keep a copy of the form for your unit leader! If you do not have any of those conditions then you will simply give the ORIGINAL of the completed form to your unit leader, probably at your pre-jamboree camp, unless your unit leader requests you to submit it earlier.

PRE-JAMBOREE CAMPS: This weekend I will be in Orlando for the pre-jamboree camp for unit 210 and 215 (unit leaders Jim Morency and Dr. Dan Miller). I am looking forward to meeting many of you in the coming months as you have your camps. I will be visiting the camps on the "east" side of our region and our Commissioner Charles Holmes will be visiting the units on the "west" side of our region. The exact agenda for each of these camps will vary a bit depending on the particular circumstances of each unit but ALL units will receive the same information. Mainly, it is an opportunity for each of you to get to know your unit leaders and your fellow Scouts/Venturers. Your parents will also have a chance to get answers to those "101 questions" that they need to ask. Be patient with them. This may be the first time that you have been this far away from home without them and they want to know that you will be OKAY. Parents...if there are any questions that do not get answered by leaders at these meetings, give me a call (864.271.9857) or email (smart@worldjamboree.net) Also remember to check the websites frequently for information from the BSA National Office and world jamboree bulletins on-line which you can access on www.worldjamboree.net. National Bulletin No 7 has just been posted and has a lot of great information!!!

SCOUTMASTER'S MINUTE: Here is the last message of our founder Lord Baden-Powell. *"If you have ever seen the play 'Peter Pan' you will remember how the pirate chief was always making his dying speech because he was afraid that possibly when the time came for him to die, he might not have time to get it off his chest. It is much the same with me, and so, although I am not at this moment dying, I shall be doing so one of these days and I want to send you a parting word of goodbye. Remember, it is the last time you will ever hear from me, so think it over.*

I have had a most happy life and I want each one of you to have as happy a life too. I believe that God put us in this jolly world to be happy and enjoy life. Happiness does not come from being rich, nor merely from being successful in your career, nor by self-indulgence. One step towards happiness is to make yourself healthy and strong while you are a boy, so that you can be useful and so you can enjoy life when you are a man. Nature study will show you how full of beautiful and wonderful things God has made the world for you to enjoy. Be contented with what you have got and make the best of it. Look on the bright side of things instead of the gloomy one.

But the real way to get happiness is by giving out happiness to other people. Try and leave this world a little better than you found it, and when your turn comes to die, you can die happy in feeling that at any rate you have not wasted your time but have done your best. 'Be Prepared' in this way, to live happy and to die happy - stick to your Scout Promise always - even after you have ceased to be a boy - and God help you to do it."

Your friend, Robert Baden-Powell of Gilwell

NEXT NEWSLETTER IN 50 DAYS - SEE SOME OF YOU SOON AT JAMBO CAMPS!