



**21st World Scout Jamboree England 2007
Southern Region Newsletter Number 9
April 18, 2007**

Wow....only 100 Days until the Jamboree!!! It seems like only a few weeks ago that I sent out the first newsletter when the jamboree was 601 days away. A lot has happened in those 500 days and our World Jamboree experience is almost here.

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: If you don't have yours by now....you have not been listening to me through the past 500 days. Be sure and have copies for 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. Remember....you will definitely NOT leave home without it!!!!

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: Each week now the BSA is making more commitments on the various costs for the jamboree. So it is essential that you be current on your Jamboree payments. At this point in time you should have made a total of \$3,375 in payments. Your final payment of \$600 is due May 30, 2007. Although we would hate to do so, you could be dropped from our roster if you are not current with your fees when the final payment is due.

UNIT ORGANIZATION: As the last applications were processed we had to make a few final adjustments on the assignment of Scouts among our provisional jamboree troops and crews. If you were one of the several scouts affected by this we appreciate your understanding and cooperation. All of our 19 units have excellent leadership and fabulous members. So it really doesn't matter to which unit you belong, you are guaranteed a tremendous jambo experience.

PRE-JAMBOREE CAMPS: This weekend I will be in Charlotte for the pre-jamboree camp for units 217 & 218 and then in North Georgia for units 213 & 214. Already I met our Scouts from Florida when I attended the camps for those three units earlier this year. Our Commissioner Charles Holmes will be in Oklahoma with unit 201 this weekend and he has already attended the camps for two of our Texas units and also the Venture Crew unit 231. The enthusiasm and excitement at all of these camps have been "off the scale" and Charles and I look forward to meeting the rest of you as you have your camps this month and next.

ODDS AND ENDS FROM THE PRE-JAMBOREE CAMP DISCUSSION: Here are a few thoughts for you gleaned from information shared at the pre-jamboree camp in Central FL. One of the parents in that group is our volunteer head of security for BSA at this world jamboree - retired Lieutenant Colonel Brad Valdyke. Another visitor was Ian Grieg, born in Scotland and a frequent visitor to the United Kingdom who will be on IST staff.

1. There is the possibility that this summer the United Kingdom (UK) will vote on Scotland becoming an independent country. This is a serious political issue at the moment. Our scouts should be careful not to make comments on this topic that would offend either group. It is not a "Scotland vs. England" issue as there is nearly equal support in both countries for both positions. On a similar note...one should not ask a Scout who is wearing UK insignia "where do you live in England?" England is only one part of the UK and if the scout does not actually live in England he would likely be offended by this question. The more correct wording would be "where in the UK do you live?" If he gives an answer that ends with "shire" a good follow-up and less offensive question would be "is that in England or another part of the UK?"

2. There seems to be a very high incidence of credit card fraud in the UK right now. One should never let one's credit card out of one's sight. A common trick is to take the credit card to another place to "process it" and while out of sight the bad guy copies the number on a piece of paper and then uses it fraudulently. All in all, it may be better to carry a nominal amount of British pounds (not euros) and traveler's checks instead of credit cards. Also, many places in the UK do NOT accept pre-paid credit cards. Your unit leaders may be willing to assist you by keeping excess cash (a reasonable amount anyway) secured and dole it out as needed. Talk with your parents and your leaders about this option.

3. If you buy souvenirs ahead of time, there should be no reason to carry along more than a few hundred dollars. It is possible for a small fee to convert dollars to pounds at most banks in the US prior to departure to avoid having to deal with exchange in London or at the jamboree. Given the cost of attending the jamboree and buying uniforms etc, I suspect that your parents will readily agree with this position. Also, prices in the UK and especially in London are very high. A hamburger may cost \$10 or more. You will be well-fed on tour and at the jamboree so there should not be a need for extra money for food.

4. Pickpockets in London are legendary. There are schools to train one how to become an expert in this skill. You should not carry a wallet or other valuables in your hip pocket but rather in a deeper front pocket. A daypack on the back (out of sight of the one carrying it) is open game to a good pickpocket. It is not a good idea to carry your daypack around during the tour; you should leave it on the bus instead. There is no reason to have one at most tour sites anyway. Raingear and other essentials can be carried in hand or wrapped around your body. The bus will never be very far away from you and it will be secure.

5. Being safe and secure while traveling is mostly a matter of common sense. Stay with your assigned buddy and in your group at all times. NEVER go off alone anywhere at anytime. Unit leaders should make sure that this is drilled into the minds of our youth. Keep your eyes and ears open for any sign of suspicious activity around you. If you see something odd....anything that looks wrong....tell one of your unit leaders immediately!

6. The various US Government entities (military, State Dept, etc) are completely aware of our pending visit and have taken numerous steps to protect us in the event of an emergency. The details of these precautions will NOT be discussed with parents or scouts and not many details will be discussed with unit leaders. This is part of the security process. We must trust our authorities to "be prepared" for possible situations and if one occurs, unit leaders will be advised on how to respond and protect our youth. In such a situation, we should not question what we are told to do but just do it. There is no way that we can make a better decision than those trained and responsible for this on a day-to-day basis. Actually, the UK has dealt with terrorism and security concerns much longer than the USA and their citizens are probably much more knowledgeable about this issue than we are. The jamboree site itself will be very secure and that's part of the reason that visitors are being controlled so tightly.....to the point of making some upset. But the jamboree is mainly for the participants, not for the visitors.

7. Finally, here are a few internet links that you can check out for more information about British customs and English words with different meanings between the UK and the USA.....

<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/>

<http://www.know-britain.com/>

<http://www.ukstudentlife.com/Personal/Manners.htm>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_British_words_not_widely_used_in_the_United_States

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_words_having_different_meanings_in_American_and_British_English

ST. GEORGE'S DAY - APRIL 23: Courtesy of unit 212 Scoutmaster Stan Okrasinski, here is some information about St. George, the Patron Saint of Scouting.

"Prepared and alert a Scout follows the lead
Of our Patron Saint George and his spirited steed."
- Baden-Powell in "Scouting for Boys"



*Two Drawings of Scouts in the role of Saint George.
From Baden-Powell, Scouting for Boys (1908)*

SAINT GEORGE AND SCOUTING FOR BOYS

In Scouting for Boys, Baden-Powell wrote of chivalry and the knights of old. He tried to show Scouts a new path to chivalry and honor. Saint George was the Patron Saint of England, and of the Knights of the Garter, the oldest order of chivalry in Europe. They were familiar subjects to most English boys when B-P was writing. Here is what he wrote:

ST. GEORGE

They (the Knights of the Round Table) had as their patron saint St. George, because he was the only one of all the saints who was a horseman. He is the Patron Saint of cavalry from which the word Chivalry is derived, and the special saint of England. He is also the Patron Saint of Boy Scouts everywhere. Therefore, all Scouts should know his story.

St. George was born in Cappadocia in the year AD 303. He enlisted as a cavalry soldier when he was seventeen, and soon became renowned for his bravery.

On one occasion he came to a city named Selem, near which lived a dragon who had to be fed daily with one of the citizens, drawn by lot. The day St. George came there, the lot had fallen upon the king's daughter, Cleolinda. St. George resolved that she should not die, and so he went out and attacked the dragon, who lived in a swamp close by, and killed him.

When he was faced by a difficulty or danger, however great it appeared—even in the shape of a dragon—he did not avoid it or fear it, but went at it with all the power he could put into himself and his horse. Although inadequately armed for such an encounter, having merely a spear, he charged in, did his best, and finally succeeded in overcoming a difficulty which nobody had dared to tackle.

That is exactly the way in which a Scout should face a difficulty or danger, no matter how great or terrifying it may appear to him or how ill-equipped he may be for the struggle.

He should go at it boldly and confidently, using every power that he can to try to overcome it, and the probability is that he will succeed.

St. George's Day is April 23rd, and on that day all Scouts remind themselves of their Promise and of the Scout Law. Not that a Scout ever forgets either, but on St. George's Day he makes a special point of thinking about them. Remember this when April 23rd comes round.

From <http://www.pinetreeweb.com/stgeorge.htm>

SCOUTMASTER'S MINUTE: Recently I decided to watch again the personal video of my 1999 Jamboree in Santiago, Chile. I was once again reminded of just how "magical" the jamboree experience is. A lot of what happens is not planned or even expected. That's called "serendipity." Look it up in your dictionary and you'll see what I mean. But these sort of "magical" things happen time and time again at a World Jamboree.

Often, people around the world have a negative opinion about us, and by "us" I mean those from the USA. This jamboree is your opportunity to show your peers from all around the world that you are as polite and courteous as anyone from anywhere. I hope that all of you will think about your role as an ambassador for the United States of America and consider ways in which you can GIVE rather than RECEIVE. That's the spirit of Jamboree. Giving of **yourself** in friendship to other Scouts from all around the World is the greatest. Swapping patches and other stuff is a lot of fun. But I hope that each of you will go beyond the idea of "what will I get" to the far greater spirit of "what can I give." Be Prepared!

Thank you for letting me share this magical experience with each of you. I can hardly wait!!!

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