

VENTURING MAGAZINE

14th World Scout Moot by Ken King

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Like the better known World Scout Jamboree, there is a companion event at the world level known as the World Scout Moot. Whereas the World Jamboree is programmed to meet the needs of youth from 14-18, the World Moot is designed for young adults, aged 18-25. Eleven BSA members participated, supported by three contingent leadership team members and five moot staff. Overall, 2000 participants from over 80 countries participated in the activities at the 14th World Scout Moot.

Participants at the moot were either Rovers (a program level no longer present in the USA) or in the case of US participants, young adult leaders/Venturers.

Participants were gathered into patrols of eight, with patrols being made up of as many as eight scouts from different nations. In this way, participants were immersed in an intercultural and international experience from the very beginning, as they carried out standard in-camp tasks such as preparing meals in their patrol sites to taking part in a series of adventures both on the camp and in the surrounding area. Patrol contacts were shared in advance of the moot, and patrol members "met" each other in advance of the experience, many forming patrols by social media and becoming acquainted with each other before the event.



Kaitlyn Amidon, Sergio Chavez (Contingent Leader), Brad Ward, Ken King (Contingent Team), Samantha Kostelnik, Joe Venegas, Karissa Malcom, Cyril Focht, Josh Young, Kathryn Meyer, Catherine Ninteman, Austin Powell, Lisa Amidon (Contingent Team).
Not shown from contingent: Matthew Bursley



Participants arrived in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada on August 7. After spending the night at a university residence hall, the formal opening to the moot took place on the grounds outside of Canada's parliament. DAVID JOHNSTON, Governor General of Canada and Patron of Scouts Canada and Chief of Scouts of L'Association des scouts du Canada opened the moot with some sage words on the value of Scouting. After the opening, the contingents departed for the moot campsite.

The World Scout Moot was held near Low, Quebec in Canada at the Awacamenj Mino Scout Reservation. The camp, a heavily forested site in Quebec, featured a large lake and comprehensive waterfront program, as well as opportunities for backcountry adventure. Program took place off

of the campsite as well. Two-day excursions to the cities of Quebec, Montreal, and Toronto were available to participants, and depending on interests, each patrol of participants took part in a program of interest during the urban adventures. Explorations in the cities revolved around adventure, cultural explorations, and service.

Additional program features included day trips to visit the Canadian parliament, museums, zoos, and the like, as well as more traditional outdoor adventures such as white water rafting, climbing, bicycling and additional service opportunities.

Several evenings at the moot featured live music and dancing; for those who preferred a quieter evening, there were various cafes around the campsite featuring a mixture of organized programming and informal conversations among the participants.



Every contingent contributed to carving a totem pole that will remain behind to commemorate the moot.

The final day of the moot involved a morning of reflection and goal setting. Based on the experiences at the moot, participants made a vow to deliver ongoing service in the name of Following the Moot — commitment to service to others under the umbrella of the Messengers of Peace initiative. In this way, the spirit of the moot will live on.

This was the first time that BSA participation allowed for young adult leader (age 21-25) to participate in the World Scout Moot, and all were active and enthusiastic participants. The standard parting comment by participants at the Moot was not "farewell," but "see you in 2017!!!" as they look forward to the 15th World Scout Moot in Iceland.