

VENTURING MAGAZINE

International Opportunities by Craig Murray

March 2013



International education is a key tool for building "bridges" between countries and cultures. In addition, when ordinary people of any age travel outside of the United States for their first time, their view of the world will likely change into a multicultural respect for others, resulting in a stronger worldwide coalition of friendship, understanding and goodwill.

Through scouting, one can get this experience. I know because I did scouting in New Zealand when I was in high school and I have now taken Venturers and Scouts to Brazil (1992 International Jamboree), New Zealand (1995 Venture), Canada (1997 Jamboree), Australia (2000 Venture), Austria (2002 International Hiking Trek), United Kingdom (2007 World Jamboree) and Ukraine (2012 Jubilee).

International scouting experiences can be categorized into three ways for Venturers and Scouts to travel:

1. As an individual Venturer or Scout
2. With a Crew or Troop
3. Serving on European Camp Staff

Individually

Probably, the most common way to get an international scouting experience is by registering with BSA for a World Jamboree. The next World Jamboree is in Japan in 2015. More information about the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in Japan can be found on these two web sites:

1. www.scouting.org/worldjamboree.aspx
2. www.23wsj.jp

World Jamborees are for scouts, both Venturers and Boy Scouts, between the ages of 14-17 and happen every four years. With a four year window, that means every scout will have one opportunity to attend as a youth. To join a BSA contingent, a Venturer or Scout must follow the process that will be provided by BSA International.

World scouting is dominantly coed so if you can attend, I highly recommend going as a Venturer with a BSA contingent Crew. You have that choice and you do not have to be a Venturer to have the choice open to you. At the World Jamboree, there will be exchanges with other countries and it is more fun to be with a coed Crew when you exchange.

Other opportunities are also open to youth through BSA international. These opportunities must get the approval of your council's International Representative but you can read about them on BSA International (www.scouting.org/scoutsource/International/BSAContingent.aspx) and the Events page of the Venturing Magazine.



As a member of the World Organization of Scouting Movement, the Boy Scouts of America gets invited to many international/national events in different countries every year. Often a contingent will be formed for these international events. Once a contingent formation is approved, BSA Scouts and Scout leaders will be selected to join this contingent.

Crew or Troop

Organizing your units own trip takes a lot of work but can save you a great deal of money. After my Crews trip to the International Hiking Trek in Austria, I put up a web page that offers a great deal of help in planning. The address is: www.sageventure.com/venturing/planning.html.

These trips are best done with Crews as the young adults are more mature and ready for travel. Additionally, Crews are smaller and lend themselves to the planning and travel involved. For most of my trips, my wife was my co-leader so it made it easy to travel with our coed Crew and abide by the BSA Guide to Safe Scouting.

The World Organization of the Scout Movement has an events database by country and year from which a BSA unit can select. The web address is:

www.scout.org/en/information_events/events/international_events/events_database

Another location that is highly recommended is Kandersteg International Scout Centre, www.kisc.ch. Kandersteg is a World Centre of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM). The Centre began in 1923 with Lord Baden-Powell, who, after the first World Scout Jamboree, had a dream about a place where all Scouts from all over the world could meet. At Kandersteg, you can plan your own activities from the many activities the centre has to offer.



European Camp Staff

Through the European Camp Staff program, young leaders from the Boy Scouts of America have the opportunity to learn more about Scouting in Europe by working at a European Scout center.

Information about this opportunity can be found on this web page:

www.scouting.org/scoutsource/International/ecamp.aspx

Any of these opportunities are worth sharing with your unit's young adults. The best thing you can do is learn a little more and share the information with your scouts. A PowerPoint slide show that talks about the Venturing Super Activity that may be helpful can be found here:

www.sageventure.com/venturing/expedition/SuperActivity.pps