

# An introduction to Networks



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## Introduction

In the United Kingdom we have experience of Fellowships and networking in support of The Scout Association's International work; these should not be confused with the Scout Network.

The purpose of this factsheet is to provide an introduction to this type of networking by showing the work of the various internationally focussed Fellowships and informal networks giving details on how they function, what they have achieved and what they can do for you.

## An important note...

Before exploring networking further, it is important to note that where adult groups meet together and offer direct support to youth members, particularly in relation to the organisation of expeditions and visits, they need to operate as Scout Fellowships.

However, if they are genuinely informal, in the sense that the adults involved gather occasionally to share good practice and exchange ideas with no direct organisation of activity, then it is not necessary to operate as a Scout Fellowship.

## Types of networks

Networks are human systems which according to Nancy Foy 'need a spider, not a chairman; a list of members, not a set of bye-laws; groups, not committees; and a phone number (or email address) rather than a building'.

Networking can take many forms. The most popular types of networks that we have experience of in the United Kingdom are:

- Country/Region Specific and
- Programme Specific

## Country/Region specific

These are informal networks that support the development or consolidate a relationship with Scouting in specific countries or regions.

Experience in this area includes work between the United Kingdom and:

- African Scout Region
- Arab Scout Region
- Russia
- Central and South East Europe

## Programme specific

These are informal Fellowships that support particular threads of the international element of the youth programme in the United Kingdom.

Experience in this area includes:

- Global Awareness Partnership Project
- UK Kandersteg Fellowship
- Explorer Belt Network
- International Scout Fellowship
- International Camps Review Day

## Future Fellowships

Because networks often come in to existence as a result of reacting to situations, there is always potential for exploring other opportunities, whether it be country, programme or issue specific.

If you have an idea and are keen to establish a Fellowship to achieve a particular aim, contact the International Office to discuss further.

## The Scout Information Centre

Gilwell Park Chingford London E4 7QW Tel + 44 (0)20 8433 7100 Fax + 44 (0)20 8433 7103 email [info.centre@scout.org.uk](mailto:info.centre@scout.org.uk) [www.scoutbase.org.uk](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk)

### More information

If you require more information on any of the Fellowships that are mentioned, please refer to the International pages on ScoutBase for links to relevant websites. Due to the informality of networks, the use of web groups is prevalent, but details can change.

You should also contact your ACC/AAC (International) for more information on the International Fellowships and networks.

If you have an idea for potential networking opportunities related to delivery of the International dimension of the youth programme, please contact:

International Office  
The Scout Association  
Gilwell Park  
Chingford  
London  
E4 7QW

Tel: 020 8433 7100  
Fax: 020 8433 7114  
Email: [international@scout.org.uk](mailto:international@scout.org.uk)

### Country/Region Specific Fellowships

This section provides information on the various networks involved with specific countries/regions:

#### African Scout Region

UK Scouts have had a long history in supporting the development of Scouting in Africa. This support has included fundraising, providing equipment and development projects working with local Scouts.

The UK Uganda Fellowship evolved from the Unite project, which was the first fully cross-Sectional, educational and support project developed by the Scout Association.



Unite was based on a series of sectional books, a fundraising campaign, special badge and a study tour to Uganda. In Uganda, the Scouts implemented the UNICEF immunisation and AIDS awareness programmes.

This increased awareness of African Scouting led many Counties and Areas to use the Region as a venue for expeditions and projects for the older sections such as Venture Scouts and Scout Network. Examples of these links include Gambia, Tanzania, Malawi, Namibia, Uganda, Swaziland and the Great Lakes associations through the Amahoro project.



Rather than create Scout Fellowships to support each individual country, the Association felt it better to provide a single National Scout Fellowship to coordinate efforts but promote the use of networking to optimise support to the members and individual countries and projects.

The Africa Network Scout Fellowship members organise expeditions to the Region and can provide contacts, advice and support to UK Scouts wishing to undertake a project in the area.

For further information contact:

Web: <http://www.africanetwork.org.uk>  
<http://ugandanetwork.org.uk>

#### Arab Region

In late 2005, a party of UK Leaders went on a study visit to Egypt and met with a variety of Leaders from across the Arab Scout Region.

Following this study visit, it was agreed that a National Scout Fellowship (to be called the UK-Arab Region National Scout Fellowship) would be created to provide a forum for those Scout Association members who have an interest in Scouting in the Arab region and those members of Arab Scout Associations who have an interest in Scouting in the UK.

Web: [www.uk-arabfellowship.org.uk](http://www.uk-arabfellowship.org.uk)

## Russia

In 1989, a party of Venture Scouts from Durham visited the Soviet Union. This visit led to discussions between the Committee for Youth of the USSR and representatives of The Scout Association. Venture Scouts and Scouts undertook exchanges in 1990 and 1991.



Following a study visit in 1993, the Russian Network came into existence and the first newsletter was prepared. This evolved into the Network Russia Scout Fellowship in March 2000 and they continue to support relationships with Russia.

They have an established web-based point of contact and hold meetings twice a year to spread good practice, share information and encourage developments in Russia.

For further information contact:

Web: [www.networkrussia.org.uk](http://www.networkrussia.org.uk)

## Central Europe

In the late 1980 's, Scouting in many of the former Eastern Bloc countries started working towards recognition by the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) and existing Scout associations within Europe were asked to support them; the United Kingdom fulfilled a role in supporting these efforts especially in Hungary and Poland.

At the same time, exchanges and activities between the United Kingdom and Poland were being strongly encouraged.



In 1996, Polish Scouting and Guiding regained admission to WOSM and WAGGGS, and efforts to promote and support exchanges and expeditions continued.

For ten years, the Poland Network provided a wide range of activities including organising Explorer Belt expeditions and study visits, arranging the linking of UK and Polish Scouts,

supporting UK Scout Groups visiting Poland and generally supporting the development of Scouting and Guiding in Poland.

In 2006, the decision was made to close the National Scout Fellowship as it was agreed that it had fulfilled its purpose although members of the Poland Network will continue to meet informally.

## South East Europe

In 2004, the UK Scout Association carried out a Study Trip to Serbia and Montenegro. This visit led to the formation of the Serbia and Montenegro network (SAMnet) to promote the country and to provide support to the Scouts of Serbia and Montenegro.

In 2005, members of the network worked with members of the GAPP Network to provide Global Awareness training for young leaders in Serbia as well as providing equipment and hospitality to the Serbia and Montenegro contingent to EuroJam.

Also in 2005, SAMnet formally became a National Scout Fellowship changing its name to the Serbia and Montenegro National Scout Fellowship but continuing its work to promoting exchanges and visits to the countries as well as supporting leader training and activities.

SAMnet has produced a number of factsheets about the Country as well as a number of activity packs giving programme ideas for all Sections based upon the Countries.

Following Montegrin independence in May 2006, the role of SAMnet has expanded and it is likely that it will evolve into a National Scout Fellowship supporting the development of Scouting in the South East European area (Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey).

For further information contact:

Web: [www.samnet.org.uk](http://www.samnet.org.uk)

## Programme Specific Fellowships

This sections provides information on the following networks:

- Explorer Belt Network
- GAPP – Global Awareness Partnership Project
- UK Kandersteg Network
- International Scout Fellowship Network
- International Camps Review Day

### Explorer Belt Network



The Explorer Belt Network is also a fairly recent addition to The Scout Association's International networks.

Following two Explorer Belt

Workshops, and identifying that more focused support and effort is required to allow more young people to take part in Explorer Belt, this non-country specific network came into existence.

By tapping existing knowledge of Explorer Belt, from past participants and those who have helped to organise expeditions, it is anticipated that this network can assist in sharing knowledge, ultimately leading to an increase in the numbers of young people attempting and achieving Explorer Belt

This is now all the more important as Explorer Belt becomes established as a key aspect of the international dimension in the programme for Explorer Scouts and the Scout Network.

The network meets twice a year, providing workshop activities to assist others in the planning and realisation of their expeditions. Occasionally, opportunities present themselves for those engaged with the network to carry forward specific projects focused around Explorer Belt.

For more information contact:

## GAPP – Global Awareness Partnership Project

The Global Awareness Partnership Project (or GAPP) started life in the late 1990's as a joint project between The Scout Association and the National Federation of Young Farmer's Clubs.



Through a number of nationally run training courses, young people were able to develop their knowledge of global issues and train as peer educators (GAPPsters).

They present unbiased information to empower the young people they are working with to make informed decisions and choices.

GAPP produced a resource pack called "Bridging the GAPP" which has a number of programme ideas for sections and GAPPsters have provided activities at district, county and international camps and at events such as Gilwell Reunion.

The members of the GAPP Network are keen to share their experiences and provide support and help in:

- ❑ Providing activities on global issues that can be incorporated into a balanced weekly sectional programme.
- ❑ Providing programme support at Group, District, County/Area and Regional Events.
- ❑ Help establish mini Global Development Village's (GDV's) at International and County/Area Camps.
- ❑ Providing advice on other supporting material.
- ❑ Providing training in presenting 'difficult' global issues in a fun way.
- ❑ Providing help and training for Jamboree Units/Groups planning visits abroad in global awareness.
- ❑ Providing help with training new and existing leaders in international/global issues and Scouting.

For more information contact:

Web: [www.gapp.me.uk](http://www.gapp.me.uk)

## UK Kandersteg Fellowship



The UK Scout Association is one of the largest users of the Kandersteg International Scout Centre, and there are many members who continue to value the time they spent at Kandersteg either as a visitor or as a staff member.

The UK Kandersteg Network provides active support to the Centre, encourages use of Kandersteg by British Groups and co-ordinates activities such as study visits, work teams and refurbishment of the British Room.

For more information contact:

Web: <http://www.kandersteg.info>

## International Scout Fellowship



The International Scout Fellowship is a network that provides an opportunity for members of the Scout Fellowship to be involved with, or continue to support, international activities.

The ISFN also provides a route for those who wish to continue their membership and/or become members of the International Scout & Guide Fellowship (ISGF).

The ISFN provides a forum for those who have an interest in International Scouting and wish to:

- support International projects and initiatives at National, District and Group levels
- promote membership of the International Scout and Guide Fellowship
- promote links with our Branches in overseas territories and with British Scouting abroad

For more information contact:

Web: <http://www.isfn.org.uk>

## International Camps Review Day

Every year, several thousand Scouts from other countries visit the United Kingdom to participate in international camps.

Events such as international camps require significant amounts of organisation and, for some time, the International Team has facilitated informal meetings of the organisers of international camps. This provides an opportunity to share ideas and views on issues as diverse as pastoral care and promotion, through to site services and insurance!

In addition, the importance of the programme for youth participants at international camps is considered, with ideas being shared on how to ensure that programmes are truly international, providing a real, high-quality international experience for all.

The International Camps Review Day usually takes place once a year in late autumn.

For more information contact the International Office: [international@scout.org.uk](mailto:international@scout.org.uk)

## Summary

Interest in the Fellowships continues and meetings regularly attract large numbers of Leaders and young people. The Fellowships encourage good practice and provide advice and encouragement. And they do this in a very cost effective way.