



Branches Bulletin

Information for Branches of The Scout Association around the world

Nov 05

Welcome again!

We're pleased to send you the last bulletin for 2005.

You will see that we are continuing to use a design and layout based on a template provided in the publication *Everyday Adventure* – a copy of which we sent to you last time.

2005 has been a very active year as always: a big element was EuroJam – the largest Scout event in the UK for a long time and the largest in Europe for ten years or more! We were pleased to see the Gibraltar Branch very well represented at EuroJam. Now, we are working on the final plans for the World Scout Jamboree in 2007 – more on this later – and all of the other aspects of the Centenary of Scouting.

It's now only just over a year before our Centenary year starts – a frightening thought! This issue of the Bulletin brings an update on how Scouts and Scouters can mark this very special time in our history – and to look to the future.

Celebrating the Centenary of Scouting – Part One

We mentioned EuroJam earlier – and in many ways this was the opening of the celebrations of the Centenary of the birth of Scouting. Of course, there is the World Scout Jamboree in 2007, but that isn't all. Let's have a look at the other ways in which we shall be marking this special anniversary:

- Join-in Centenary

This will be a year-long programme of activities linked directly to the Programme Zones for each Section, from

Beaver Scouts to the Scout Network. Full information on this will appear in 2006 but a couple of highlights will be:

- +26+ May Centenary Camps

The aim is to have everyone in UK Scouting out and about at the same time – focussed on 26 May but it could be longer (hence the +26+). Groups or Branches could have a day event, an overnight or even longer: it could be indoors or outdoors. In fact the format is for you to decide – just so long as you seize the chance to have a celebration at the same time as everyone else in UK Scouting.

There will be more ideas and suggestions soon, so that you can plan in good time.

- Scouting's Sunrise – 1 August

At 0800 local time, Scouts of all ages will be gathering in their localities throughout the world to renew their Scout promise. This will coincide with two big events in the UK: the World Scout Jamboree and a special world gathering on Brownsea Island with Scouts from all countries camping on the original site of the first camp.

We hope that Branches will be part of Scouting's Sunrise: again some advice will be issued to give ideas on how to set this up.

- Sectional Celebrations

We shall be looking at how we can help Sections to join in some Centenary-themed activities. Watch this space!

There will be four key Join-in Centenary badges. Everyone will be able to wear them! The badges can be worn either on uniform or on a special Centenary scarf that will be available in time for 2007.

1 of 2

Join the adventure

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You may choose to wear the scarf in addition to the Group scarf (tied in a friendship knot and kept as a souvenir).

We hope that this update is helpful. Together, we can all have a great time celebrating our Centenary in our own communities!

Awards for Good Service

We want to make sure that all Scouters who earn an award from the Association receive it as soon as possible. The Awards Board welcomes recommendations. In the first instance they should be sent to the International Commissioner, care of the International Office at Gilwell Park.

There is a booklet giving guidance on making recommendations; this is available to download from:

<http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/hq/awards/applying.htm>

The form to be completed for recommendations is also available for from:

<http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/facts/pdfs/gf.pdf>

Strategy

The last issue of the Bulletin gave some information on our Association's Strategy towards 2012.

We suggested to Branches that they review their development plans in the light of the Strategy, asking themselves some questions, bearing in mind that the biggest challenge for all of us is the recruitment and retention of more adult leaders.

Your comments, reports on successes and feedback generally will be very welcome.

World Scout Jamboree 2007

We want our Branches to be represented at what will be the biggest such event ever! Contact us at the International Office if you want to be involved and we will try to find a way of achieving this target.

Boy Scouts of America National Jamboree

Some members of Caribbean Branches have asked why they cannot take part in this annual event in the USA. If

Chief Commissioners in this part of the world will confirm to us that they would like to take part, we will contact the Boy Scouts of America to see what can be done.

But please note: we will probably only be able to offer one patrol to represent all our Branches in the Caribbean.

Celebrating the Centenary of Scouting – Part Two

The special badge for wear on uniform to mark the Centenary is available through the usual channels. It can be worn immediately and until the end of 2007.

http://www.scouting.outdoors.ltd.uk/acatalog/Scouting_2007.html

Are your Scouts wearing the badge yet? Scouts from all over the world will be. Join them!

