

JANUARY – THE WORLD JAMBOREE!

Music Full then Under

BRYAN: Happy New Year, everyone, and welcome to the January 2018 ScoutCast. I'm Bryan on Scouting blogger, Bryan Wendell.

LEE: And I'm Lee Shaw, Team Leader of National Alliance. We're starting the ScoutCast year talking about the World Scout Jamboree to be held right here in the USA at the Summit!

BRYAN: Sign-ups are already underway, so we're here to talk about why you should register to attend this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Music Fades

BRYAN: We're joined by World Jamboree Team Lead Marty Walsh. He's going to tell us all about the wonders that await at this historic event. So, welcome to ScoutCast, Marty.

MARTY: Hi, guys.

BRYAN: So, I guess the basic question is: what is the World Jamboree?

MARTY: All right. The World Scout Jamboree happens every four years. It's set up by the World Organization of the Scouting Movement and they award it to a National Scout Organization to host it and hold it in their country and invite all of the other National Scout Organizations to attend.

BRYAN: They like take bids and everything like the Olympics?

MARTY: Yeah. Let me explain a little bit. The World Organization of the Scouting Movement is made up of 169 National Scout Organizations throughout the world. For example, the Iraqi Scout Association became a member of this past August, because every three years the World Scout Organization has a World Scout Conference, for adults and in August they had their last conference in Baku, Azerbaijan –

BRYAN: Oh, wow. Find that on the map.

MARTY: I had to find it on the map when I got invited. And so they invite those 169 National Scout Organizations to the World Conference and National Scout Organizations actually put on a presentation to bid to host the World Scout Jamboree. We did that at a few conferences before and we did it a little differently when we went in with Scouts Canada and Scouts Mexico to make the bid as a North American cohosted World Jamboree. (We) made the presenttion to the World Organization and was awarded the opportunity to host the World Scout Jamboree in 2019. Sometimes there are two terms used. There's the World Scout Jamboree 2019, and the 24th World Scout Jamboree; it means the same thing.

BRYAN: I do see both, and I guess 2019 just for convenience so you know what year it's being held, but this is actually the 24th,

MARTY: Baden-Powell actually started the first one in England. The 100th anniversary celebration was also back in England, and in all of these 169 National Scout Organizations throughout the world they have a very strong identification with Baden-Powell and his founding principles, which ironically is probably the only thing in common with all those 169 National Scout Organizations because they're all independent on how they run the Scouting program in their country.

BRYAN: Interesting.

LEE: It is interesting. Hey, Marty, can you tell me what does WOSM mean?

MARTY: WOSM is the World Organization of the Scouting Movement. There are 169 National Scout Organizations that belong to the World Organization of the Scouting Movement, and they come up with the rules and regulations for world events like the World Scout Jamboree. And it's made up, just like the BSA has regions, the World Organization has regions, and those regions are the Inner American, which would be North America, Central America, South America, Europe, Asian Pacific, Africa, the Arab Region, and Eurasia which is small region that only encompasses nine National Scout Organizations. And that's where Azerbaijan is.

BRYAN: Ah, interesting. So an NSO or a National Scout Organization, you said there's 169 of them, and one thing that struck me when attending the 2011 World Jamboree in Sweden was that Scouting is a little bit different in each country so ,what can you tell us about the ways that these National Scout Organizations are different? We know that they all trace their roots

to Baden-Powell but, how are they different and, and what will Scouts see at the World Jamboree about those differences?

MARTY: The differences are in how they organize their programs. Most of them are coed, they also decide the ages of the participants. Now, BSA stops at age 21 with Venturing but many of National Scout Organizations go through age 25 and have a program called Rovers, and they actually have world events called MOOTs, M-O-O-T, which are small Jamborees or Camporees for these Rovers. And they just had one this past summer in Iceland and had hundreds of kids in Reykjavik, Iceland.

BRYAN: Now, can BSA members go there if they –

MARTY: BSA members did go there. Everybody goes as part of a contingent. So, for all of these world events, whether it's the World Scout Conference or Rover MOOT or the World Scout Jamboree, the National Scout Organizations get themselves together as a contingent. Those contingents are made of troops, 40 in a troop, and most countries would be boys and girls. They'll have leaders. They'll have something called contingent management team which would be another set of leaders overseeing the multiple troops they have. And then staff. And in a World Jamboree staffs are called International Service Teams or IST.

LEE: Marty, tell me a little bit about how one, in terms of the National Scouting Organizations, are selected or vetted. How do they actually get to attend the World Scout Jamboree?

MARTY: That's a great question. So, when the World Scout Jamboree location is announced, then that host, and in this case for us it's Canada, Mexico and BSA together, they decide, okay, we now have to invite all of the National Scout Organizations to attend. We did that by putting out two forms. One we wanted the National Scout Organizations to name who would be their head of contingent, which is the individual that we would need to contact. So, remember, in each of these 169 National Scout Organizations, the top volunteer contact is called the International Commissioner. Some of these National Scout Organizations are so small they're totally volunteer run. There is no staff. And in the 169 National Scout Organizations there's nobody that has a bureaucracy like the BSA.

LEE: Imagine that.

MARTY: And I meant that in a positive way. Then we asked them to set up who's going to be their head of contingent, who's going to be the person that the Jamboree would be contacting to get information from, and one of the first questions we asked them is, one, do you want to come, and two, if you'd like to come, how many kids and adults and other volunteers would you like to send as part of your contingent? Then we kind of gather all those together, look at the site – in this case it's the Summit Bechtel Reserve – can we fit them all in the site and can we confirm that allocation with them, because then they'll start having to make their payments to attend the World Jamboree.

BRYAN: A lot of people listening to this will want to know how they can participate, how do they become a member of the International Service Team or go as a youth or adult participant. There's an important distinction that needs to

be made between the what you do as leader of the World Scout Jamboree and the BSA's contingent that's being sent to the World Scout Jamboree, so tell people who are interested in being a part of this where they can get more information.

MARTY: The big distinction is the BSA Scout Canada and Scouts Mexico are the host. We're putting on the event. We're organizing the campsites, making sure there's food available, taking care of health services, putting on programs for the participants; that's our responsibility. The BSA and the other National Scout Organizations have to organize themselves to get to the event, they have to figure out their transportation, select their kids, select their adults, get to the site and continue to maintain the responsibility for the youth onsite. Each National Scout Organization decides how do they're going to do that, how they're going to get to the site, how many kids they're going to have so for BSA kids there is a website available for the contingent to go and find out that information, and actually apply to be either a youth participant, a leader or an International Service Team member.

BRYAN: That website for the BSA contingent is 2019wsj.us.

MARTY: That is correct.

LEE: Now, what are the requirements to attend the World Jamboree, Marty?

MARTY: The World Organization is governed by a World Scout Committee, and one of the first things that they set when they gave us - the World Scout

Jamboree was very clear definitions for what a participant is. To be eligible to be a participant, you've got to be born between July 22, 2001 and July 21, 2005. They want to make sure that the participants are of that 14 to 18-year-old range and have coached us to be pretty strong on that cutoff on the front end as well on the back end. We've got to be very careful on those guidelines so that if somebody is over the age of 18, they should apply themselves to be a staff person or, again, a member of the International Service Team.

BRYAN: That makes sense. Now, what's exciting about this World Jamborees is that for the first time in however long it's going to be here in the United States and –

MARTY: 1967 was the last time it was here in the United States.

BRYAN: Okay, so, it's definitely when we say once-in-a-lifetime event we're not, kidding about that. And the Summit also is the permanent host of the National Jamboree, so since the site is the same what's different between a World Scout Jamboree and the National Jamboree since the location is the same?

MARTY: Programmatically there's a lot of differences. First of all, about 40 to 45% of the participants will be female so that puts a lot of different spins on what the program is. In terms of the World Scout Jamboree, most of locations that the World Scout Jamboree has been held at before, say two years prior to the event, that location is nothing but a field - they're putting in utility lines or those kind of things. This site is already done. That gives us is the advantage of all of those adventure elements that the Summit

has to offer. Most of the adventure elements like in Sweden or Japan were temporary to be taken down. These are permanent high adventure elements which makes the World Scout Jamboree at the Summit much different but also in program there's a lot more socialization. There's a lot more of meeting kids from around the world and getting to know what their culture is like...

BRYAN: That's cool.

MARTY: ... getting to know them as individuals, for example, they'll trade neckerchiefs more than patches. And at the very end the big key element is to trade your uniform shirt.

BRYAN: The whole shirt?

MARTY: The whole shirt, with a kid from another country. So, at beginning of the World Scout Jamboree they'll kind of be separated. They'll be camping by troop. There'll be troops from other countries in their camp area, they get to know each other. But by the end, at the closing show, everybody is mixed together.

BRYAN: So, if you see somebody in a Finland shirt, by the closing show they might not necessarily be from Finland.

MARTY: That's true! (*Laughter*)

BRYAN: That's awesome.

LEE: Wow, that is awesome.

MARTY: There's also a lot of cultural differences that we've got to worry about with the World Scout Jamboree. We've got to make sure that every faith is represented. We also have to make sure that every dietary need that you would find throughout the world can be honored and fulfilled based on what they identify as a need.

LEE: The logistics of this sounds like it's incredible. Probably the most important question I have for you, Marty, is: *ich sprechen sie Deutsch?*

MARTY: No. That's a good question. The official languages of the World Scout Organization is French and English, so at events that they have they'll have those two languages available and then they'll have translation services available, headsets, things like that for whatever other language people might wish to speak. They are going through a process now to identify what their official languages are going to continue to be. For the 24th World Scout Jamboree, because of our association with Mexico, we've said everything is going to be in English, French and Spanish. Now, there'll be other meetings where we'll have translation services available but, yeah, it gets to be quite interesting in making sure people get their needs. We spend a lot of time and effort, for example, putting a website together. The website is in English. You can do a pull-down and change it to French or Spanish. So far, our Google Analytics are telling us that most people, like 75% or more, are coming onto the English site and

staying on the English site, even if they're coming from countries where you would expect them to speak French or Spanish.

LEE: Wow. Either that goes to show just how bilingual the world is or they don't know anything about that drop-down. *(Laughter)*

MARTY: We're thinking it's because English is so dominant now and kids especially in schools are getting English as a language. The statistics on our site are very strong about that they stay on the English side of it.

BRYAN: I know I keep going back to mentioning the 2011 one, since that's my frame of reference, I was there, but the Swedish Scouts spoke better English than I did when I was there, I had no meeting people. I think the Americans are some of the only people who are monolingual.

MARTY: That's true.

BRYAN: I'm really interested in the other ways that we're accommodating, as Americans, our guests from other countries. You mentioned food and languages. Are there any other ways that we're welcoming them in special ways to the Summit?

MARTY: There'll be all kinds of activities where we're going to try and foster that getting to know kids from other countries as part of the program so that we can tear down those barriers. In the campsites, for example, they're not exclusive to a country. There might be a troop in one campsite and the

neighboring campsite might be from Africa next to somebody from an Arab country.

BRYAN: So, not all the BSA troops are camping together. You camp within your troop, but you won't necessarily be next to another American troop.

MARTY: Well, not necessarily. 10,000 of the 45,000 are going to be from BSA, so, that's not guaranteed but that's the plan.

BRYAN: That means three out of every four people you meet or more is going to be from a completely different country, a chance to make a new friend from somewhere else in the world.

MARTY: That's correct.

LEE: I think I trump that with this question: how much does it cost? *(Laughter)*

MARTY: There a fee that we charge National Scout Organizations to get into the door, but then each National Scout Organization has to add onto that fee for the transportation of their Scouts to and from, how much touring they're do. For me to put out a fee for National Scout Organizations is really not good because they've got to determine their own fee. The BSA has determined their fee based on not having any tours, going directly from home to the Summit and then back again, but there are other National Scout Organizations like the UK where some of their troops are going to

New York City, some of them are going to Washington, DC. They're going before, they're going after, and that adds a lot to the cost.

BRYAN: But it makes sense if you're coming across the ocean that you'd want to check out some of those sites and, make a three-week visit out of it.

MARTY: And part of our responsibility is helping them get to the site, so we've designated three points of entry. If they get themselves to the Yeager Airport in Charleston, West Virginia, the Douglas Airport in Charlotte, or an Amtrak train station called the Prince Train Station close to the Summit. If they get their contingents of those three locations, we'll pick them up by bus. If they want to come anywhere else, then they're on their own.

BRYAN: Right. So as far as keeping in touch with what's going on about the World Scout Jamboree as it nears, tell us about the website and tell us about social media, how we can keep track of all the exciting developments as 2019 nears.

MARTY: Good. We talked about the website in three languages, and that's at 2019dsj.org. We also have a Facebook account, "2019 WSJ," a Twitter account, again "2019 WSJ," and an Instagram account, again "2019 WSJ."

BRYAN: Makes it easy.

MARTY: We've got three young people from each of the three cohosts, so three from Canada, three from BSA, three from Mexico, who are just phenomenal youth, and they are the face of the Jamboree for us. And one of the first tasks they took on besides making the presentation to get the bid is they've taken on the social media aspect of the pre-Jamboree and they've done a phenomenal job keeping up the Facebook site.

LEE: That is awesome. You've covered so much material here; I know our listeners are thrilled to find out just as much as they have in terms of what this is really going to look like with the World Jamboree. Marty, is there anything else that you think our listeners should know?

MARTY: Let's talk a little bit about how do I - I'm an adult - so how do I become a staff member? You do that through your National Scout Organization, so any adults that are from BSA that are interested in serving as staff, you would register on the website, you would indicate what your three levels of interest are, and then you would go into a queue where you could be selected by the staff leader of one of those areas to serve on their team. And that's a very different process than what previous World Jamborees have done. In previous World Jamborees this International Service Team would arrive and then be given an assignment onsite which would mean they would have no contact with their leadership prior to that Jamboree, and they wouldn't know what they were doing. And they may get a job that doesn't reflect their skill set or their interest. There are stories about doctors making sandwiches as opposed to being a doctor where they really needed their help. So, we're trying to change that and set a different tone, and using a model that BSA has been using for the National Jamboree where if you're an adult, you register, you tell us your interest,

you go into a queue and hopefully you'll be selected based on your skill set.

BRYAN: So, you're pairing the right person with the right job.

MARTY: That's correct.

BRYAN: Well, Marty, thank you so much. We're all really looking forward to the 2019 World Scout Jamboree, and we want to thank you for coming on this ScoutCast and letting our listeners know all about this exciting event. I don't have to tell you, it's going to be here before we know it, right?

MARTY: Yes, it will.

BRYAN: The countdown is on.

LEE: Hey, listeners we'll be right back with Reminders and Tips right after this brief Safety Moment.

(Safety Moment – Unauthorized Activities)

LEE: It's time now for Reminders and Tips. Family Friends of Scouting, also known as FOS, is an annual, council-wide presentation conducted in every pack, troop, crew, team, ship, or post between the months of November and March. The Family FOS Campaign asks parents, families, and alumni to consider financially supporting the Scouting program.

BRYAN: This effort offsets the cost of providing Scouting to your child, so if you haven't already done so, contact your District FOS Chair for more details. Your support and participation in the Family FOS program in your unit is crucial for its success.

LEE: In this month's *Boys' Life* magazine, get tips from the Gear Guy on how to buy a sleeping bag.

BRYAN: And be sure to pick up the January-February issue of *Scouting Magazine*, as the cover story explores how the Montana Council puts on a big ski weekend for its Scouts at a fraction of the cost.

BEGIN MUSIC UNDER

BRYAN: So that's it for the January ScoutCast. Thanks again to our guest, Marty Walsh, for joining us.

LEE: And thank you for listening. Be sure to come back next month as we will reflect on the importance of why your Scouts should consider being a Den Chief. With that, I'm Lee Shaw.

BRYAN: And I'm Bryan Wendell. If there are other topics you'd like to hear about on ScoutCast, be sure to let us know. We're available by email, Scoutcast@Scouting.org or tweet us. We're @bsaScoutcast. We would love to hear from you.

Music full to finish