

THE TOP NINE STORIES

1. World Scout Jamboree 2011

International Commissioner Wayne Perry has announced that the promotional material for participation by BSA members in the 2011 World Scout Jamboree (WSJ) will be released during the BSA's National Annual Meeting in May 2009. Tour plans for BSA contingent members are nearly finalized. Details of how to apply for staff positions should be available from the host country in the coming months. The 2011 WSJ will be held in Rinkaby, outside Kristianstad, Skåne, Sweden from 27 July – 7 August 2011.

2. BSA Uniform Exchange Update

Dr. Sandy Weinberg, Chairman of the BSA's Uniform Exchange Program, wants council International Representatives (IRs) to know that it is not too early to begin thinking about collecting "slightly used" uniforms that could be sent to Scouts around the world. The BSA's massive effort to collect uniforms for Scouts who cannot afford one will be ready to kick off in the early part of this year. Weinberg has also announced that FedEx has volunteered to help provide shipping of the collected uniforms. Many thanks go to Advisory Council Member James Morris and the Crossroads of America Council of Indianapolis, Ind., for the assistance in securing the help of FedEx.

3. SAJ/BSA Exchange Program

A reminder to all IRs: It is not too late to submit nominations for Scouts and leaders to participate in the SAJ/BSA Exchange Program planned for the summer of 2009. Once again, only nominations made by IRs and International Committee members will be considered. Email Esther Scoggins at Esther.Scoggins@scouting.org to request nomination forms.

4. Philmont 2009

Dan Ownby, Chairman of the 2009 Philmont Conference, reports that space is still available for your local council IR to attend this special event. A reminder that the session is only open to those IRs recognized by the International Department who have not attended an International Philmont Conference since becoming an IR. Email us at international@scouting.org if you are interested in attending the conference. Registration will be through Philmont's new online registration process. We will forward those registration procedures to the interested IRs as soon as they are requested.

5. International Camp Staff and European Camp Staff Programs

BSA's International Department is currently accepting applications from young people around the world to work in BSA summer camps during 2009. Only local councils that have an IR are entitled to participate in this program. IRs are encouraged to contact their camp directors to be certain the necessary application and paperwork have been filed with the International Department in order to participate in the [International Camp Staff Program \(ICSP\)](#).

Members of the BSA, ages 18-30, are given the opportunity to serve as counselors in European Region Scout camps and training centers as part of the [European Camp Staff Program \(ECSP\)](#). The counselor pays for personal roundtrip air transportation. Room and board are provided in camp in addition to accident and illness insurance.

If you have any questions regarding the ICSP or ECSP, contact Lisa Marquis at Lisa.Marquis@scouting.org

6. Ticket to Life sponsor visits a troop for the first time

From www.scout.org by Theresa Quine

On 17 January 2009, Scott Teare, Director of BSA's International Department, visited one of the troops in the Philippines under the Ticket to Life project (TTL) for children under difficult circumstances, which is partly funded by the United States Foundation for International Scouting (USFIS). Scouts welcomed Teare with the song, "Welcome to the Family." This was the first time that a TTL sponsor visited the troop under this project.

During his stay with the Scouts, who regularly meet at the Our Lady of Remedios Parish in Manila, he talked to the Scouts and gave away souvenirs. In return, the troop demonstrated whistle and hand signals and dramatized the Scout Law. Also during the visit, the Thrift Programme was introduced where Scouts were given a piggy bank and encouraged to save Php1.00 a day so that they can drop Php5.00 during Troop meetings. Out of this, a child can save an estimated Php200.00 until December 2009, that would enable him/her to attend the upcoming 26th Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Jamboree or have it as his/her personal savings. Before he left, Teare promised to come back for the Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Jamboree in December and will bring more

2009 Events

Executive Board & Committee Meetings
 9-11 FEB

SAJ/BSA Exchange
 7-16 FEB

National Annual Meeting
 20-22 MAY

Philmont International Representative Training
 13-17 JUL

Executive Board & Committee Meetings
 12-14 OCT

2010 Events

BSA National Jamboree
 26 JUL – 4 AUG

neckerchiefs for each Scout on the condition that they fill up their piggy bank. He said “by (*wearing*) the scarf, I want the whole Jamboree to know that you and I are friends.” In this visit, Boy Scouts of the Philippines TTL Coordinator Sophia Castillo, Unit Leader Jeff Alitagtag, Council Scout Executive Efren Reyes and BSP national office staff Serge Averion accompanied Teare. Regional office representative Director Syd Castillo also joined.

7. United States Fund for International Scouting

The International Committee annually appoints a five member committee to serve as directors of the United States Fund for International Scouting (USFIS). This fund provides project money for National Scout Organizations, World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) regions and the World Scout Bureau (WSB). A summary of the grants for 2008 are as follows:

Scout Association of Panama	Ecological Youth Center Field Project – installation of water well
Scout Association of the Philippines	Rehabilitation of Makiling Camp
World Scout Foundation	Balance of office move costs not covered by World Scout Foundation budget
Scout Association of Georgia	Publication of first Georgian Scout Handbook and Air Conditioner for Batumi Office
Asia-Pacific Region	APR Ticket to Life: (Phase III) - Street Children Project
Eurasia Region	ExcelScout – Training focused on “ Social Integration of Children and Youth from Migrant’s Families; Social Volunteer Service in Scouting”
National Organization of Scouts in Moldova	Adult Leader Training
Interamerican Region	Regional study for new location
World Scout Foundation/Bureau	WOSM Branding Project/2nd payment on 2006 grant
Interamerican Region	Publications grant for Scout section
Interamerican Region	Publications grant for Venture Scout section
Sri Lanka Scouts Association	National Scout Camp Rehab Project in Mirigama, Sri Lanka - Phase II
Scouts de Colombia	Better Colombia Project – training leaders

8. Direct Service

By Natalie Brown, Direct Service Committee Member

Living in Shanghai, China, provides some unique camping opportunities for members of Troop 969. On 7 November 2008, a group of 32, including 17 Boy Scouts, four Cub Scouts, and 11 adults embarked on an experience of a lifetime, camping at the Great Wall of China.

The trip started at the Shanghai North Train Station for an overnight train ride to Beijing in sleeper cars. The train ride itself was just the beginning of a fabulous adventure with the Scouts spread throughout the train car playing cards, eating snacks and enjoying fellowship. The group arrived in Beijing at 7 a.m. Saturday, where a bus was waiting to take them on the two-hour drive to the Great Wall.

After arriving at the Wall, the Scouts set up camp, quickly ate a warm lunch and prepared for the hike on the Great Wall. The section of the Wall where the Scouts hiked was a remote area that had not been restored, which made the hike quite challenging with narrow paths, falling rock and wobbly stones. It was a very cold, cloudy and blustery day, but the exertion of the hike rapidly warmed up the group. Everyone felt a huge sense of accomplishment to reach the historical tower where the Scouts paused for photos before the trek back down.

The day concluded with a traditional Boy Scout campfire complete with skits and songs. It was hard to leave the warmth of the campfire when it was time for sleep as the temperature had dropped to below freezing. But as Scouts should be, they were prepared!

The following morning, the Scouts awoke to a beautiful frost-covered field and a bright blue sky. The intense sun and a hot breakfast helped warm up the chilled Scouts. With a little time to spare, the Scouts went for a second hike on the Wall and more photos under the clear skies. What a fantastic day!

After a quick lunch, the group boarded the bus for the return trip to Beijing and then a two-hour flight back to Shanghai. An amazing adventure for all! You know how you know when you’ve had a great trip? When everyone asks, “When can we go again?!”

9. U.S. Mint to Produce BSA Silver Dollars

From *ProSpeak* by Colin French, BSA Foundation

In recognition of BSA’s 100th Anniversary in 2010, the Boy Scouts of America Centennial Commemorative Coin Act (H.R. 5872) was signed into law by President George W. Bush. It was introduced by U.S. Rep. Pete Sessions (R-Texas) and championed by Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Alabama). Minting of the 350,000 silver dollar coins will occur between 8 February 2010, and 1 January 2011. For each coin sold, there is a \$10 surcharge – representing a \$3.5 million donation – that will be made available to local councils in the form of grants for the extension of Scouting in hard-to-serve area. These funds will become available after the coin sales are completed, probably in late 2010. Grant request requirements and guidelines will be developed by the BSA Foundation and shared with local councils in advance of fund availability. The design of the coin will be selected by the Secretary of the Treasury after consultation with Chief Scout Executive Bob Mazucca and the Commission of Fine Arts. It will also be reviewed by the Citizen Coinage Advisory Committee.

For more information:

Visit
www.scouting.org/international

Email
International@scouting.org

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