

THE TOP TWELVE STORIES

1. Cronk elected World Scout Chairman

The highlight of the 38th World Scout Conference held in July on Jeju Island, South Korea, was the election of the BSA's Rick Cronk as Chairman of the 12-member World Scout Committee. Cronk, the BSA's immediate past president, was first elected a member of the World Scout Committee, and then was selected by his fellow committee members to serve as chairman. His term of office will end with the 2011 World Scout Conference in Brazil. Cronk, a Life Scout as a youth, has been a life-long volunteer for the BSA, served as Chairman of the World Scout Foundation, and now holds the highest volunteer position in World Scouting today.

2. Historic agreement with Saudi Arabia

The BSA's Chief Scout Executive, Robert Mazzuca, recently signed an agreement with the Saudi Arabian Scout Association that outlines a long-term exchange program between the two Scout associations. It was agreed that groups consisting of 24 Scouts and four leaders each will visit between the associations. The aim of the agreement is to reach up to four visits each year.

International Representatives are encouraged to nominate outstanding Scouts and leaders from their council. If you know of outstanding youth between the ages of 15-18 and leaders that should be considered for a Saudi exchange opportunity, please nominate them NOW. International Commissioner Wayne Perry has announced that only nominations made by International Representatives or members of the BSA's International Committee will be considered for this exchange opportunity.

Additionally, councils are needed to host visiting Saudi scouts. The hosting responsibility will include summer camp and home stay programs. If your council is interested, please send a brief email to Esther Scoggins at Esther.Scoggins@scouting.org

3. BSA Uniform Exchange

Dr. Sandy Weinberg, a member of the BSA's International Committee, has been named Chairman of the BSA's International Uniform Exchange Program. The program will allow Scouts and leaders to send slightly used uniforms to Scouts around the world who cannot afford the uniform of their local Scout association. Details of the collection/distribution process are in the works. Dr. Weinberg hopes to launch the full program in early 2009.

4. New SAJ/BSA Exchange Program announced

The Scout Association of Japan has just announced a second exchange program to take place in the summer of 2009. Once again, only nominations made by International Representatives and members of the BSA's International Committee will be considered. Email Esther Scoggins at Esther.Scoggins@scouting.org to request nomination forms.

5. Philmont 2009

International Committee Chair Kent Clayburn has named BSA's International Committee member Dan Ownby as Chairman of the 2009 Philmont Conference. BSA's Janine Halverson and Lisa Marquis will serve as staff advisors. Two special international guests have been invited as guest faculty. The 2009 session is open only to those International Representatives recognized by the International Department who have not attended an International Philmont conference since becoming an International Representative.

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

If you meet the criteria above and you have not received your 2009 Philmont Conference invitation, please contact Janine at Janine.Halverson@scouting.org. The invitations requested that you contact International at International.Division@scouting.org if you are interested in attending the conference. This will hold your spot. Registration will be through Philmont's new online registration process. We will forward those registration procedures to the interested International Representatives as soon as they are available.

6. Kandersteg honor

In September, a BSA contingent made a visit to the Kandersteg International Scout Center. While at the center, there was an unveiling ceremony of a special bronze plaque recognizing past International Commissioner Dick Burdick and past International Committee Chairman Jerry Voros for their commitment to world Scouting. Dick and Jerry were affectionately known as the BSA's version of the "Odd Couple." Virtually loved and respected by everyone they met, their contributions to International Scouting will long be remembered and we appreciate their sense of honor and commitment to young people.

7. 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 International Representative are entitled to participate in this program. International Representatives 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.

Members of the Boy Scouts of America, 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. 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 International Camp Staff or European Camp Staff Programs, please contact Lisa Marquis at Lisa.Marquis@scouting.org.

8. Interamerican Regional office to move?

News flash: (*beep, beep, beep*)

The BSA's International Department has just received word that the Interamerican Region Committee is considering moving its regional office from Santiago, Chile to Panama City, Panama. Only the first step in this process has been taken and we will keep you informed as additional details become available.

9. Direct Service

Direct Service Chairman John Pyfer recently announced that 73 Scouts have earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 2008, with an additional two expected before year's end. This is 13 more Eagle Scouts than 2007. For more about Direct Service around the world, John encourages you to go to www.directservicebsa.org

10. Michigan International Camporee

The MIC is hosted by the Chief Okemos Council, BSA. Around 800 Scouts, from 26 countries, gathered for eight days of international friendship and fellowship at the Chief Okemos Council's Northwoods Scout Reservation. The 2008 event was another great success. Thanks to Bruce McCrea for his efforts and enthusiasm to bring World Scouting to Michigan. For additional information go to www.micamporee.org/

11. Irish Visitors

(contributed by Ann Foley, International Commissioner for Ireland)

One of our troops is going to be in New York 13 March 2009. They are a musical troop and the band will be playing in the St Patrick's Day Parade. They are the 1/2/3 Fermanagh. The 61 Scouters will be staying at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn, N.Y.

12. National Scout Jamboree

Letters have been sent to 39 National Scout Organizations inviting them to join us in celebrating our 100th Anniversary of Scouting at A.P. Hill in 2010. We will be able to bring in 480 Scouts and leaders from around the world to share "The Best, Most Exciting, Fun-Filled, Safest Jamboree Ever!"

For more
information:

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