

# A Short History of World Scout Jamborees

## 1<sup>st</sup> WORLD JAMBOREE – 1920 *Develop World Peace*



### Olympia, London, England

8 000 Scouts from 34 countries represented at the roll call. The location was a huge glass-roofed building covering six acres. The concrete floor had to be covered with earth for competitions. Some non-Scout participants: an alligator from Florida, a baby crocodile from Jamaica, a lioness cub from Rhodesia, monkeys from South Africa, a baby elephant and a camel.

Baden-Powell is acclaimed the 'Chief Scout of the World'. He said, "If it be your will, let us go forth from here fully determined that we will develop, among ourselves and our boys, a comradeship through the worldwide spirit of the Scout brotherhood, so that we may help to develop peace and happiness in the world and goodwill among men." Main 'wet' camp was at the Deer Park in Richmond..



## 2<sup>nd</sup> WORLD JAMBOREE – 1924 *World Citizenship*



### Ermelunden, Copenhagen, Denmark

Innovations: a week's home hospitality for Scouts after the event; the World Scout Championship. Problems: too many visitors and a deluge! B-P named 'Baden Meister' (Danish for 'bathing master'). 4 549 wet Scouts from 33 countries are accommodated by the public for a night. Awards for different contests distributed by B-P at the Copenhagen Stadium. This Jamboree showed that Scouting was not just a game, but that it made a significant contribution towards education in world citizenship.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> WORLD JAMBOREE – 1929 *Coming of Age*



### Arrowe Park, Birkenhead, England

The coming of age Jamboree celebrating Scouting's 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary. 69 countries represented by 50 000 Scouts (320 000 visitors!). B-P blew the kudu horn at the opening. The first Scout Promise. B-P became Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell. Also the 'Jamboree of Mud'. A golden arrow and a hatchet were buried. Gilded wooden arrows were presented to national contingents. B-P said, "Now I send you forth to your homeland bearing the sign of peace, goodwill and fellowship to all your fellow men. From now on the symbol of peace and goodwill is a golden arrow. Carry that arrow on and on, so that all may know of the brotherhood of men."

## 4<sup>th</sup> WORLD JAMBOREE – 1933 *Face New Adventures*



### Gödöllő, Hungary

25 792 Scouts in camp from 48 Countries. The Jamboree daily paper was printed in Hungarian, English, French and German, with contributions in other languages. The unofficial language was 'Jamboreese', which consisted mostly of signs emphasized by a happy smile. Each foreign contingent was provided with a 'cousin', a local Scout who could help them with the Hungarian language.

Air Scouts participated for the first time. First issue of commemorative Scout stamps. The Jamboree badge: the white stag of Hungary. B-P said, "You may look on that white stag as the pure spirit of Scouting, springing forward and upward, ever leading you onward and upward, to leap over difficulties, to face new adventures."



## 5<sup>th</sup> WORLD JAMBOREE – 1937 *Lead Happy Lives*



### Vogelensang, Bloemendaal, Netherlands

A total of 28 750 Scouts from 54 countries. Daily displays took place in the arena. Girl Guides used the arena to welcome Lady Baden-Powell, now the World Chief Guide. This was the cleanest Jamboree yet: 120 showers and 650 water taps. 71 bridges over the canals intersected the entire site. B-P was eighty years old. On presenting the Jamboree emblem, a Jacob staff, B-P said, "Now

the time has come for me to say good-bye. I want you to lead happy lives. You know that many of us will never meet again in this world."



## 6<sup>th</sup> WORLD JAMBOREE – 1947 *Jamboree of Peace*



### Moisson, France

24 152 Scouts present from 42 countries. Ten years since the last Jamboree due to World War II and B-P had died in 1941. Loudspeakers were an unpleasant innovation of the time. Indian Scouts celebrated their country's independence. 'Challenges' were part of the programme. The final march was in the formation of a Carrick Bend (the symbol of the Jamboree). At the opening ceremony Scouts marched in by countries; at the closing ceremony each sub-camp formed the unit, and bore at its head the many flags and banners of the Scouts of all the countries represented in the sub-camp.

## 7<sup>th</sup> WORLD JAMBOREE – 1951 *Jamboree of Simplicity*

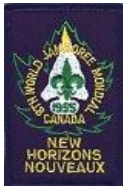


### Salzkammergut, Bad Ischl, Austria

12 884 Scouts present from 37 countries. Simplicity was the keynote of this Jamboree. Seven towers were erected, each recalling a previous Jamboree. As the name of each was announced, a flag was hoisted on one of the towers and the song of that Jamboree sung. It was the first time that German Scouts were able to take part in a World Jamboree as full

members of the World Organization. One Scout attended from Japan. He knew no language other than his own and the word 'Jamboree', yet he made the journey with no problem. The sight of Scouts waving the welcome flags at the airport told him that he had arrived at the right place.

## 8<sup>th</sup> WORLD JAMBOREE – 1955 *New Horizons*



### Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada

The first World Jamboree and first international Scout gathering to be held outside of Europe. Total of 11 139 participants from 71 countries present. Many firsts: all cooking done over charcoal; television came to a World Jamboree; so did Hurricane Connie! Unusual arrivals were two whaling boats which were sailing up the river from Montreal through the Rideau Canal and across Lake Ontario; three Brazilian Scouts arrived by jeep; New Zealand Scouts who left home four months before the Jamboree started and travelled over 45 000 Km (30 000 miles). The greatest impact: Canadian hospitality.

## 9<sup>th</sup> WORLD JAMBOREE – 1957 *50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Scouting*



### Sutton Park, England

The Jubilee Jamboree celebrating Scouting's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Over 30 000 Scouts from 80 countries were present. First to incorporate a Rover Moot and an Indaba. The year of B-P's centenary. An amateur radio station operated from camp. A Scout from Pakistan hiked all the way to get there. There was a 24-page camp newspaper the 'Jubilee Journal'. And then, traditionally one might say, there was the night of the great storm – 'Jamborain'. An obelisk was erected at Sutton Park to commemorate this anniversary of Scouting and remains to this day. Olave Baden-Powell concluded the Jamboree with, "The end is only the beginning." Yes, the beginning to many things.



## 10<sup>th</sup> WORLD JAMBOREE – 1959 *Building Tomorrow Today*



### Los Baños, Laguna, Mt. Makiling, Philippines

The first World Jamboree in the Far East. 12 203 Scouts from 44 countries present. Theme: 'Building Tomorrow Today'. Half a million visitors in one day. 'The Bamboo Jamboree', a Nipa Palm and Bamboo City. The meeting of Occident and Orient; a revelation to both. The Filipino smile was unforgettable. In view of weather conditions at previous Jamborees, French Scouts, well prepared for all contingencies, marched past giving a splash of colour in yellow raincoats. A World Jamboree is not really the arena shows or campfires. The real Jamboree takes place in the hearts of Scouts from many lands.

## 11<sup>th</sup> WORLD JAMBOREE – 1963 *Higher and Wider*



### Marathon, Greece

14 000 participants, 86 countries. Theme: 'Higher and Wider'. The Greek Crown Prince and Chief Scout opened the Jamboree. Classical history came to life: the Marathon runner, the labours of Hercules, the triathlon. Tragedy struck the Philippines' contingent who all perished in an air crash. Jamboree flags were lowered in commemoration. At the closing, the Marathon torch was handed to an American Scout to be rekindled at the opening of the Twelfth World Jamboree.

## 12<sup>th</sup> WORLD JAMBOREE – 1967 *For Friendship*



### Farragut State Park, Idaho, U.S.A.

The first World Jamboree in North America. 12 011 participants from 105 countries. Theme: 'For Friendship'. Arena shows, Skill-o-Rama, adventure trail, water activities on Lake Pend Oreille, the thrills and spills of a real Western Rodeo, all amid the splendour of the Rocky Mountains.

## 13<sup>th</sup> WORLD JAMBOREE – 1971 *For Understanding*



### Asagiri Heights, Fujinomiya, Japan

23 758 participants from 87 countries. Theme: 'For Understanding'. Many varied activities in camp made colourful by oriental decor set against the background of Mount Fuji. Perfect weather at the start and finish, but Jamboree No 13 is remembered for the typhoon in the middle. Owing to the severe flooding of some sub-camps, 16 000 Scouts had to be evacuated for 48 hours. Excellent emergency plans by the Japanese Scouts and unforgettable hospitality by temporary hosts.

## 14<sup>th</sup> WORLD JAMBOREE – 1975 *Five Fingers, One Hand*



### Lake Mjosa, Lillehammer, Norway

Popularly named 'Nordjamb '75'. 17 259 participants from 91 countries were present. Theme: 'Five Fingers, One Hand', symbolizing the five joint Nordic hosts and the five world Scout regions in one brotherhood. Hiking in the mountains in international patrols, activity areas, Nordic trail, superb choir, visit to Maihaugen Cultural Museum, and all the fun at the Jamboree Country Fair. His Majesty the King of Norway opened the Jamboree, which was also visited by His Majesty the King of Sweden and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Morocco.

## WORLD JAMBOREE YEAR – 1979 *(Jamboree cancelled due to Middle East conflict in Iran)*



The world is the place and the time is the whole year of 1979. Instead of one Jamboree, the World Organization announced the 'World Jamboree Year' in order to multiply by thousands the spirit of a Jamboree by holding several World Jamboree Year camps and countless Join-in-Jamboree activities all over the world. The Join-in-Jamboree symbol represented the waves of friendship that rise from international gatherings of Scouts and flow around the world spreading the spirit of the Scout brotherhood. The Fifteenth World Jamboree, scheduled for 1979 in Iran, was cancelled.

**15<sup>th</sup> WORLD JAMBOREE – 1983** *The Spirit Lives On*



**Kananaskis Country, Alberta, Canada**

On the slopes of the great Rocky Mountains near Calgary, 14 752 Scouts from 102 countries gathered in Kananaskis Country. Theme: 'The Spirit Lives On'. The Jamboree marked the closing of celebrations for the 75th Anniversary of the Scout Movement, and the 125th birthday of its Founder, Lord Robert Baden-Powell. Jamboree activities took full advantage of the rugged mountains and the excitement of the Wild West.

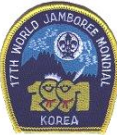
**16<sup>th</sup> WORLD JAMBOREE – 1988** *Bringing the World Together*



**Cataract Scout Park, Sydney, Australia**

14 434 participants from 84 countries present. Theme: 'Bringing the World Together'. First World Jamboree held in the Southern Hemisphere. First official event of the Australian Bicentennial celebrations. Highlights: Challenge Valley obstacle course, the most gruelling and the most popular activity at the Jamboree; the Great Aussie Surf Carnival, for which all Scouts were shuttled in over 50 buses to Thirroul Beach.

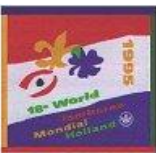
**17<sup>th</sup> WORLD JAMBOREE – 1991** *Many Lands, One World*



**Mt. Sorak National Park, Soraksan, Korea**

Almost 20 000 participants, representing 135 countries and territories, made it the largest representation in World Jamboree history. Theme: 'Many Lands, One World'. Scouts from Czechoslovakia and Hungary participated as members of the World Scout Movement for the first time since 1947. Contingents from places where Scouting is restarting or starting were also there: Bulgaria, Byelorussia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia, Ukraine and Yugoslavia. First Global Development Village in the programme. The Jamboree was visited by Korean President Roh Taw-woo, His Majesty the King of Sweden and His Royal Highness Prince Moulay Rachid of Morocco.

**18<sup>th</sup> WORLD JAMBOREE – 1995** *Future is Now*



**Flevoland, Netherlands**

28 960 participants and staff from 166 countries and territories, including 34 countries where Scouting is starting or restarting. This representation of countries is the largest ever. Theme: 'Future is Now'. Highlights: Jamboree Friendship Award, Inter-religious ceremony on violence and peace, 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Development Village (GDV) with the support of Scout associations, NGOs and UN specialized agencies, in particular UNHCR and UNICEF. Celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations by a Scout Forum and communication by satellite with UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. The event was officially opened by Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and her husband Prince Claus. The Jamboree was visited by H.M. the King of Sweden, Princess Basma of Jordan and Mrs. Sadako Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, who inaugurated the Global Development Village.

**19<sup>th</sup> WORLD JAMBOREE – 1999** *Building Peace Together*



**Picarquin, Chile**

The Andean foothills served as a backdrop for the first World Jamboree ever held in Latin America, and the last Jamboree of the century. It was officially opened by Chilean President Eduardo Frei. 31 000 Scouts, leaders and staff from 157 countries and territories attended. The theme 'Building Peace Together' was reinforced by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Development Village which was bigger and better than ever with the involvement of 11 United Nations agencies, and by the signing of an anti-personnel land mine agreement between Handicap International and World Scouting. This was a Jamboree that emphasized the education of Scouts about the world and its problems and it demonstrated how Scouts can and do make a difference. Operation Los Andes, with contributions from many contingents, made possible the Jamboree participation of 56 countries and territories. For the first time, Amerindian Scouts from Latin America participated in a Jamboree, through assistance from UNESCO.

**20<sup>th</sup> WORLD JAMBOREE – 2002/3** *Share our World, Share our Cultures*



**Sattahip, Thailand**

From 28th December to 8th January 2003, 25 600 Scouts, Girl Scouts and Guides from all over the world, 147 countries, camped together in a tented city at Sattahip, 50 kilometers east of Bangkok, on the coast with beautiful white sand beaches and clear sea water. 'Share our World, Share our Cultures' was the theme of the Jamboree, and the emblem depicted a Thai roof with the World Scout Emblem centered on it. One of the highlights of many was when Betty Clay, daughter of B-P, spoke at the close of the Jamboree. "If you go out from here and remember my father's advice to you to live up to your Promise and Law always, then you will lead the happiest life possible, just like he did."

**21<sup>st</sup> WORLD JAMBOREE – 2007** *One World, One Promise*

**Hylands Park, Chelmsford, Essex, England**



From 27th July to 8th August 2007, this was the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Scouting since Brownsea Island with the theme 'One World One Promise'. The Centenary logo represented the sunrise on the new century, the environment, our 100<sup>th</sup> year, the World celebration of 2007 and peace, our mission. This jamboree was the first where all 155

Scouting Countries in the World were represented at one single event. It was also the biggest Scouting event ever held with the largest number of 41 431 members (and over 50 000 day visitors) present. Guinness Book of Records declares Scouting the largest Youth Organisation in the World. A commemorative One World Garden is established on site. The jamboree where 'Jambo-Hello' broke all barriers.



**22<sup>nd</sup> WORLD JAMBOREE – 2011** *Simply Scouting*



**Rinkaby ('Village of Champions') - in southern Sweden**

With forests and beach nearby, close to Kristianstad, in the province of Skåne, from 27 July to 7 August 2011. The theme will be 'Simply Scouting' with the focus on key elements of interest. It is hoped that an estimated 30 000 will be in attendance.

**23<sup>rd</sup> WORLD JAMBOREE – 2015** *A Spirit of Unity*  
**Kirara Beach, Japan.**



**24<sup>th</sup> WORLD JAMBOREE – 2019** *Hands Across the World*  
**Coney Island, Singapore.**

