



Hi everyone,

We're now well into the new Scouting year and it's been great to see so many sections participating in great programme. As always, I really appreciate everyone's efforts in making it all happen.

There are a couple of things in this edition that I wanted to draw your specific attention to:

1, Census

The timescales for gaining access to the census system are changing this year. Passwords and access to the system will all be available before Christmas. I hope that this reduces the last minute rush and gives more time to do this accurately in what I know is a busy time of year. This year there are a couple of areas I'd like us to concentrate on:

- **Diversity data.** We traditionally see a lot of returns saying "prefer not to say" - more than you would expect. Gilwell are asking all counties to try and improve on this because it helps us understand what additional support can be provided to make us even more inclusive.
- **Members moving between sections.** Young people who are currently moving between sections, for example Beavers to Cubs and Scouts to Explorers must still appear on census. Please can you make sure that they don't slip through your net?
- **Young leaders.** We have a great young leader provision in Nottinghamshire. It's really important that we have the best possible data to support this. We'll be issuing more information on how and when to record young leaders to try and help.

2, Transformation

It's now full steam ahead for the national changes that will make volunteering with us easier and more enjoyable. To get us ready for this we need everyone to make sure that their e-mail address is correct on Compass. This involves making sure your primary e-mail is marked as "volunteering" in your profile and is unique to you – for example it can't be GSL@... or a shared e-mail. We also need you to check that you have a phone number registered on Compass and that your training record is correct.

We've already run 1 county webinar on transformation and are running another 2. It would be great to have you on the call:

- **9 November, 18:30-19:30:** <https://tinyurl.com/yuyxaca9>
- **15 November, 19:30-20:30:** <https://tinyurl.com/2sxsfsj>

3, Mandatory training

Thank you for everything everyone is doing to make sure all our members have the correct mandatory training. I know it can sometimes be challenging, but it is one of the key ways in which we can keep both ourselves and young people safe. Information on mandatory training can be found at <https://training.notts-scouts.org.uk>

Thank you for everything you are continuing to do!

Steven

County Commissioner - Nottinghamshire Scouts

Nottinghamshire Scouts—Oak Awards 2023

On the 29th October we took some time to recognise and thank adult volunteers from across the County for their 'Outstanding Service to Scouting' at our annual #CountyOakAwards

Congratulations to all of the individuals and Groups who were nominated by their respective District Commissioners for their outstanding service!



The awards were presented to either Groups/Sections or Individuals from across the 9 Districts of Notts Scouts.

Groups

3rd East Kirkby Cubs, 2nd Ranskill, 2nd Brinsley Underwood, 1st Daybrook and Woodthorpe, Central Notts Squirrel Drey, 26th Nottingham, 1st Clipstone, 6th Newark, 3rd West Bridgford and 2nd East Leake.

Individuals

Richard Jackson, Sam Everitt, Elaine Long, Rod Pilkington, Ian Orme, Adam Blakey, Julie Bentley-Housden, Amy May Johnson, Pete Stevenson, Keith Morris and Alistair Bow.

The adults from the UK contingent of the 2023 World Scout Jamboree along with the County members of the International Support Team were also in attendance receiving their Commissioner's Commendation Awards from Steven Tupper.



Review of the World Scout Jamboree - Korea 2023!

On Saturday 29th July, 36 Young People and 4 Leaders of the Nottinghamshire Oaks Jamboree Unit met at Walesby Forest Activity Centre, ready to embark on a 19-day adventure to Korea and join up with 44,000 Scouts from around the world for the 25th World Scout Jamboree. The coach was soon loaded, goodbyes were shared (along with some tears) and the 20-hour journey commenced!

Spirits and humour were in plentiful supply, and we soon arrived at Heathrow airport and after a smooth and uneventful check-in, it was soon time to board our Qatari Airways flight to Doha. We arrived in Doha late into the night and after refuelling with local refreshments, it was time for the connecting flight to Seoul, a flight time of around 9hrs. The Unit landed in Seoul at 5.30pm local time and after clearing customs and arrivals, we started our journey to the Pre-Jamboree hotel in Gangnam by the local tube network.

After a great night's sleep and an all-you-can-eat breakfast, it was time to go off and explore the city of Seoul – which we did for 2 days taking in the sights of Gangnam, including Psy's Hand Statue (him of Gangnam Style fame!), a Buddhist Temple, local food shops and many, many other places!

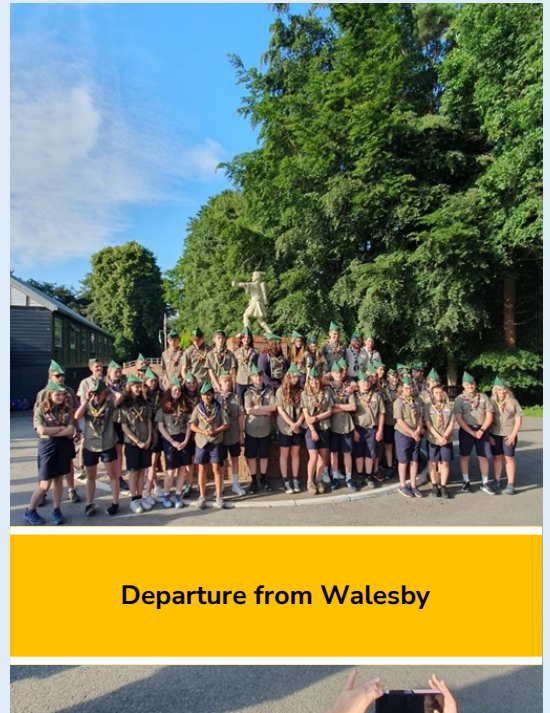
Tuesday ended with us being given the news that we were not going to the WSJ site as planned on Wednesday for various reasons but we would be there on Thursday. Then, the leaders were given the news that our Unit were being held back for a further 24hrs and that there was the possibility we would miss the Opening Ceremony. Despite the obvious disappointment and upset, the whole Unit rallied together to keep spirits up!



We quickly put up the remaining tents and walked for 50 minutes to the opening ceremony (the site was huge at 7.5km wide!), arriving just as Bear Grylls entered the stage!

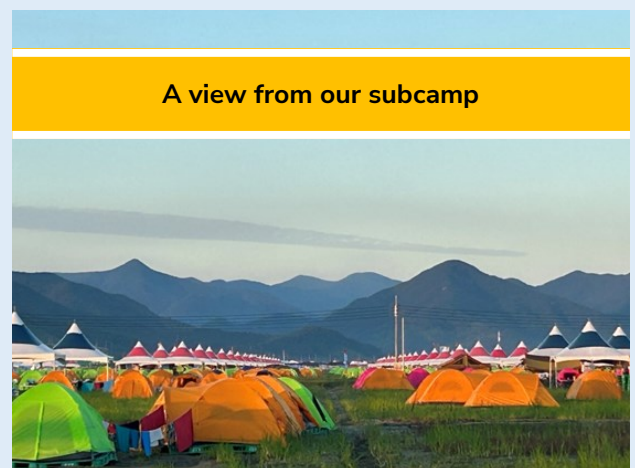
After some speeches, the entertainment started, and we partied late into the hot night with Scouts from around the world and we even made it onto the live stream of the event being held on YouTube.

The heat, even late into the night was energy sapping and also made the tents unbearable after 6am, so we were up early for our first day onsite. Thursday morning was activity free until we went offsite in the afternoon for a visit to a Korean film set and a welcome soaking from the Korean fire service!



We woke up on Wednesday morning to the great news that we WERE going to the WSJ as planned and would hopefully make the Opening Ceremony, so we packed our bags in eager anticipation!

After a 2-hour coach journey and a stop at the most wonderful service station, we arrived onsite just after 7pm. We took our bags to our campsite and we were so grateful that a USA Unit and some UK IST had put up 18 of our 22 tents for us – a true testament to teamworking and the Scouting ethos!



The heat was touching 50°C on the Friday which meant that all onsite activities were cancelled, so we spent the day trying to keep cool, find shade and swap badges and neckers with Units from other countries. Then, that evening, we were given the devastating news that the UK Contingent had decided for many reasons, that all 90 UK Units would be taken off the WSJ site over the next two days and taken back to hotels in Seoul for the rest of the WSJ. After a few tears at the shock news, the Unit pulled together with support and hugs, then they decided to make the most of it and went out partying with our subcamp neighbours – Units from Egypt, USA, The Netherlands and the UK.

Saturday was a subdued day as we travelled back to Seoul and our hotel that was to be our base for the next 10 days – we were sharing with several other UK Units, so we had chance to make new friends and swap more badges and neckers. Nevertheless, we had a fantastic time exploring Seoul, taking part in activities around the city, meeting foreign Scouts, trying traditional food and experiencing the friendliness and generosity of the Korean people who were so apologetic for letting us down – this was certainly not the case!

On our final Saturday, we went to the Seoul World Cup Football Stadium for a fabulous Closing Ceremony, with all 44,000 Scouts that were at the Opening Ceremony, and we were treated to a brilliant K-Pop concert and fireworks – we couldn't see them as they were let off behind the stadium, but they did sound good...



National War Museum

The Demilitarised Zone border (North Korea)



Then, in the blink of an eye, it was time to go to the airport for our journey home – our 19-day adventure was close to an end. It might not have been the Jamboree we signed up to, fundraised for and expected, but it was such a great, lifechanging, skill and resilience building trip that we will never forget and will remember as one truly amazing adventure!

Nottinghamshire Oaks – Unit 16!



Archie, Lucas and Jake at a Buddhist Temple

At the North Seoul Tower with the Welsh Unit



In reflection...

The WSJ main entrance



The 36 young people have been an absolute credit to us all and truly have had a wonderful time representing Nottinghamshire Scouts at the World Scout Jamboree this summer. Here is what they have had to say about their Jamboree experience....

'I loved the Jamboree! Even through the unprecedented circumstances, the resilience shown by everyone was amazing and the atmosphere and sense of community was brilliant!'

Grace, 1st Farnsfield.

'The Jamboree has given me a great deal of confidence in myself and has given me the chance to meet wonderful people from all over the world.'

Lori, 14th Worksop.

'I thought the Jamboree was a brilliant opportunity to push me out of my comfort zone in terms of meeting people. Although we only had a short time at the actual site, I am still in touch with many friends from across the world, such as Egypt, Brazil, Netherlands and Koreans, which definitely broadened my knowledge of cultures and gave me people who I definitely plan on meeting during my travels in the future.'

Poppy, 1st Shelford and East Bridgford.

And finally...

A massive thank you must go to our unit leadership team! Despite the reports we all will have heard in the media about the Jamboree this summer, the Nottinghamshire Unit returned home with positive stories to tell and big smiles on their faces. This is down to the dedication, commitment and perseverance of PK, Kate, Ed and Gavin, who should be super proud of what they have achieved together, considering the unprecedented circumstances they faced in Korea.



Kate, Ed, PK and Gavin at Legoland



Challenge Walks

20th January 2024



The NESST challenge walk is back! What better way to kick off another Scouting year, than with one of our famous walks in and around Sherwood Forest?!

NESST are a team of volunteers from Nottinghamshire Scouts who provide professional services for Scouting and our local communities. Each year the team organise a series of challenge walks to test our Scouts' navigation and teamwork skills in a fun adventure around Sherwood Forest.

The hikes on offer are:

Beaver Ramble: A 1.5 mile hike around Walesby Forest, starting at approx. 12pm

Cub Ramble: A 4-5 mile hike around Sherwood Forest, starting at approx. 1:30pm

Short Challenge Walk: A 10 mile hike around Sherwood Forest starting at approx. 7pm into the night

Long Challenge Walk: A 18 mile hike around Sherwood Forest starting at approx. 6pm into the night

NB: The two challenge walks are open to Scouts, Explorers, Guides, Senior Section, Network, Recognized Youth Organisations and Adult Leaders.

All hikes are taking place on Saturday 20th January 2024 from Walesby Forest Activity Centre.

More information, including the team application forms, can be found on our website <https://nesst.org.uk/our-walks/>. The deadline for applications is Sunday 14th January 2024. If you have any questions or queries, please email challengewalk@nesst.org.uk

We look forward to seeing you on the walks. Are you up to the challenge?



Nottinghamshire Scout Charity Shop



QTS Group is one of the UK's leading Rail Contractors, providing specialist services in Rail Engineering, Infrastructure, Electrification, Design and Training. But did you know, they are also good at sorting through rails and serving customers in our Charity Shop. Kyle and Mick are pictured doing just that.

QTS is committed to adding value to the communities they live and work in and with one of their HQs being next to the Notts Scout HQ, they wanted to help where possible. QTS also supported the Nottingham Gang Show in 2023.

Join the NSGSO / NSGCB

Do you play an **orchestral** or **concert band** instrument to grade 4 or above?
Will you be aged between **12 and 25** by next August?
Are you a **Scout** or **Guide**?

Then we want to hear from you!



The National Scout and Guide Symphony Orchestra and Concert Band meets every **summer** for a week of rehearsals, workshops and social **activities** alongside **professional** conductors, sectional tutors and Scout and Guide leaders. The week culminates in **concerts** in the Birmingham area. Around 130 members join in this fabulous music week.

Applications are open from September each year.



For more information including dates, costs and the application form go to:

nsgso-nsgcb.com

or email info@nsgso-nsgcb.com





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year!

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Charity Shop

The Notts Scouts Charity Shop in Sherwood, is run by a fantastic group of volunteers, who raise money for Scouting in Nottinghamshire.



How do we train our Leaders without charging them? This is just one of the areas, the money raised by this shop helps with.



The shop is open Wednesday to Saturday each week, 10am to 4pm.

Each day, two sets of volunteers, (10am to 1pm and 1pm to 4pm) look forward to meeting the customers who visit the shop. Many of the volunteers do a slot each week, some once every two weeks and some once per month.

If you cannot spare the time – donations are gratefully accepted.



Would you like to join them? If, yes, contact the County Office on 0115 952 3617 or email office@notts-scouts.org.uk

Sherwood Scout Shop – 606 Mansfield Road, Sherwood.