

LEARN ABOUT INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING OPPORTUNITIES ON THE MICHIGAN CROSSROADS COUNCIL WEBSITE

Michigan Crossroads Council International Committee

October 29, 2023, revision

Scouting is the world's largest youth movement. This is a guide to ways Michigan Crossroads Council (MCC) unit leaders can help MCC Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, and Sea Scouts experience International Scouting and to resources and links on the International Scouting page of the MCC website you can use to make that happen.

Go to the MCC International Scouting home page at <https://michiganscouting.org/international-scouting/>

If you don't have that link handy, follow these three steps:

Step 1. Go to the MCC website at <https://michiganscouting.org/>

Step 2. Move your cursor to PROGRAMS in white print on a black background near the top.

Step 3. In the dropdown that appears, click on INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING.

Once you are at the MCC International Scouting home page, look at what is there.

At the top are links to the four main sections of the web page:

1. **INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PACKS, TROOPS, AND CREWS**
2. **INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR TROOPS AND CREWS**
3. **INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUAL YOUTH AND ADULTS**
4. **INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING AWARDS**

Those links are followed by a link to the latest revision of this document and the statement "For more information, please contact us at international@michiganscouting.org." Email messages sent there go to several members of the MCC International Committee. One of us will reply and the others will be copied with that reply. You are encouraged to use that resource.

Then, next to a photo, is a list of **USEFUL INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING LINKS** that includes links to the World Scouting website, the BSA International Scouting homepage, and the BSA International Committee's "Unit Guide to World Scouting - Program Ideas for Bringing World Scouting to Units" which is an excellent resource for packs, troops, crews, and ships.

As you continue to scroll down, you reach **1. INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PACKS, TROOPS, AND CREWS**

Every year on the 3rd weekend of October, MCC Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, and Sea Scouts have the opportunity to participate with more than 4 million Scouts from over 150 countries in World Scouting's **Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)** and **Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI)**. In the JOTA, Scouts communicate with each other on amateur radio. In the JOTI, they communicate on the Internet and participate together in online activities. JOTA and JOTI are great introductions to International Scouting! Registration opens well before the event and is free to both units and individuals! You can order JOTA/JOTI patches from the MCC Scout shop.

SUPPORTING REFUGEES & FOREIGN NATIONALS IN THE BSA is another part of this section. It explains how refugees and other foreign nationals living in the USA can join BSA packs, troops, crews, and ships, and can receive credit for advancement completed in other countries, and how BSA packs, troops, crews, and ships can support refugees around the world.

2. INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR TROOPS, AND CREWS, focuses on opportunities for contingents from individual troops and crews and combined contingents from neighboring troops and crews:

2a. to camp with Canadian Scouts in a weekend international camporee in Michigan.

2b. to camp with Canadian Scouts at a weekend international camporee or a weeklong jamboree in Canada.

2c. to travel overseas and participate in a jamboree in another country that lasts a week or more.

Because the MCC is close to Canada, the first part of this section is on traveling to Canada and camping with Canadian Scouts. The two nearest Scouts Canada weekend international camporees resumed operating in May 2023 after 3 years off because of Covid-19. There are links there to pdf files with information on:

(a) those and other cross-border camporees and the week-long 2024 Pacific Jamboree in British Columbia

(b) documents and procedures required for contingents from BSA troops and crews to travel to Canada.

(c) steps BSA units must take to meet new Scouts Canada requirements to participate in their events.

All 3 are important in planning a trip to a Scouts Canada camporee or jamboree. If you are planning a trip to a BSA - Scouts Canada weekend camporee in Michigan, you only need (a). If you are planning a high adventure trip to Canada that does not involve Canadian Scouts, you only need (b).

The second part, TRAVEL OVERSEAS WITH SCOUTS AND VENTURERS, covers opportunities for contingents from BSA troops and crews to participate in jamborees and stay at international Scout centers in other countries. It includes information with links to websites for some great opportunities in the summer of 2025 including several county international jamborees in England, and the Norwegian National Jamboree. You can often arrange to share a campsite at an overseas jamboree with a local Scout group and borrow tents and other group equipment from them. Now is the time to start planning for a summer 2025 trip! The MCC International Committee will be glad to help you in your planning.

At the end of the section is MICHIGAN INTERNATIONAL CAMPOREE

The Michigan International Camporee (MIC) is the largest council-run multinational Scout event in North America. In 1997, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, and 2016, contingents of Scouts and leaders and volunteer staff members from countries around the world came to Michigan for a hosting week with Michigan Crossroads Council troops and crews and then a week camping together with Scouts, leaders, and staff members from the Michigan Crossroads Council and other BSA councils in a miniature World Scout Jamboree. Covid-19 and other factors caused the Michigan International Camporee to be placed on hiatus. There are links there to videos and photos from past Michigan International Camporees.

3. INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUAL YOUTH AND ADULTS explains:

A. How an individual BSA youth or adult can become a member of the USA contingent to a world or regional Scout jamboree or moot.

WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE - In a World Scout Jamboree (WSJ), tens of thousands of Scouts from all over the world come together to camp outdoors and join in fun activities where they make new friends, learn about other cultures, and develop leadership skills that will last a lifetime. Participants in WSJs are ages 14 through 17 at the time of the jamboree. They participate in the jamboree experience, including travel to and from the jamboree and sightseeing, as members of jamboree troops. Members of Scouts BSA troops, Venturing crews, and Sea Scout ships who will be in the specified age range at the time of a WSJ may apply to be a member of the USA contingent to that WSJ. BSA adults may apply to be USA contingent troop leaders or members of the WSJ staff, which is called the "International Service Team (IST)." WSJs are held once every 4 years. The next WSJ will be held from July 30 to August 8, 2027, in Poland. It is not too early for someone who will be 14 through 17 years old then to start thinking about it!

WORLD SCOUT MOOT - Participants in World Scout Moots are ages 18 through 25 at the time of the moot. As “adults,” they arrange their own transportation to and from the moot and plan and organize their own sightseeing. Moot participants from different countries are formed into international patrols well before the moot and meet virtually as a patrol to make patrol plans. World Scout Moots typically have patrol activities in different locations in the host country during the first part of the moot and then have all the patrols gather at a central location for the second part of the moot. The next World Scout Moot will be held from July 25 to August 3, 2025, in Portugal. There are useful links in the Moot section of the webpage. Send an email to international@michiganscouting.org to be notified when applications are open and to make contact with other MCC moot participants who might be interested in traveling together.

REGIONAL SCOUT EVENTS - There are sometimes BSA contingents to regional jamborees or moots in the InterAmerican Region or the European Region of World Scouting. None is currently on the calendar.

B. How an individual adult can volunteer to serve on the staff of an international Scout Center or a jamboree in another country with links for more information

The BSA European Scout Voluntary Program offers older Venturers and young leaders ages 18 to 30 the opportunity to learn more about Scouting in Europe by spending at least 6 weeks of their summer volunteering at a European Scout center. This program is offered by 24 different Scout Centers in 11 different countries.

Any registered BSA member who will be 18 or older at the time of a jamboree held by a National Scout Organization in another country that is a member of the World Association of the Scout Movement (WOSM) can apply to be a member of the jamboree’s International Service Team (IST). There is usually an IST fee.

4. INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING AWARDS, covers BSA awards that involve International Scouting:

The **World Conservation Awards** involve both advancement and project work to encourage all youth members to think globally and act locally to preserve and improve our environment. There are separate requirements and patches for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, and Venturers/Sea Scouts.

The **International Spirit Award** has different requirements for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA/Sea Scouts/Venturers, and Scouters. The patch is the same regardless of which set of requirements is completed.

Below the information on those two awards is a link to a plan for a group of Scouts BSA to each earn the World Conservation Award and the International Spirit Award in one program year,

An **Interpreter Strip** is a small patch indicating that the wearer knows a language other than English. The language he or she speaks appears on the patch in that language, “Español” for Spanish, “日本語” for Japanese, etc., so speakers of that language can easily spot a willing interpreter.

Through good turns and community service, Scouts are making the world a better place and spreading a culture of peace. The **Messengers of Peace** ring emblem recognizes that. The single Messengers of Peace ring emblem was replaced with three different levels of the Messengers of Peace award in May 2023. The link provides extensive information on this new Messengers of Peace program.

The **International Scouter’s Award** encourages adult Scouters to broaden their involvement in Scouting through participation in world Scouting activities and recognizes Scouters for their contributions to world Scouting with a patch showing a square knot with purple and white ropes.