



Scouting Around the World

FEBRUARY 2021

Baltimore Area Council International Committee

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Upcoming virtual meeting date: 14 April 2021

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B-P Bits:

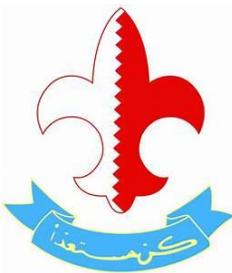


In 1918, as WWI was coming to a close B-P expressed his wish to establish a training school for leaders, and also to provide a campsite for the Scouts of east London. William MacLaren, a wealthy Scottish businessman, had offered to pay for a site. Gilwell Park was discovered thanks to a tip from local Scout Leader and bird watcher, John Gayfer. It was a derelict 55-acre estate that had been empty for 15 years. While on an American lecture tour, B-P received a telegram about the discovery. He told Nevill, the East London Commissioner, to purchase it and on his return, he visited immediately. Despite pouring rain, B-P's face lit up when he realized that his dream for a home for Scouting, where his vision could be lived out, was to become a reality at last.

Collectors' Corner: Country Scout Emblems - these make a great beginning badge collection



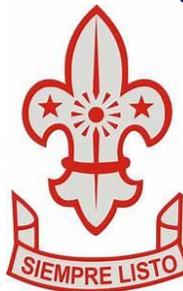
India



Qatar



Nepal



Peru



Australia



Greece



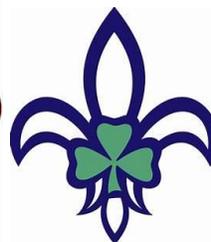
Malta



Philippines



Ethiopia



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Maldives



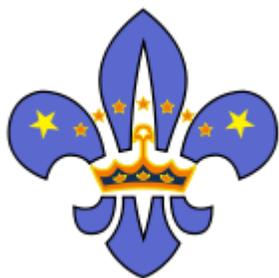
Montserrat

BEAR GRYLLS SIGNS ON AS CHIEF AMBASSADOR OF WORLD SCOUTING UNTIL 2022



As a well-known global adventurer, Bear has been a role model for Scouts around the world for many years and has inspired millions to get involved in outdoor educational activities. Bear also serves as the Chief Scout for The Scout Association in the United Kingdom. "It is truly such a privilege to be renewing my role as Chief Ambassador of World Scouting and do my part in promoting the amazing work Scouts do across the globe as a true force for good. This past year with the global pandemic has really highlighted the importance of Scouting values, whether it be community spirit, being kind to your neighbour or learning new skills and adapting to change. Thank you for your faith in all we can do together," said Bear Grylls. "My role with the Scouts has shown me first-hand the power of volunteering and how it impacts society for the better. The Scouts and Scout leaders across the globe are shining examples of the good that comes from giving up a little bit of time each week to help and inspire others."

Scouting in Tajikistan



Scouting started in Tajikistan in 1991, by two young citizens, one a Christian and the other a Muslim, following their participation in the Congress of the Federation of Russian Scouts that met in Saint Petersburg. In spite of the civil war which broke out in May 1992, Scout troops took root in Dushanbe and in Khujand, far from the conflicts. The return to relative calm at the beginning of 1995 allowed the expansion of Scouting into the countryside through the rural school system. A Scout troop has even been created in the prison for youthful offenders in Dushanbe. Starting in April 1992, a national Scout association was gradually formed with the help of the Eurasian Region. Ittihodi Scouthoi Tojikiston was officially registered in October 1993 and is the only non-governmental youth organization which is structured and active in the country, enjoying the support of the authorities, notably the National Commission for UNESCO and several foreign development agencies represented in the country. Ittihodi Scouthoi Tojikiston's credibility is largely due to its openness to all ethnic and religious groups, and also to its efficiency and effectiveness in working under very difficult conditions with extremely limited resources. notably the National Commission for UNESCO and several foreign development agencies represented in the country.



CROATIAN SCOUTS RUSH TO HELP THEIR COMMUNITIES AFTER A DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE

Only 9 months after a powerful earthquake hit the Croatian capital Zagreb, another more devastating earthquake struck central Croatia in the last days of 2020. With a magnitude of 6.2 by Richter scale, many villages and cities in central Croatia have been partly or totally destroyed.

As all the emergency services rushed to help the people in need, Croatian Scouts were among the first to reach the struck areas. They have set up rescue camps and temporary shelters to host evacuated people and field volunteers. In emergency situations, the Croatian Scouts operate under the Civil Protection Directorate. Their ongoing relief work involves logistics and camp management and other relief services. They also assist other emergency departments in food distribution. Scouts with other specific technical qualifications, help in search and rescue operations, mountain rescue operations using drones etc. "Our Scout volunteers operate in very harsh conditions in rain and freezing temperatures. Cold, wet and muddy working conditions are an unfortunate normality to them. Yet, it is a race against time to provide all the people with food, shelter and other needed aid." Said Dan Spicer, Chief Executive Officer of the Croatian Scouts. Scouts from Zagreb, Rijeka and Split regions have formed Scout auxiliary teams as part of the civil protection agencies. They have been operating in the earthquake-struck areas from day one. Other Scouts and units from other cities and regions are collecting aid, building materials and organizing the distribution to the people in need. "As this severe situation caused massive damage and loss of human life, it also united Croatia in providing help to the people in need. We are very proud for all our Scout volunteers to be among the first to come to the rescue of their communities. The Scout scarf has become a symbol of helping and serving the community and all of us wear it with pride." Dan added.

If you want to see some great pictures of Scouts around the world in action, visit the World Scout Bureau site and select Media. There you will see a button for Flickr albums.

If you're interested in learning more about international Scouting in the BAC, please attend our next virtual International Committee meeting on April 14th at 6:45 PM [Click here for Zoom info](#) or email Joe Scott at Joe.Scott33@gmail.com.