

Dear Wendy

Here is a report of my 22nd World Scout Jamboree international trip.

Denmark

Copenhagen was superb. Our accommodation was the Wake-Up Copenhagen hotel, which had at least 12 floors and 1,000 members of the UK contingent staying in it. During both days in our patrols we were typical tourists, exploring and discovering the historic city. The first night was a visit to Trivoli Gardens (a theme park) and the second was the party we had all been waiting for. The evening was presented by Matt Littler and Darren Jeffries and the group Alphabet performed, who were amazing, along with other tribute bands.

Sweden

What an adventure that I'm never going to forget - from swimming in a lake to climbing up a tower (which was an adventure in itself as I don't like heights.) From the top you could see over my sub-camp Autumn. The view was absolutely amazing. The word amazing doesn't even begin to describe the Jamboree itself, as it was a life changing experience which when you start recalling memories from the event and try to describe them, you become speechless!

The theme was Simply Scouting which was anything from learning about culture to discovering how our world works and most importantly why.

There were 5 module activities that were compulsory to attend:

- 1) Dream- An activity that started at midnight and took you through the circle of life but starting with death.
- 2) Quest- This included running through the forest, and exploring the wildlife and heart of the forest.
- 3) People- We learnt about cultural diversity. Also we got to create our own city- including rules and how to communicate.
- 4) Earth- Here we got to discover a bit more on how our planet works. As a patrol we purified water and worked with wind and soil.
- 5) Camp in camp- This was brilliant for so many reasons the first one being because they put us on a coach and didn't tell us where we were going until we arrived. I think there were about 50 sites and we could have ended up on any of them. We travelled and camped with just our patrols and not units. This was nice not only to have some space away from the whole Unit but when we got back we had lots of stories to share. Our American neighbours from site had 3 out of 4 of their patrols on their site but it was still good! On our sub-camp here we were hosted by Norwegians and also shared with Japanese. During our stay we went canoeing, joined in with craft activities and went swimming in the muddy lake.

The actual jamboree site was massive. It included an immense 39,000 members of Scouting and Girlguiding. It was split into the 4 seasons and Spring was just for IST (International Service Team.) I was part of Autumn. Within each sub-camp there

were 6 sub-sub-camps. I stayed on Bohuslan. This is a province in Sweden where you can fish for the famous crayfish that are feasted on in Autumn.

Slovakia

Here I stayed with a lovely family who made myself and my 2 other friends from the Essex contingent feel very welcome in their home for a few days. They lived in a town called Pezinok an hour outside of Bratislava. Just like in Copenhagen we were tourists exploring and learning the history of the city. We used lots of transport; cars, buses and trams not forgetting walking.

I am now looking forward to the Jamboree re-union to meet up with the Essex Contingent and recall our many memories. Anybody that has the chance to go to an International opportunity should take it; I almost didn't and would have made a massive mistake. At first the fundraising is daunting but it is definitely worth it.

The whole experience was phenomenal. Thank you for supporting me.

Rebecca Mills



Me and my best friend Sam