

The World Scout Jamboree

I was lucky enough to be one of the 18 Bucks guides selected to go to the 22ND World Scout Jamboree in Sweden. At the time of my selection I had no idea what the Jamboree was, and was fairly nervous about going. However after nearly two years of planning and meeting with my unit, I was now very excited to be going!

I was in a unit with 9 of the Bucks guides and a group of 27 Greater London South West Scouts and 4 leaders. We had 4 training camps to get to know each other and find out what Jamboree was all about. By the end of these we had all made lots of new friends and were raring to go.

We left on Monday 25th July, however as we had to be at Heathrow for 3am, we stayed overnight in a local scout hut. After a night of very little sleep, we were up at 2am to start our journey. We were coached to Heathrow where we waited for check-in to open before eventually getting on our flight to Copenhagen, Denmark.

We spent 2 full days in Copenhagen, exploring the city and meeting for the first time with the whole of the UK contingent. We took part in activities such as bowling, body combat, zumba and parcour, as well as being treated to a night in Tivoli garden theme park, a power boat ride and an amazing party with all 4000 of the UK scouts.

We were up early the next morning and began our journey to the Jamboree site! Some very nice Swedish scouts helped us to unload our bags and we walked to our campsite. The weather was absolutely glorious! We pitched our tents and sorted all our equipment out and then settled down for our first night at the Jamboree. The opening ceremony was amazing, with fire dancing, acting, live bands and even Bear Grylls! The arena was huge as it had to hold all 40,000 of us!

We then spent 10 days at the jamboree doing different modular activities. These were "People" and "The Global Development Village" where we learned about lots of different cultures; "Quest" where we solved problems and mazes as a patrol; "Earth" where we made wind turbines and learned about our

surroundings; “Dream” which was a journey backwards through our life during the night; and finally “Camp-in-Camp”. This was when we went off-site for 2 days and joined in with a group of German scouts who were camping nearby. We did activities with them such as tie-dye and ballistics, and experienced some traditional German tents!

As well as all these activities we also had loads of free time to enjoy the other on-site activities such as the food houses, cultural challenges, bungee trampolines, water zorbing and even a Finnish Sauna!

Towards the end of the Jamboree, we had a Cultural Day. For this we set up our site to display true British culture, in our case serving Tea and Marmite sandwiches! We then had the day free to walk around the site and explore different cultures food and activities.

The closing ceremony was incredible. It was set up around a circular stage with all of us sat around all sides of it! There was more dancing and singing and then their official pass over to the Japanese for the 23rd Jamboree. After then packing up our camp and taking down all the tents, we said a very sad goodbye to the site and headed off to Poland.

Each unit was taken to a different country to stay with the local Scouts. We had an amazing time in Poland doing water skiing, museum visiting, bike rides and rounding it all off with a fire poi display by our hosts.

Overall I had an absolutely incredible time and would thoroughly recommend the experience to anyone. You may have your doubts now, but it truly was a life-changing experience and I wouldn't have swapped it for anything in the world!

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