

# **Your Pack, Troop, Crew, or Ship Can Participate in World Scouting's**

## **JAMBOREE ON THE AIR (JOTA)**

**International Committee, Michigan Crossroads Council BSA**

**September 1, 2023**

World Scouting's Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA) and Jamboree-on-the-Internet (JOTI) are held every year on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of October, October 20 to 22 in 2023. In the Jamboree on the Air, Cubs, Scouts, and Venturers around the world communicate with each other on amateur radio. In the Jamboree on the Internet, they communicate with each other and do activities together over the Internet. There is no charge to participate in either JOTA or JOTI. MCC dens, packs, troops, and crews, groups of MCC packs, troops, and crews in a community, and MCC districts are encouraged to plan and organize JOTA events, JOTI events, and combination JOTA/JOTI events. These events are often held on the Saturday morning or afternoon or the Sunday afternoon of JOTA-JOTI weekend and are great recruiting activities.

**This document focuses on planning, organizing, and running Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) events. All BSA youth protection policies must be followed at all times during these events.**

**World Scouting's JOTA/JOTI website** - Go to World Scouting's JOTA/JOTI website at <https://www.jotajoti.info/> and scroll down for basic information about JOTA and JOTI. Then click on "About" at the top for additional information on JOTA and JOTI. Scroll down that web page for links to "Learn About JOTA" and "Learn About JOTI."

Next, click on "Be Safe" for JOTA/JOTI youth protection rules that include these age guidelines: "Participants must be 13 years or older to sign-up for JOTA-JOTI. To ensure everyone's safety and wellbeing, all participants between the ages of 13 and 18 are expected to inform and involve a parent or guardian in their JOTA-JOTI experience, including reviewing this page together. The adults involved are responsible for supervising children's online activities. A parent or guardian can register on behalf of a child younger than 13 years old and is asked to participate with them for the duration of the event." Then, click on "Programme" at the top for a preview of the 2023 JOTA/JOTI program.

**Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)** - BSA's JOTA web page at <https://www.scouting.org/international/jota-joti/jota/> contains a description of the JOTA program and information on ways to plan and organize participation in JOTA. There are JOTA links on the left of the web page under a highlighted "Jamboree-on-the-Air" heading. Start with "Guidelines for Scout Leaders." As it states there, your first step is to contact a local Ham Radio Club well in advance of JOTA weekend and get them involved. BSA provides the link <http://www.arrl.org/find-a-club>. Another option for ham radio clubs in Michigan is [https://www.dxzone.com/catalog/Ham\\_Radio/Clubs/North\\_America/USA/Michigan/](https://www.dxzone.com/catalog/Ham_Radio/Clubs/North_America/USA/Michigan/) which also has links to lists of clubs in other states on the right. Move your cursor to the name of a Ham Radio Club in blue and the color changes to red. Click on it and you reach a web page with the name of the club in blue on the top left. Move your cursor there and once again the color changes to red. Click on the club name and you reach the club's website with contact information.

When you make contact with a ham radio club that expresses interest in getting involved, suggest that they go to <https://www.scouting.org/international/jota-joti/jota/> and follow the links on the left under "Jamboree-on-the-Air" to "Guidelines for Amateur Radio Operators," "JOTA Planning," and "Special Call Signals."

If, after reading that information, they would like to run JOTA for your unit(s) or district, you should work with them to determine a day and time during JOTA/JOTI weekend that fits their schedules and find a good location that has plenty of room for Cub, Scout, and Venturer participants and meets their requirements for setting up and using their equipment. Once you and the ham radio club decide on the day, time, and location, you will want to promote the event. If there is a lot of interest in participating, you might want to schedule different packs, troops, and crews at different times during the event. Perhaps the ham radio club members will also want to talk with Scouts about earning Radio merit badge while they are there. Make sure to prepare appropriate thank yous for ham radio club members who help with the event.

**Registering for JOTA/JOTI** - Once a pack, troop, or crew has decided that they want to participate in JOTA and/or JOTI, its adult leaders should register following the steps below and then guide its members in registering.

1. Go to the top right corner of <https://www.jotajoti.info/> and click on “Sign Up/Log in.”
2. it will ask you to log into your World Scouting scout.org account. If you do not have a scout.org account, click on “REGISTER” to create a scout.org account, then log in.
3. As part of the registration process, you will reach the question “Are you joining JOTA-JOTI with a group? Please continue to the group registration below to add your group to the group directory (only for group leaders). One of your leaders should be designated to add your group to the group directory.
4. After you click on “Done,” the “Sign Up/Log in” box in the upper right corner will say “Hi” and your name and will have a dropdown with several different options. You can return to that website to log in. You will also receive a “Welcome to JOTA/JOTI email message that might have last year’s date

**Purchasing BSA JOTA/JOTI patches** - Every year, BSA produces JOTA/JOTI patches that can be presented to that year’s JOTA/JOTI participants Michigan Crossroads Council units can order JOTA/JOTI 2023 patches from the online MCC Scout Shop where the JOTA/JOTI 2023 patch is listed at <https://shop.michiganscouting.org/product/jota> It might also be possible to purchase JOTA/JOTI 2023 patches at the Eagle, Michigan, Scout Shop, but you should check ahead to make sure they have the patches in stock. In past years, BSA has run out of JOTA/JOTI patches, so make sure you get your order in in plenty of time. Units from other councils should go to your council’s Scout Shop or to the JOTA/JOTI listing on the National BSA Scout Shop at <https://www.scoutshop.org/jotajoti-2023-emblem-660418.html>

If you have any questions, contact the MCC International Committee at [international@michiganscouting.org](mailto:international@michiganscouting.org)

The MCC International Committee would be delighted to receive a report on your JOTA/JOTI experience. Please send an email message, with photos if you have them, to [international@michiganscouting.org](mailto:international@michiganscouting.org)