

LEARN ABOUT INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING OPPORTUNITIES

Michigan Crossroads Council International Committee - January 10, 2025, 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, Sea Scouts, and Scouters experience International Scouting using resources and links on the International Scouting homepage on the MCC website.

Go to the MCC International Scouting homepage at <https://michiganscouting.org/international-scouting/> or followed these steps: 1. Go to the MCC website at <https://michiganscouting.org/> 2. Click on the magnifying glass, and type in the word "international." 3. Click on the words "International Scouting" that appeared below the word "international." as you typed it

At the top are links to the four main sections, 1. **INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PACKS, TROOPS, CREWS, AND SHIPS**, 2. **INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR TROOPS, CREWS, AND SHIPS**. 3. **INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUAL YOUTH AND ADULTS**, and 4. **INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING AWARDS**.

Those links are followed by a link to the most recent 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. It is followed by "For International Scouting information that is not yet on this web page, go to the [MCC International Scouting Facebook](#) "

As you continue to scroll down, you reach a list of **USEFUL INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING LINKS** that includes links to the World Scouting website, the Scouting America International Scouting homepage, and the Scouting America 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.

One exciting international opportunity for everyone in Scouting America is World Scouting's **Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)** and **Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) weekend** which has more participants than any other Scouting event in the world. Every year, on the 3rd weekend of October, October 17 to 19 in 2025, MCC Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, and Sea Scouts have the opportunity to meet and interact with more than 4 million Scouts in over 150 countries. In the Jamboree on the Air, they communicate with each other on amateur radio. In the Jamboree on the Internet, they communicate with each other 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 for both units and individuals! JOTA/JOTI patches can be ordered from the MCC Scout Shop. You can learn where and when MCC JOTA events are being held and how to organize a JOTI event in the JOTA/JOTI section of the web page

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 MCC troops and crews and combined contingents from neighboring troops and crews to:

- 2a. camp with Canadian Scouts in a weekend international camporee in Michigan.
- 2b. camp with Canadian Scouts at a weekend international camporee or a weeklong jamboree in Canada.
- 2c. 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. There are links to pdf files with information on:

- (a) Annual weekend cross-border camporees where American Scouts camp with Canadian Scouts
- (b) documents and procedures required for contingents from American troops and crews to travel to Canada.
- (c) steps MCC units must take to meet Scouts Canada requirements to participate in their events.

(a), (b), and (c) are all important in planning a trip to a Scouts Canada camporee or camp. 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).

TRAVEL OVERSEAS WITH SCOUTS AND VENTURERS covers opportunities for contingents from MCC 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 2026 including several county international jamborees in England, and the Swedish 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 2026 trip! The MCC International Committee will be glad to help you in your planning.

INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIVIDUAL YOUTH AND ADULTS explains how an individual MCC youth or adult can become a member of a USA contingent to a world 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 while 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. Scouting America adults may apply to be USA contingent troop leaders or members of the WSJ staff, the "International Service Team (IST)." WSJs are held once every 4 years. The next WSJ will be from July 30 to August 8, 2027, in Poland. You can follow a link there to the MCC 2027 World Scout Jamboree web page. The 2031 World Scout Jamboree will be held in Denmark.

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. Registration for the USA contingent to the next World Scout Moot which will be held from July 25 to August 3, 2025, in Portugal. Registration is now closed. The 2029 World Scout Moot will be in Taiwan.

The section INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING AWARDS covers awards that involve International Scouting. Some can be earned by registered youth, some can be earned by registered adults, and some can be earned by both.

The World Conservation Awards encourage Scouts BSA and Venturers/Sea Scouts to think globally and act locally to preserve and improve our environment.

The International Spirit Award can be earned by registered youth and adults and has different requirements for Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA/Sea Scouts/Venturers, and Scouters. The patch is the same for everyone who earns the award.

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. In May 2023, the single Messengers of Peace ring emblem was replaced with three different levels of the Messengers of Peace ring emblem and other opportunities. Links in this section provide detailed 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.