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GLOBAL SUPPORT TEAM

International Matters



November 2019

Hello Hertfordshire Scouts!

Welcome to the November edition of 'International Matters', which aims to keep you up to date with all things global in the county and further afield. I hope you have all had a nice return to work/school/university after the all the summer activities that went on across Hertfordshire!

If you have any suggestions, you would like your event to be featured, or want to advertise an international trip, just pop me an email at manon.burbidge@btinternet.com

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL DATES/FESTIVALS

- **2019- UN Year of Indigenous Languages**
- **7th November:** Diwali (Hindu)
- **12th November:** Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib (Sikh)
- **16th November:** International Day of Tolerance
- **19th November:** World Toilet Day
- **20th November:** Universal Children's Day
- **25th November:** International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women
- **1st December:** World AIDS Day
- **3rd December:** International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- **10th December:** Human Rights Day
- **18th December:** Arabic Language Day
- **21st December:** Winter Solstice (Pagan)
- **23rd December:** Start of Hanukkah (Jewish)
- **25th December:** Christmas

These international and religious days and festivals are a great chance to get your scouts talking about the wider world. Why not use one, if it coincides with your group meeting as a theme for an evening? You can run activities and sessions to work towards many badges including:

- World Challenge Badge
- International Activity Badge
- Global Issues Activity Badge
- World Faiths Activity Badge



News from the County: Summer Happenings...

Hemel Hempstead District Explorer Belt to Norway

By Jethro Black

At the start of July, 7 Network members from Hemel District Scouts undertook the 10-day Explorer Belt Challenge. Flying out to Bergen in Norway, they began by accustoming themselves to the ways of the Norwegians, including unexpectedly high food costs.

They travelled by coach to a town where they spent the night with a local to broaden their understanding of Norwegian life. The next day they travelled to Odda and prepared for the main challenge: completing the expedition over the mountains of the Hardangerville National Park.

The first two days were the hardest when the rain would not hold, and they had large mountains to climb. However, after a 12-hour hike and an unexpected river crossing on the second day, they reached their hut. After a rest day, which involved bathing in near freezing water and building a snowman, the group were better prepared for what lay ahead, and there were no more massive hills to cross. The next days were over the tops of the mountains, leading to stunning views for miles. Spirits remained high, even as energy levels dropped.

The hike ended at the foot of the Hardangerville Glacier, which was the film set for the Hoth scenes in Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back. Arriving at the hostel, they turned them away unexpectedly.

Luckily the team were able to take the last bus to Voss and spend an extra night in the accommodation due for the following day. In Voss they became tourists and walked around the town and visited the shops. Some also went for a swim in one of the fjords.

The trip ended back in Bergen where they climbed the mountain behind the hostel and had fun in the play park at the top.

Explorer Belt was a challenge, but they all knew it would be. However, it was a rewarding challenge.



Country in Focus

Scouting in Switzerland

Founding Year: 1910

Number of Members: 45,000, divided across 22 cantonal and regional associations

In 1987, the Swiss Girl Guides and the Swiss Scouts joined together to create a mixed association, called the Swiss Guide and Scout Movement.

The Scouts are broken down into 4 sections:

1. Bienli (Bees) and Wolfe (Wolves), ages 7-11
2. Pfadi (Scouts), ages 11-15
3. Pioniere (Pioneers), ages 15-17
4. Rovers, ages 17+

The motto, Be Prepared, is translated to Allzeit Bereit.

Switzerland is home to not only Kandersteg International Scout Centre (KISC), but also one of the five WAGGGS world centres, "Our Chalet" in Adelboden.

Some Swiss Scouting traditions include Thinking Day, where Scouts and Guides show their commitment to the movement by wearing the scarf to school or work that day. Scouts or Guides are also given a special name, given during their first camp, which reflects the unique talents or characteristics of a person, and are bestowed on a Scout at a special ceremony. A Scout keeps this name throughout their entire scouting career.

*Pfadibewegung Schweiz
Mouvement Scout de Suisse
Movimento Scout Svizzero
Moviment Battasendas Svizra*



Upcoming Events

Explorer Belt 2020 to Poland

18th July -2nd August 2020

Want the opportunity to travel around Poland in a small team, completing challenges, gaining independence and getting immersed in the local culture? Look no further than Hertfordshire Scouts EXB to Poland in the summer of 2020.

The main part of the trip is an independent expedition, completed in teams of 3-5, making your own way around the country, completing a series of tasks and challenges designed to get you involved with and learning about Polish culture.

There will also be an opportunity to attend the European Jamboree for a day.

The expedition is open to all members of the Scout Association who are aged between 16 and 25.

The total cost will not exceed £1000, unless there is a significant change in air fares.

Deadline for applications is 31st December 2019.

If you have any questions, contact Michael Worthy at cia.hertfordshirescouts.org.uk



Job Opportunity

Resort Rep in Switzerland, Netherlands or Belgium

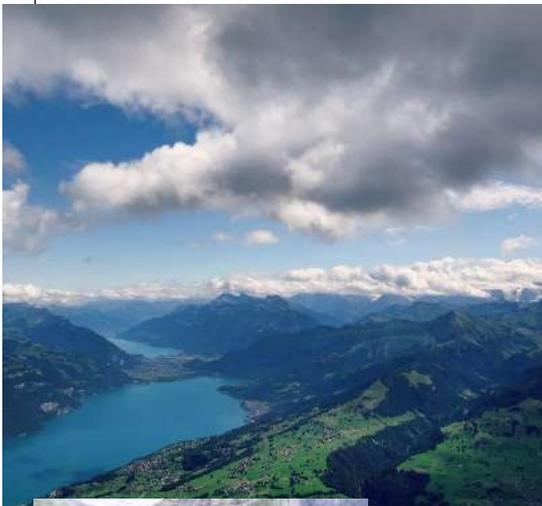
Manon (IM editor) spent this summer working for tour company, Venture Abroad, in Adelboden, Switzerland. Read on to find out about this fantastic job opportunity, perfect for scouts or guides!

This summer, I spent six weeks out in the beautiful town of Adelboden in the Swiss Alps, home to the World Guide Centre of Our Chalet and in the adjacent valley to Kandersteg International Scout Centre.

Each week, I was responsible for two groups of scouts or guides, who came from across the UK. I had to make sure that their jam-packed itineraries ran smoothly, organise public transport and book activities. I also was in charge of posting engaging content on social media and writing a few blogs.

On my day off, I had the chance to go hiking and exploring the local sights. Venture Abroad cover the costs of your travel, accommodation, insurance and uniform whilst you're out there too! It's such a fun experience and I would thoroughly recommend it to anyone looking for something to do next summer.

Check out <https://www.ventureabroad.co.uk/blog/news/were-hiring-4/> if you're interested!



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Going to Hong-Kong? Consider staying at the Scout Hotel in Kowloon: it is fantastic value if you are a member of the Scout Association!

...And don't forget: If you are travelling abroad this year as a unit or as an individual, ask Peter Makewell for a 'Visits Abroad' pack by email at

acc.international@hertfordshirescouts.co.uk