

# International Commissioners' Forum (IC-Forum)

24 - 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2003

Cologne/Germany

<b>Workshop</b>	Preparing groups/individuals to go on International Events organised by other Associations
<b>Workshop-Leader</b> (Name and Association)	Susan Thomas Scouting Ireland SAI
Introduction: Keywords of the presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sourcing and distributing information on international events</b></li> <li>• <b>Preparing for, during and after the event</b></li> <li>• <b>Cultural and national differences</b></li> <li>• <b>Fitting the youth experience into the youth programme</b></li> </ul>
Relevant Material from WAGGGS and WOSM and any other useful documents	Forth coming International events International Awards Scheme
Questions	Ways the group uses to promote international camps / events in their own associations. Different levels of preparation within group. What do we mean by culture and cultural aspects of travel
Keywords of the experiences of the other associations	Need to discuss ways to react to a problem Try to get the groups involved in international activities when abroad Practical information is generally given to contingents, whereas less tends to be said about cultural issues
Demands to the 2 European Regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- checklist of things not to forget</li> <li>- reminder of information like regulations for camping in France (can Europe translate this and put it up on the web and other camping regulations)</li> <li>- checklist for each country – 1 page (these things might be very different)</li> <li>- suggest that this list is compiled, each association is given the same set of guidelines and space and then the lists are all put up on both WAGGGS &amp; WOSM websites (see suggestions – list below )</li> </ul>

## **General ways the group uses to promote international camps / events in their own associations**

Websites

National magazines

International days

Use of regional networks to promote events

International modules in the training scheme

Reports on return

Try to get the groups involved in international activities when abroad

Preparation sessions before going to camp, especially large events when a national contingent is travelling

## **Group work on discussing culture and cultural aspects of travel**

Need to discuss ways to react to a problem

Hospitality – how to treat people

- body language – this may be quite different in another country and people should be prepared for this

Scouting behaviour – how people react and portray themselves

Rhythm of the day – can be very different abroad, meals can be later, people work on different schedules

Different levels of preparation

International booklet very helpful with hints and advice for groups going abroad

Practical information is generally given to contingents, whereas less tends to be said about cultural issues

When preparing to interact with another culture, the hosts are often also learning about the culture of their guests and therefore expectations can be quite different

Important to leave room for surprise while away so include this in the preparation

World is very diverse and everything cannot be covered in preparation

Home hospitality – can vary from country to country and again this should be explained carefully and things discussed as cultural aspects can come in a lot

## **Fitting the youth experience in to the youth programme**

UK – International Friendship Award – developing group links with other cultures, global culture, JOTI / JOTA – developing into international weekends

## **What help can the regions give to associations when sending groups abroad**

- checklist of things not to forget
- reminder of information like regulations for camping in France (can Europe translate this and put it up on the web and other camping regulations)
- checklist for each country – 1 page (these things might be very different)
- suggest that this list is compiled, each association is given the same set of guidelines and space and then the lists are all put up on both WAGGGS & WOSM websites

## **Suggested ideas for list**

Cost of living

Travel / health insurance / emergency insurance – what exactly is covered if people sick abroad

French camping regulations and any other major changes in camping regulations  
Mini bus driving  
Forms of transport & transport issues  
Awareness of local contacts  
Food – trying out different types ( could be advice for home hospitality)  
Language  
Visas  
Climate  
Public holidays  
Fire regulations  
Access to forests and what can / cannot be done there  
Opening times of shops / banks  
Emergency numbers – fire / ambulance ( if they differ)  
Address of official tourist board  
Gas / electricity for cooking – what is available, the forms etc  
Contacts for associations in countries – lists of recognised scouting and guiding movements &  
a short description of them or a link to their website  
Travel safety issues  
Predominant religion in country  
Outdoor activities – qualifications used – can vary from country, what is valid

For some countries it is important that there is a contact who speaks the language