International Scouting and the BSA

Time Available

10 minutes.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this session, participants will be able to:

• Know what the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) is and why we wear the World Crest on our uniforms.
• Be able to locate the name of their council’s International Representative and what the responsibilities of the position are.
• Know about opportunities for BSA contingents to go to international events and International Scouts to come to the USA.
• Know about programs and awards sponsored by WOSM and BSA promoting international involvement.

Suggested Presenter(s)

Have one or more of the following people present this topic:

• Your Council’s International Representative (or a past one).
• If your council does not have an International Representative, someone who has attended (or will be attending) a World Jamboree, or participated in a different International Event would serve as a great facilitator.

Presentation Method

In the time available, the best method would be to tell a brief history of the BSA involvement with WOSM, provide resources and brochures with the award requirements as part of static display in the midway of the roundtable space or copies of the flyers can be posted online or in the unit mailbox.

BSA Reference Materials

• International
• Council International Representatives
• International Camp Staff Program
• Program Enrichment
• International Information Sheet
• International Recognitions
• World Scouting

Other Reference Materials

• World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM)

Presentation Content

Quickly explain the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

• The Organization of the Scout Movement is a federation of more than 162 national Scout organizations (BSA is a national Scout organization) serving over 40 million Scouts. It has three parts – World Scout Conference, World Scout Committee, World Scout Bureau. (More info available at [www.scouting.org/international](http://www.scouting.org/international))
• The World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) is an independent, worldwide, non-profit and non-partisan organization which serves the Scout Movement.
• The Mission of (World) Scouting is to contribute to the education of young people, through a value system based on the Scout Promise and Law, to help build a better world where people are self-fulfilled as individuals and play a constructive role in society.
• We are all members of WOSM. (point to the World Crest on your uniform)

International Representatives

• Each council, ideally, has an active International Committee or International representative to promote local involvement in the larger movement and to help local units with the earning of international awards.

International Opportunities

The International Department sponsors programs that enhance the International Scouting experience for participants. Included are such programs as:

• World Scout Jamborees, held every four years, bring Scouts from throughout the world together in a large international encampment, under sponsorship of the World Organization of the Scout Movement. The 2019 World Scout Jamboree will be at The Summit. The previous one in the USA was held in 1967 in northern Idaho.
• 3rd Interamerican Scout Moot in Peru
• Jamboree-on-the-Air
• Jamboree-on-the-Internet
• International training seminars and conferences for council international representatives and others interested in international Scouting are conducted periodically at national meetings and at the Philmont Training Center in New Mexico
• International Camp Staff Program
• European Scout Voluntary Program
• Other international events, such as encampments, jamborees, and jamborettes are held in various other countries each year. A list of international events is available from WOSM.

International Recognitions

Several uniform insignia and awards are available to show a Scout’s involvement in the world Scouting movement. Recognitions include:
• **The International Spirit Award:**

The award seeks to broaden knowledge of international Scouting and increase appreciation and awareness of different cultures and countries. The emblem is worn as a temporary patch centered on the right uniform pocket. The award may be earned by Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA members, Venturers, and Adult Scouters.

• **Interpreter Strip:**

Scouts wearing the interpreter strip must be able to carry on a conversation in a foreign language or in sign language, write a letter in the foreign language (not required for signing), and translate orally and in writing from one language to another. The award may be earned by Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA members, Venturers, and Adult Scouters.

• **The International Scouter’s Award:**

This award encourages Scouters to broaden their involvement in Scouting through participation in world Scouting activities and recognizes Scouters for their contributions to world Scouting. This award is for **adult Scouters only**. It involves leadership in International Scouting, International events on the USA and in foreign countries. As well as, educating yourself and others and giving support to International Scouting.

• **World Conservation Awards**

The World Conservation Award provides an opportunity for individual Wolf Scouts, Bear Scouts, Webelos Scouts, Scouts BSA members, Varsity Scouts, Sea Scouts, and Venturers to “think globally” and “act locally” to conserve and improve our environment.

• **World Crest**

An emblem of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, the World Crest may be worn by all registered youth members and adult leaders as a symbol of their membership in a worldwide Scouting brotherhood. A small amount from the sale of each emblem is sent to the World Scout Foundation to help extend Scouting in developing nations throughout the world.