



TAC International Newsletter

Issue 1: Fall 2008

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Transatlantic Council, Boy Scouts of America
International Committee

International Scouting is Alive and Kicking in Europe!

Welcome to the first edition of the International Committee Newsletter!

With the start of the new Scouting year come many new and exciting international activities. If you haven't heard about the Peacelight of Bethlehem in your area, contact your DE to find out what a wonderful experience awaits you. (Read more about the Peacelight below.)

Your stay in Europe offers you a unique opportunity to get to know a new country and culture and what better way than through the Scouting movement. Contact the local Scout groups, invite them to a campout or a cookout, sing some songs with them, swap badges and you'll see that they are Scouts just like you and

that they believe in the same Scout law. Their uniform may be a different color but the fleur-de-lis of international scouting is always purple. Don't be shy, go out and find these Scouts - they will be only too glad to meet you and make friends with you. Don't miss out on the many wonderful experiences you could have while in Europe - something you could tell your Scout friends back home about - something to remember forever! Let us know what you do with your new friends - we'll put your article in the International Newsletter!

Marilee Bisoni
International Commissioner
mbisoni@alice.it

Peacelight of Bethlehem - 2008

What is the Peacelight?

In the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem there is an oil lamp that has been burning continuously for centuries. This is the Peace Light flame.

The Peacelight of Bethlehem movement started in 1986 in Austria as a Christmas collection for the poor called the "Lichts in Dunkel" or "light in the dark" sponsored by ORF, the Austrian radio and Television Corporation. Every year, Austrian Scouts travel to the Church of the

Nativity in Bethlehem to light the first PeaceLight lantern from the eternal flame burning in the Church Grotto. The flame then returns by plane to Austria and is distributed to scouts throughout the country and the world.

TAC Involvement with the Peacelight of Bethlehem.

We invite you to join in receiving the flame and become bearers of the "light". Members of your Scout Troop or Pack will travel to the nearest train station or

distribution point to collect the light the week of December 14th 2008. Once they have the flame, they will then travel back to their local communities to present the light for all to share. There is no set agenda on how to distribute the flame.

For more information and to register, go to the International Committee website: www.tac-bsa.org/tacbsa/International, or contact your local International Committee representative.

Transatlantic Council International Committee

Mission: To inform, support and educate Scouts and Scouters on International scouting within the TAC footprint.



The International Scouters Award

The Boy Scouts of America have several awards available to recognize scouts and scouters who “think globally.” The International Committee administers several of these awards.

The International Scouters Award is the flagship recognition for BSA Scouters who provide leadership to scouting around the world. In order to qualify, a scouter must complete six requirements in at least three of the following categories: (For the complete requirements, please see the International Committee website.)

I. Giving leadership to international Scouting:

II. Giving leadership to international events held in the United States:

III. Giving leadership to international events held in other countries:

IV. Educating self and others:

V. Giving support to international Scouting:

TAC has come up with the following FAQ to assist scouters in applying for the award:

Q: One of the requirements mentions being a leader in a “Direct Service” unit. What does that mean?

A: Direct Service is a “virtual council,” run from the National headquarters in Texas, which supports units throughout the world

where local council support is not available.

TAC will accept leadership in any TAC unit to satisfy this requirement.

Q: Where the requirements state “world scout jamboree,” would Intercamp count?

A: TAC accepts any international event, such as Intercamp, to satisfy requirements (3a) and (3c).

This award is administered by the International Committee, so please ask if you have any questions! When you’ve satisfied the requirements, please contact your local Committee member to apply.

News Bites

WINGS 2009

WINGS is coming! The Berkshire Scout County in the UK is celebrating their Centenary with an international Jamboree involving 5,000+ scouts from all over the world! WINGS will be located in Windsor

Great Park, near Heathrow Airport, from August 1 – 8, 2009. For more information, please see: www.wings2009.org.uk

Or email David Ruiz, official TAC Ambassador for the event (see last page for contact

information).

Bratislava Pow-Wow

Watch out for the Cub Scout Pow-Wow in Bratislava this Spring. We’re hoping to have several International Scouting sessions to help you spice up your program. Stay Tuned!



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International Happenings Around TAC

Mayflower

Better late than never, we'd like to recognize Mayflower Troop 179 for their great International event. Troop 179 recently hosted the 4th Ripon Methodist Scout Group for an evening of camaraderie and scout spirit. This marked the first time in almost 15 years that Troop 179 has reached out to the local British Scouting community in an effort to build friendship and partnership in promoting world scouting ideals.

Another International connection was made by Pack 184 in April. The Pack partnered with the 1st Cobham Cubs and Beavers in the annual Scouting for Food collection. The American Cubs loved collecting food at the local supermarket with their new British friends. Between them, the cubs gathered almost 200 lbs of food! The cubs celebrated their success with a joint event at Walton Firs Scout Camp, where the Mayor of Elmbridge gratefully received the donation on behalf of local charities.

David Ruiz
Commissioner@Astrophe.net

Rheingold

Over the week-end of 20-September, Troops 681 and 684 from Basel and Zurich camped together in the Gispel campsite, a field surrounded on 3 sides by forest, near the town of Magden in Switzerland. This is one of many campsites in Switzerland which belongs to the Swiss Scout Association. Information on these and other campsites available to Scouts is maintained in an excellent database

<http://www.pfadistiftung.ch>.

The Swiss Scout Association has other very useful resources, including the training materials for leaders (Cudesch)

<http://www5.scout.ch/de/pfadi-online/ressourcen/cudesch/>

It is a privilege for us to be able to use such resources.

For information on the Swiss Scouts in English (German pages, available German, French, Italian and Romansch) see <http://www.pbs.ch/en/>

Esteban Pombo
epombovillar@gmail.com

Edelweiss

Our big upcoming international event in Berlin is the Peacelight. We will be going down with the German Pfadfinder to pick up the light. We'll also have a celebration together with the various German Pfadfinder groups, along with Swedish scouts, in the Marienkirche in Mitte Sunday, December 14th at 3pm

Yvonne Sclaunich
Sclaunichclan@aol.com

Historic Trails Program

TAC has several Historic Trails available, from Heidelberg to Normandy, Verona to Waterloo. (The London Historic Trail is coming in January!) Scouts who hike the trail can earn a great patch while they're learning about the area. For more information contact TAC or look on the TAC website.

Calling all Districts

Let us know what you're up to. If you're doing an International event, we'll highlight it here! Just email your local International Committee contact.

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Recognitions

Congratulations to the following Scouters who have earned the International Scouters' Award this year (up to October 2008):

James M. Deans
David E. Sears
Lynn Sears
Christopher Walker
David Westwood
Dave Johnson
Donald S. Brown
Kenneth Dick
Marsha Brown
John Woughter

Dave Brown
Rob Hedden
Tim Horn
Carey Johnson
Brent Krueger
Tammy Krueger
Sean Williams
Simone Simpson
Blake J. Smith
Ray Jefferson

International Committee Contacts

The Committee has members all over TAC. For more information, please contact:

District	Name	Position	Email address
Mediterranean	Marilee Bisoni	International Commissioner	mbisoni@alice.it
Mayflower	David Ruiz	Assistant Commissioner	Commissioner@Astrophe.net
Mayflower	Terry Rocha	Member-at-large (UK)	Tar70@yahoo.com
Charlemagne	Luc Janssens	Charlemagne Rep-Brussels	Charlemagne_scouterluc@yahoo.com
Charlemagne	Dick Meijaard	Charlemagne Rep- Amsterdam	Persel@xs4all.nl
Rheingold	Esteban Pombo	Rheingold Rep -Basel	epombovillar@gmail.com
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Edelweiss	Steve Lamb	Member-at-large	Steven.Lamb@AMEDD.ARMY.MIL