

Peacelight Guidelines and Procedures

Collecting the Peacelight Flame

Collect the Peacelight flame from the central distribution point nearest you (a railway station, a local host country Catholic Scout group, or a local Catholic church for example).

In Germany the flame is usually delivered by train on the second Sunday of December and in Italy the flame is usually delivered by train on the second Saturday of December.

The train timetable will be posted on the TAC website.

In other European countries, local Scout groups collect the flame in Vienna and bring it to their country to distribute.

Contact your local host country Scout group for more information about flame distribution points and distribution timetable. Distribution usually takes place after the second weekend in December.

Information about these Scout groups can be found on the Internet or from the World Scout Bureau at www.scout.org.

At the Railway Station

- 1) If you collect the flame at a railway station, bear in mind that the train stops at each station for only a few minutes.
- 2) When the train stops at the station platform, local Scouts will get off the train. They will be holding lanterns lit with the Peacelight flame.
- 3) Have Scouts and any parents stand to one side of the platform and have only one or two BSA leaders approach the Scouts carrying the lantern.
- 4) These Scouts will light your lamps or lanterns from their flame; they will then get back on the train which will depart for the next station.
- 5) The BSA leaders will then go over to their pack, troop or crew and light their lanterns.
- 6) To make it easy to transfer the flame from one lantern to another, use a long wick of some sort or even a candle.
- 7) Get to the station in plenty of time; there will be many local Scouts at each station.
- 8) While you are waiting at the platform, you might organize a sing-along, a prayer service or something similar, either by yourselves, or with a local Scout group.

Peacelight Ceremony

Once you have collected the flame, hold a “Special Pack or Troop Peacelight Meeting” open to all Scouts and their families and organize a Peacelight ceremony to hand over the flame to them.

- 1) All persons wishing to take the flame home should bring a lantern or even a large votive candle to the meeting for transporting the flame.
- 2) At the meeting give a short presentation about the Peacelight and its meaning, then distribute the flame to the Scouts.
- 3) The flame should be kept burning at least until December 27th or, if possible, Epiphany on January 6th.
- 4) Each Scout should share the flame with 3 neighborhood families.
- 5) If possible, each Pack and Troop should distribute the flame to one church and to one school in the neighborhood with an appropriate ceremony, so that as many people as possible can receive the Peacelight of Bethlehem flame and its message of peace..