



JOTT 21! - 2018

Jamboree On The Trail

On behalf of the 40th Canadian Baden-Powell Guild (Tri-Cities), **WELCOME** to JOTT 21! This is the 10th year now that our Guild has assisted in the promotion of getting the “OUT” in Scouting. By participating; you are a part of a worldwide event that happens each year on the 2nd Saturday of May – This year it will be on Saturday May 12th. Below is a brief history on JOTT written by Scouter Kevin Thomson as well as some pointers about what to bring and expect at our event.

A Canadian Scout Troop hiked part of the Trans Canada Trail one fine October weekend in 1997. The following Monday, Scoutmaster Dave Wiebe sent a trip report to an Internet email list ScoutsCan-L, beginning a conversation on hiking. The conversations lead to the idea of a Scout hiking day for all sections and on any trail. Further discussion set the date for the first event as April 25, 1998; late enough that those in the Northern parts were likely to have trails free of snow on which to walk.

Reading list messages about the idea, UK Scouter Kevin Thomson began to wish that he could take part in this too. It then occurred to him that this needn't be limited to the shores of Canada as there are trails to walk on all over the world. Scouters quickly agreed that this could be a world-wide event. Now that the event was born, they discussed what to call it. For a while it was going to be World Wide Walk because it had been started through discussions on the World Wide Web. In the end, they decided on Jamboree On The Trail (JOTT).

In Canada, The Leader magazine (now called Scouting Life) carried information about JOTT and people were asked to publicise and promote the event locally. Registration was handled by post and by an on-line registration form on ScoutBase UK. The first Jamboree On The Trail took place just 29 weeks after the fall hike that started it all. There was no official recognition for the event, no funding for publicity, and just the Internet and word of mouth to spread the news. Nonetheless, the event did catch the imagination of a great number of Scouters. The inaugural JOTT had over twenty-four thousand participants in seventeen countries around the world. From this beginning, Jamboree On The Trail has grown.

Jamboree On The Trail **IS THE ONLY INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL EVENT FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE SCOUTING FAMILY**; Scouts of all ages can be in one place at one time. It is an ideal opportunity to come together in spirit with Scouts all over the world and to promote the world-wide aspect of this growing Movement.

Here in the Tri-Cities area JOTT events have been a part of our Scouting community for the entire time. Today by hosting an event, the Guild advertises a time and place where the Scouting community (from wherever) can gather in numbers to experience and enjoy the friendships and fellowship. Although there is not a formal program for the day, our venue, Belcarra Park, provides ample opportunity for the participating groups to organize an active day. Through the registration process the Guild reserves the picnic area, arranges a barbecue, provides a map of the park with information on Leave No Trace and if you register prior to March 29th, each participant also receives the official JOTT crest. Where possible, other organizations are invited and may provide a static station for the day if they choose. Groups participating should ensure that they are prepared for the weather (never rains here right☺), have sufficient water, chairs and program so that your youth have as much fun as in all the previous years.

Scouting Walking Together World-Wide



40th Canadian Baden-Powell Guild (Tri-Cities)

