

## Largest ever Wales contingent to head off to Scout Jamboree

- 129 Scouts aged 14-18 from across Wales attending
- It's the biggest ever contingent from Wales to a Jamboree held outside the UK.
- Joining 38,000 other Scouts from almost every country of the world
- Jamboree taking place in Sweden from 27th July to 7th August
- UK Scouts spending several days in Copenhagen on the way
- Home hospitality in Finland, Iceland and the Netherlands after Jamboree
- 16 Leaders and 21 members of the International Service Team make up Welsh adults attending

129 Welsh Scouts are packing their bags ready to leave for the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden next week. It's the biggest ever contingent from Wales to a Jamboree held outside the UK.

The Wales contingent is made up of 4 Units from the North, East, West and South of Wales. The Units will be flying out from Cardiff and Manchester airports on the 24th and 25th July arriving in Copenhagen. Here they will join the rest of the 3,200 strong UK Contingent for two days of top secret activities to get the Jamboree started with a bang, before crossing the Øresund Bridge into Sweden where they will join with the rest of the world at the Jamboree site.

One of the Welsh Units is even partly made up of Caribbean Scouts who didn't have enough members to make a whole Unit of their own.

Tom Boardman, an Explorer Scout from Ruthin and a member of the Mad Fluffy Dragons Unit, said: "I'm a bit of a last minute guy and I wasn't thinking of packing until a couple of days before we leave. I find it works better like that, so I don't need to worry about what I may have forgotten, and forgetting a few things anyway, makes it a bit more of an adventure!

"I'm taking as many lightweight items as possible as we don't have much weight allowance. I'll be including soap flakes for my smalls, and some Welsh flags, badges, rugby shirts, and possibly a dragon or two."

Every four years, tens of thousands of Scouts, from almost every country in the world gather in a tented city for two weeks of activities and adventure! 38,000 Scouts live and learn together.

The World Scout Jamboree is an amazing first-hand experience of multiculturalism in action, an opportunity to interact and participate with others from different cultures and to build solidarity and understanding across cultural and geographical boundaries.

Zak Ghazi-Torbati, 15 from Barry said: "How amazing it will be to just live alongside Scouts from all over world and experience so many different cultures. I feel that I am so lucky to have this opportunity. It would be good to make friends and then stay in touch. I'm looking forward to being in the melting pot of all these amazing cultures and speaking to others about their lives and customs. I am going to stay in a camp with thousands and thousands of people and that is a once in a lifetime experience. I can't wait."

Each Unit has four adult Leaders who will support the young people, and who have coordinated the training that has been taking place over the last eighteen months, since the young people were selected.

Sue Lloyd, from Flintshire, is one of the Unit Leaders. She said: "Being an Assistant Unit Leader with the 'Muddy Dragons' has been a real experience and a privilege. Over the last 18 months we have got together as a Unit about every six weeks to do many activities such as camping, hikes, gorge walks, international cooking and much, much more!

“As Leaders we have seen the young people grow & develop their skills and work together as a team. I have worked with some fantastic Scouts, Leaders and International Service Team members from South and East Wales. We are all looking forward to experiencing the most amazing time of our lives.”

As well as adult Leaders accompanying the Scouts, Wales is also sending 21 adults to be part of the International Service Team, the people who make the Jamboree happen. These include Dave O'Neill from Torfaen and Robyn Millar from Powys who will be volunteering as nurses at the Jamboree medical centre.

After the Jamboree the Units will be travelling to Finland, Iceland or the Netherlands to stay with Scouts from those countries, experiencing what it's like to live there for themselves. The South Wales Unit are staying in the Dutch town of Nijmegen from where they will visit Amsterdam and have a day in a theme park.

Joe Holmes, 16 from Cardiff said: “After living so closely with Scouts from all over the world. I know I will have more lifelong friends and memories that will last me for ever.”

ENDS

### **Notes to editors:**

- For more information please contact Scouts Wales on 01446 795277
- There are many media opportunities prior to departure available including:
  - Photos of the North Wales Unit meeting the Caribbean Scouts who will be joining their Unit – they will be spending day in Llangollen – photos available on Saturday 23rd July
  - Interviews with the Scouts before they depart. We can get Welsh and Caribbean Scouts to studios in Wrexham on 23rd July, and maybe to Cardiff
  - Photos of the Scouts at airports as they leave the UK on the 24th & 25th July
- While the Scouts are in Sweden we have a dedicated media team based in Wales, London and in Sweden, who can arrange for photos, interviews and video of the Scouts at the Jamboree
- We have Scouts who can speak Welsh available for interview on request

### **Wales World Scout Jamboree Facts:**

#### **Numbers**

- **144** young people attending from Wales
- They will be supported by **16** adult leaders
- There are **4** Units from Wales
- Out of the 144, **129** are Welsh Explorer Scouts, **9** are Scouts from the Caribbean joining the North Wales Unit, and **6** are Welsh Girl Guides joining the West Wales Unit
- There are **21** members of the International Service Team from Wales
- This is the **largest ever contingent** of Scouts from Wales to attend a World Scout Jamboree held outside the UK

#### **Units**

- The 4 Units are:
  - Mad Fluffy Dragons (North Wales)
  - Muddy Dragons (East Wales)
  - Defaid Mewn Welis (South Wales)

- Deheubarth (West Wales)

### **IST**

- As well as participants and Unit Leaders, there are 21 adults from Wales attending as members of the International Service Team, the people who run the Jamboree.
  - They are:
- Glynn Bailey (Newport)
- Dave O'Neill, Rhona Walters, and Matt Obrien (Torfaen)
- Robyn Miller (Powys)
- David Edwards and Rebecca Grimes (Cardiff)
- Paul Gregory, Yve (Ceredigion)
- Ian Rees Evans, Jade Clarricoats, Dan Melbourne, Chris Melbourne, Emily Davies and Luciano Dacri Davies (Swansea)
- Marc Rogers and Christian Reed (Llanelli)
- Sara Mayall (Powys)
- Heather Powell and James Powell (Monmouthshire)
- Jerry Somerton (Flintshire)
  - Dave O'Neill and Robyn Miller are on the medical team as nurses
  - Glynn Bailey is on the build & then in the UK food hall
  - The others don't yet know what job they'll be doing

### **Departure**

- The North Unit are leaving from Manchester airport at 9am on Monday 25th July
- The East Unit are leaving from Cardiff airport at 6am on Sunday 24th July
- The South Unit leave Cardiff Airport at 17.25 on Monday 25th July
- The West Unit are leaving from Manchester airport at 7pm on Monday 25th July

### **Camp in a camp**

- During the Jamboree, Units will be off the Jamboree site for a camp within a camp and so may not be available for interview. Here are the dates:
- North – August 1st/2nd
- East –
- South – August 2nd/3rd
- West – July 31st/August 1st

### **Home Hospitality (HoHo)**

- Each Unit will be travelling to another country after the Jamboree for a few days to stay in the homes of Scouts from that country. Here's where they're going for HoHo:
- North – Finland
- East – Netherlands
- South – Netherlands, in the Eastern town of Nijmegen. All the young people have HoHo with Dutch families, whilst the 4 leaders are on a Scout campsite (St Walricks) along with 2 or three other UK units. Part of the programme includes a trip to Amsterdam and a day trip to a theme park.
- West – Iceland

### **Return to UK**

- North Unit back around 7pm on 12th August

- East Unit back around 10am on 11th August
- South Unit back late afternoon on the 12th August
- West Unit back on the 12th August

**Other facts**

- North Unit are on Klaralvan subcamp in Autumn town, camping between Units from Trinidad & Tobago and France
- West Unit are on Polcirkeln subcamp in Winter town
- Muddy Dragons have their own blog at [www.muddydragons.org.uk](http://www.muddydragons.org.uk)