



Hampshire County Scouts Project 23 Expedition

Participant Questions and Answers

With just under 2 years to go until the Project 23 expedition, the specific details are not yet available and will be confirmed nearer the time. Below we have provided answers to questions you may have, and we have provided as much information as we can at this point.

If there are any questions that you cannot find answers to on this form, please e-mail project23@hampshirescouts.org.uk

Where and when will Project 23 take place? Project 23 is designed to take place at a similar time as the Hampshire World Scout Jamboree units are away. We are anticipating this to be around the first three weeks of the School Summer holidays in late July 2023.

What is Project 23? Project 23 is the working title of the Hampshire Scouts alternative expedition to the World Scout Jamboree. The expedition is run to provide a place all those that applied to the Jamboree but are not offered a place on the Jamboree, so that they can experience a significant International experience. During the expedition, we will be doing loads of activities and sightseeing as we travel across Europe.

Who can apply to go as a participant? To apply to be a participant you must be born between 00:00 on 22nd July 2005 and 23:59 on 31st July 2009. These dates match the dates set by the UK Contingent.

What happens if I was born outside of these dates? If you were born after these dates you should be eligible for the 26th WSJ in 2027. If you were born before these dates then you should look at other international activities, such as Roverway, or the International Service Team for the World Scout Jamboree.

Where will Project 23 be? The Hampshire Youth Council decided that Project 23 would take place in Europe. We are still working on the finer details, but it will be visiting 3-6 different countries, staying at different campsites.

Can I join the expedition late or leave early? The Project 23 expedition will leave the UK and return to the UK as a whole expedition. It will not be possible to join late or leave early.

I have special needs / disabilities, can I still go? The ethos of the expedition is that it should be as open and accessible to everyone of the correct age. As a result, every effort is made in order to accommodate those who may be differently abled wherever and whenever reasonable adjustments are possible. This may be simple physical or environmental changes through to more complex adjustments, including allowing a carer / helper to attend. Whilst these can cover a wide range of requirements, obviously this is a very complex area. We suggest that if you have particular questions regarding personal adjustments then please contact us on project23@hampshirescouts.org.uk

Fundamentally, all participants in Project 23, young person or leader, must be aware that it is a 3 week expedition, mainly camping overseas, with a wide range of activities and a lot of coach travel. It is loads of fun, but it will also be very tiring at times and can have an element of stress relating to logistics, cultural differences and time zones.

Can you accommodate special dietary requirements? A lot of dietary requirements can reasonably easily be catered for, as long as you are prepared to be as flexible as possible. Dietary requirements based on religion, and for example Vegetarian, Vegan, Gluten Free are routine. However all participants need to be aware that access to particular foods whilst travelling can be more challenging so a degree of

flexibility is appreciated. Other dietary requirements will need more work to be achieved. If you have any concerns, then please contact us on project23@hampshirescouts.org.uk

What makes up a Project 23 team? A Project 23 team is made up of between 26 - 34 people, this is around 6 leaders and 20-28 participants. The team will need to become a close knit bonded team, who will come to lean on each other, and be supported by each other.

Do I have to be a Hampshire Scout to apply? Yes, you must be a member of a Hampshire Scout Troop, Hampshire Explorer Unit or a Hampshire Young Leader to apply. If you Scout elsewhere, you will need to apply through that County.

What happens if I move away after being selected? Providing you join Scouting at your new location, and are prepared to travel back to Hampshire for all training events etc., then you should be able to continue on Project 23.

How much will Project 23 cost? It is early days at present, and we are still putting everything together, but we are aiming at £1,800 - £2,200. This includes all of the training program, and the expedition itself.

Are there any other costs not included above? There may be a few other items such as

- a. All participants will require an individual valid passport in their own name with 6 months expiry from date of return to the UK after the expedition.
- b. Visa's may be required for the countries being visited.
- c. Compulsory and voluntary vaccinations may be required for the countries being visited.
- d. Some kit will be required (such as sleeping bags, mats, footwear etc.)
- e. There are usually options to buy additional team kit (so sometimes extra hoodies, badges, or even an additional item that the unit would like but is not in the budget).
- f. Travel and transport to all training events and departure / return point.

Am I allowed to fundraise to pay for the expedition? Absolutely, we would encourage you to fundraise to help raise your fees, this can be an important part of your expedition journey. In the past many participants have fundraised their entire fee. However, fundraising may be more difficult in the aftermath of Covid. Essentially, if you work hard at your fundraising, you are more likely to raise more. If you sit back and let others do it, you are less likely to raise the money.

Do the team Leaders help us Fundraise? The main role of the team leaders is to form the expedition team and help the team bond and prepare for the expedition. They will help with fund raising ideas, and will encourage the unit to talk and chat about what is working, and what is not working for the members of the unit. The leaders may also be offered fund raising activities that they then share out to the team, and of course, the leaders also need to raise their own funds as well. However, the leaders are NOT responsible to fund raise for you, or to organise any fundraising. Ultimately, this is down to you.

What are the dates? It is very early to set dates, but potentially looking to leave around 23rd July 2023, and return around 13th August 2023. These dates could slip by a few days. It is likely to be 3 weeks off of work.

Will all of the people in the unit be from Hampshire? We are discussing with the Isle of Wight being able to offer a few places to those from the IOW who applied to the World Scout Jamboree and were unable to take up a place.

Will I know the people in my team before we go? The team is likely to be made up of Scouts and Explorers from across the County and you may not know many people at the start of the journey. However in the build up to the expedition you will have a number of training events to get to know your unit.

Do I need to use Social Media? Whilst it is not compulsory, you will get the most out of the team building by joining in on Social Media. The team will normally decide on one social media platform to use (can be a Facebook group, Whats App group etc.). Normally, there will be one social media channel which is supervised / monitored by the leader team. Participants then usually setup their own independent channels which are not monitored. Official Communication will be via E-mail and/or the one monitored Channel.

How many training weekends will there be, and do I have to go to them? As a participant, you will be expected to attend as many training weekends as possible, and certainly at least 70%. The more time that you spend at training weekends, the better the team will come together.

When will they be?

- Weekend 1 – 11-13th Feb 2022
- Weekend 2 – 8-10th April 2022
- Weekend 3 – 16-18th Sept 2022
- Weekend 4 – 3-5th Feb 2023
- Weekend 5 – 21-23rd April 2023
- Weekend 6 – 30th June – 2nd July 2023 – All teams together

Where will the training weekends be? It will be down to the leadership team to decide on the locations, which will be within Hampshire.

Will the cost of travel to training weekends be included? No, it will be down to yourself to travel to / from the training weekends, but (subject to Covid restrictions lifting), sharing of transport is encouraged.

Will there be any Virtual Training? There may need to be some Virtual Training / unit meetings (most likely to happen in the beginning, but may be used if new or urgent information comes out).

How do I apply? Applications are initially limited to those that applied to the World Scout Jamboree. However, we need to fill the coaches up, so we may open up to general applications on a first come first served basis.

I applied for the World Scout Jamboree (WSJ) but didn't get a place, however, I want to be a reserve for the Jamboree. Will being part of Project 23 be an advantage or not? Hampshire has 144 young people in its WSJ units. Over the course of the next 21 months, spaces are bound to become available in the WSJ units. The Hampshire WSJ management team will look to re-fill these from those that applied to the WSJ. These people may or may not be on Project 23. If the person is signed up on Project 23, we will allow an easy transfer to the WSJ. So there will be no advantage or disadvantage by being on Project 23 (other than you will already have done some fundraising).

Do I need to pay a deposit? If you are offered a place on Project 23, you will need to confirm your acceptance with a non-refundable deposit. The deposit will be for £200, and payable by 20th November. If you are struggling to organise the deposit, please talk to us.

Do I have to pay all of the money at the start? No, we need stage payments to meet spending requirements of the expedition. The stage payments are as follows

20/11/2021	Non-Refundable Deposit	£200	30/11/2022	Stage Payment 3*	£400
31/04/2022	Stage Payment 1*	£400	31/01/2023	Stage Payment 4*	£400
31/07/2022	Stage Payment 2*	£400	31/03/2023	Stage Payment 5*	£0-£400

*If you are awarded a Hampshire Scout Grant, it will be equally split and deducted from the Stage Payments.

What happens if I need to withdraw after paying the deposit? Refunds of money paid will only be given if we can refill your place on the expedition, less the non-refundable deposit, less the cost for training / equipment received or ordered, less the cost of changing names, and any discount needed to be given to fill the place (potentially at short notice). If money has been fundraised, then under charity commission rules, we may need to return this money to the original source of the funds. If this is not possible (for example it was a bag pack), then it may need to be kept and used for a suitable comparable alternative purpose. Monies will be refunded in the following order (after costs)

- A. Any HQ Grant
- B. Any County Grant
- C. Any District Grant
- D. Any Group Grant
- E. Any other organisation Grant
- F. Any untraceable funds donated (such as bag packs) donated to Hampshire International fund

G. Any remaining funds returned to source

What happens if I need to withdraw close to departure? We will always try very hard to re-fill the place, however, this may be very difficult – especially at short notice. Depending on the reason for withdrawal, there may be insurance cover (for instance, a broken bone or a major illness / death in immediate family). However, we reserve the right to insist on payment in full, even if you do not attend.

How will money for the expedition be handled? All funds for Project 23 will be paid directly into the main Hampshire County Scouts bank account at HSBC (either via cheque, cash or electronic transfer). We will issue instructions on this procedure later. No funds are to be paid to any leader. For keeping track of each individual participant account, we appointed a finance point of contact, who will use an accounting system to keep track of all monies and send through statements showing your progress.

Can we claim gift aid on fundraising? Unfortunately, Project 23 does not qualify for gift aid, and therefore, no gift aid can be claimed / reclaimed for payments / fundraising.

Can we claim any grants to attend Project 23? Yes, there are a range of funds and grants that can be applied for.

- a. It is always worth approaching your Group / Explorer Unit / District, as they may have funds in place for this type of event.
- b. Hampshire County Scouts will be operating a Project 23 Grant fund.
- c. Other private trusts and organisations – Lesley Sale Trust, Round Table, Rotary Club etc. Some of the above are open to all, some can have restrictions (such as location, purpose, young person only, financial situation) etc.

How to apply to the Hampshire Project 23 Grant fund? We invited applications to the Hampshire WSJ Grant Fund as part of the WSJ application process. If you accept a place on Project 23, these applications will be transferred to the Project 23 Grant fund (we will do this automatically). Applications are considered by a separate Grants committee (the Project 23 Managers will be unaware of who has applied for a Grant). The Grant committee will meet in early January 2022, and will independently decide on the grant applications. They will then notify the project 23 managers, who will notify you of any grant awarded.

Grants will be split equally and applied across the stage payments. For instance, a £1,000 grant across 5 stage payments would be £200 towards each stage payment. It will not be a £1,000 grant paid at the beginning.

Who will know that I have a grant? Before the end of 2021, only the Grants Committee. From early 2022, the Project 23 Managers and book keeper will also be aware. However, the rest of the Project 23 Leaders and local districts and groups will not be notified.

Do I have to tell my Group / District that I am taking part in Project 23? You don't have to, but it might be good to tell your leaders. As part of our process, we will notify all District Commissioners of the Project 23 offers from their District, and your acceptance of a place.

Do I have to be a Scout? Yes – you must be a member of UK Scouting to attend. If you leave Scouting / stop being an active member of your Scout group / Explorer unit, your place may be withdrawn.

What is the Project 23 management for Hampshire? The Project 23 core team comes under the Hampshire Assistant County Commissioner (International) - Julian Sore, along with Jo Sore, Zoe Fettes and Robin Mair. Julian Sore reports to the Deputy County Commissioner Program, and then the County Commissioner.

What is OSM? OSM stands for Online Scout Manager. It is a web based system that enables us to communicate easily with all leaders and participants (and parents) of the Project 23 teams. It allows you to update your own information (such as contact addresses, telephone numbers, medical information, doctors contact details etc.). Hampshire County Scouts will be using this to manage it's information, and we will be able to issue information on training weekends and fundraising events via OSM, and you will be able to confirm attendance. It will save a massive amount of paperwork flowing in both directions, which will reduce costs!

When will we start using OSM? As part of the World Scout Jamboree application process, you will have a “WSJ2023” record. If you accept your place on Project 23, we will move this across to the “Project23” OSM.

We already use OSM for Scouts / Explorers, can I just use this entry? Unfortunately, no. There are a number of technical reasons why we can't share records. A new OSM record is required for Project 23.

Will I have a say in which team I am placed in? No. Once we have received all of the acceptances of places against the offers, the Project 23 Management team will place everybody into the Project 23 teams. This will be dependent on a variety of factors, including age distribution, sex distribution, personality characteristics and district distribution. We also split siblings, as we want everybody to have their own experience. Project 23 is all about making new friends, and whilst you may know some others in the team you are placed in, it's a fantastic chance to make new friends!

How are the leaders selected? We will be running a selection process in November and December to select the team leaders.

What about GDPR? As a Hampshire County Scout event, data will be handled as described by the Hampshire County Scouts GDPR policy (available from the Hampshire County Scouts Website). Central Data (such as application forms, selection planning) will be held on the Hampshire County Scouts Microsoft Office 365 account. OSM will be used for the day to day running of the Hampshire Project 23 Expedition. Access will be limited to the Hampshire Project 23 core team and Project 23 Leaders. Financial data will be held and processed in an accountancy system set up for this purpose. Data will also be shared where needed for the planning and management of Project 23. Data will be destroyed in various stages, up to 11 years after the last Project 23 event (for instance general data could be 2 years, financial data will be destroyed after 7 years, medical / insurance information could be 11 years).

Will we be insured? We will be taking out the standard Scout International insurance for the expedition (through their Insurance arm – Unity). When we have details, we will forward this on to you.

What about Covid or another Pandemic? Project 23 is just under 2 years away, we are continuing on the basis that issues caused by Coronavirus will dissipate over the next 2 years. However, we are not able to predict the future and Covid may become an issue again. We will have to wait to see what Insurance can be put into place, but we think it would be fair to say it is unlikely that insurance for a Covid (or other pandemic) cancellation will be possible. If Covid were to become an issue, and withdrawal / cancellation occurs, then you will need to expect that it may not be possible to refund some or all of your monies paid due to factors outside of the direct control of Hampshire County Scouts / uninsurable situations. Refunds will be limited to best endeavours of unspent monies only.

Will I need any vaccinations? Quite possibly yes. You will need to have any vaccinations which are compulsory for the countries we are visiting, or mandated by any campsite we stay on. Unfortunately, we don't know what these are at present. It is recommended (subject to your Doctors advice) to have your normal UK range of vaccinations.

Who has the final say? All places in the Hampshire WSJ units are granted by permission of the Hampshire County Commissioner. At any time, and for any reason, an individual's place may be withdrawn by the County Commissioner. The financial consequences of this, will follow the **What happens if I need to withdraw after paying the deposit.**