



## Hampshire County Scouts and Isle of Wight County Scouts 26<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree, Poland 2027



# Theme : Bravely.

## Participants Questions and Answers

With more than 2 years to go until the Jamboree, the specific details are not yet available and will be confirmed to the units 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. However, ALL and ANY information may be changed by HQ.

If there are any questions that you cannot find answers to on this Q&A form, please e-mail [wsj@hampshirescouts.org.uk](mailto:wsj@hampshirescouts.org.uk)

**Where and when will the 26<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree (WSJ) be?** The World Scout Jamboree will be held from 30<sup>th</sup> July to 9<sup>th</sup> August in 2027 at Wyspa Sobieszewska within the borders of the city of Gdańsk, on the coast of the Baltic Sea in northern Poland.

**What is a World Scout Jamboree?** The World Scout Jamboree is a bit like the Olympics' – it is held every four years at different locations around the world and is truly International and inclusive. Scouts from every Scouting nation (about 226 countries and territories) attend for an event to share fun, adventure, world issues and friendship. Approximately 30,000 Scouts are expected at the next event to be held in Poland. The Jamboree lasts for 12 days, and on top of this is sightseeing, and cultural events to form a 3 week expedition. The World Scout Jamboree is seen as a pinnacle event for Scouts.

**Who can apply to go as a participant?** To apply to be a participant you must be born on between 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009 and 30<sup>th</sup> July 2013, and be a Scout / Explorer within Hampshire and Isle of Wight. These dates are set by the UK Contingent and are out of our control.

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 If you leave Scouting / are suspended / stop being an active member, your place may be withdrawn.

**Why Hampshire and Isle of Wight (HIW)?** Hampshire County Scouts have been joined by the Isle of Wight County Scouts to manage and run a combined World Scout Jamboree process for the two Counties. We have been working hard over the last couple of months to have a process which is the same for both Counties.

**What is the HIW Jamboree Management Team?** For Hampshire, the Jamboree comes under the Hampshire County Sub Team International - Julian Sore and Mark Duffy. For Isle of Wight, it comes under Samantha Sharp.

**What happens if I was born outside of these dates?** If you were born after these dates you should be eligible for the 27<sup>th</sup> WSJ in 2031. 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 Jamboree.

**Where will the Jamboree be?** The Jamboree will be held Wyspa Sobieszewska within the borders of the city of Gdańsk, on the coast of the Baltic Sea in northern Poland. Find out more about the site by visiting the Jamboree website at <https://www.jamboree2027.org>

**What is the Jamboree theme?** "Bravely" is the Jamboree theme, with which we aim to inspire young people to act courageously for the future of humanity and the planet.

**What makes a Jamboree special?** The Jamboree is not just a huge gathering of Scouts and Guides from all around the World, it is more than that. Scouts from around the world living, working and having fun together. When a member of the United Nations visited the Jamboree in Japan he described it as "the way the World should be". It is truly a special place where Scouts can share their cultural and national backgrounds, and words cannot do it justice.

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

**I have special needs / disabilities, can I still go?** The ethos of the Jamboree is that it should be as open and accessible to everyone of the correct age. As a result, every effort is made 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 needing a carer). We will support & accommodate for additional needs as much as possible, but ultimately we have to maintain the safety of the WSJ for all concerned. Obviously this is a very complex area. We suggest that if you have particular questions regarding personal adjustments then please contact us on [wsj@hampshirescouts.org.uk](mailto:wsj@hampshirescouts.org.uk)

Fundamentally, all participants in the Jamboree, young person or leader, must be aware that it is a 3 week expedition, mainly camping overseas, with a wide range of activities. 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.

**What do I do if I need a carer for the WSJ?** A carer can be required for a wide range of reasons. Please feel free to contact us on [wsj@hampshirescouts.org.uk](mailto:wsj@hampshirescouts.org.uk). Please apply, and put an outline of the reasons why on the application form. We will then discuss this with you further to establish how we can accommodate reasonable adjustments (such as a carer). A temporary arrangement will be agreed for the selection weekend, with the aim of achieving as full as a participation as reasonably possible, safely. If selected, the requirements will be passed to the UK Contingent management team, who will need to agree to a carers place to be allocated. Assuming that this is agreed, the HIW Jamboree Management team will then work with the unit leader and your parents to find the most suitable person to accompany you and act as your carer.

**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. The WSJ itself will be set up for these. 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 [wsj@hampshirescouts.org.uk](mailto:wsj@hampshirescouts.org.uk)

**What faiths and culture's are represented at the WSJ?** Essentially, ALL. The event is aimed at everywhere in the world that has Scouting, and this includes all faiths and cultures. At the Jamboree, you could be queuing for an activity and talk to somebody from virtually anywhere in the world. A lot of the activities are aimed at interaction with others. At the WSJ, there will be chances to learn and join in with other faiths and beliefs. With the ethos of the Jamboree is open to all, the HIW WSJ will be open to applicants from all faiths, no faith, and cultures.

**What is the UK contingent?** The UK contingent is the name for all of the participants, leaders and the International Service Team who will attend the event from the UK. The entire contingent will contain about 3,500 people!

**What makes up a Jamboree unit?** A Jamboree unit is made up of 40 people, this is 4 leaders and 36 participants organised into 4 patrols. The UK contingent will include approx. 75 units. Each unit will have a Unit Leader, a Deputy Unit Leader, and two Assistant Unit Leaders.

**How many spaces are there?** HIW have been awarded 4 WSJ units, so this is 144 participants, and 16 leaders.

**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 / IW for all training events etc., then you should be able to continue in the Hampshire / IW Jamboree Unit. It is not normally possible to move Jamboree unit to a more local one.

**How much will the Jamboree cost?** The Jamboree fee is made up of two separate amounts.

- a. UK HQ WSJ Fee. UK Contingent Management Team are currently working on the costings for 2027 and we hope to have this information early autumn. However, as a guide the UK HQ WSJ fee for the last Jamboree in the Korea was £3,500. We are expecting a fee of between £3,000 - £4,000 for Poland.  
We have no say in this fee, although Hampshire Scouts are responsible to collect it and pass it to UK Contingent.  
This amount covers all costs from when the unit assembles at a UK Airport / Coach Pick up, until their return. Compulsory uniform items and some kit (such as kit bag) are usually included in this.
- b. HIW Training Fee (£600). This is the cost of training and pre-jamboree activities prior to the WSJ. Each unit usually has between 6-10 events (being an evening, a day or a weekend) to prepare for the WSJ, and it also usually includes additional items such as hoodies and unit scarfs. The Training Fee also includes a contribution to the WSJ Grant fund.

**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 3 months expiry from date of return to the UK after the WSJ (and departure date is not more than 10 months from the passport start date).
- b. Visa's may be required for the countries being visited (including the EU).
- 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 UK Contingent kit, and Unit 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 Jamboree?** Absolutely, we would encourage you to fundraise to help raise your Jamboree fee, this can be an important part of your Jamboree journey. In the past many participants have fundraised their entire Jamboree fee. 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 Jamboree Leaders help us Fundraise?** The main role of the Jamboree leaders is to form the Jamboree Unit and help the unit 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 unit, 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.

**Does HIW County Scouts organise any fundraising?** Project 27 will probably organise a 22mile sponsored walk (the Twenty Bridges of London), with a provisional date of 12<sup>th</sup> September 26. This would be opened up to all those attending the WSJ as well. This is likely to be the only organised event in Hampshire, however, other opportunities will come up across the County. The Isle of Wight usually has a number of fundraising opportunities which will be communicated to all those on the Island.

**What are the Jamboree dates?** The Jamboree itself will be held between 30<sup>th</sup> July to August to 9<sup>th</sup> August 2027. However, the UK Contingent usually provides cultural experiences either before or after the Jamboree. It also takes a number of days to fly / coach everybody out before, and back afterwards. Therefore, we currently do not know the precise dates that will be required. In total, it is likely to be 3 weeks.

**Will all of the people in the unit be from Hampshire / Isle of Wight?** The four units will only be made up with Scouts from Hampshire and Isle of Wight. We are not sharing with any other Counties this time.

**Will I know the people in my unit before we go?** The unit is likely to be made up of Scouts and Explorers from across the two Counties and you may not know many people at the start of the journey. However in the build up to the Jamboree you will have a number of training events to get to know your unit and many Scouts tell us that by the time they go to a Jamboree their unit become like a second family.

**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 unit 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?** There are usually a number of training events / weekends, around 6 to 10 but this will depend on the unit, and we will be looking for you to attend all of these so that the unit can bond together as a unit.

**Where will the training weekends be?** It will be down to the Unit Leadership team to decide on the locations. Most will be within Hampshire / Isle of Wight.

**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 sharing of transport is encouraged. Travel to / from the Isle of Wight will be co-ordinated and covered with the fees.

**How do I apply?** We will issue two methods for applying. The first will be via an on-line application form. The second will be via a printable form that can be sent in by post. For both methods, the main box about yourself (section 2) can be either written, or by video.

**Do I have to apply via my Group / District?** No! All applications go direct from the person applying, direct to Hampshire County Scouts (including for Isle of Wight). The application forms are then processed by the HIW Jamboree Management team, checked, and a decision will be taken on inviting the applicant to the selection weekend by the County WSJ Management Team.

**Do I have to tell my Group / District?** You don't have to, but it might be good to tell your leader. As part of our checks, we will notify all District Lead Volunteer / County Lead Volunteer of the applicants from their area.

**What happens next?** The Jamboree Management team will acknowledge receipt of your application, normally, within 72 hours. This will be through the OSM system for the WSJ, where you will be invited to join and add additional information about you. We will then

carry out some checks on the application form. In early August 2025, we will decide who to put forward for the Selection weekend (which we may be limited on numbers for), and those that will not be taken forward at this stage.

**What about selection?** Attending Selection is **COMPULSORY**. You cannot be considered for a place on the WSJ without undertaking the selection process. The HIW Selection weekend will be held from evening of **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025 to mid-day Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> 2025** (times to be confirmed). This will be held at Fernycrofts Scout Campsite, New Forest, Hampshire. There will be a charge for this weekend of £55 as it should be a fun activity weekend in itself. For the selection weekend, participants will be camping. Full details of the weekend will be sent by in August 2025. If the cost of the selection weekend is a barrier to you attending then please contact the HIW Jamboree Management team at [wsj@hampshirescouts.org.uk](mailto:wsj@hampshirescouts.org.uk) and we will see what support can be offered.

**Do I have to go to the selection weekend to get a place?** Yes – you must participant in that process to be selected as a Jamboree participant.

**Who makes the selection decisions?** The 16 WSJ leaders for HIW (as a selection panel) will make the selection decision on the Sunday afternoon of the selection weekend.

**When will I know if I have a place?** We aim to do this as quickly as possible after the selection process, but it will take a couple of weeks. All selection result notices will be issued at the same time.

**Is there an option of being a reserve WSJ participant?** After the WSJ participants have been selected, a further list will be made by the selection panel that will be form the reserve list. Participants are NOT notified if they are on the reserve list.

If a WSJ space becomes available, the Jamboree Management team will look to select a reserve that matches as close as possible the County, District and age of the person withdrawing. If the person selected is on Project 27, they will be allowed to transfer to the WSJ if they wish. If they are not on an expedition, they can join the WSJ if they wish. If the selected reserve declines, then the reserve list will be re-visited and the next most suitable person chosen.

If the list of reserves is exhausted, then the Jamboree Management team are under no obligation to offer the place to somebody that attended the selection weekend, as they will look for the most appropriate person depending on the circumstances.

**Participants (or parents or their leaders) can NOT ask for you to be made a reserve, it will already have been decided when the selections are made.**

**I have been offered a WSJ place, whats next?** If you are offered a WSJ place, you will need to complete and return the WSJ Acceptance form, and make a £200 non-refundable deposit. This will be roughly at the end of September 25. There will be a two week period to accept your place. If you are struggling to organise the deposit, please talk to us.

**When will I know which Unit I am in?** After we have received all of the acceptance forms, we will be splitting the 144 selected participants down into the 4 units (so during October 25). Therefore, around early November 25 we should be able to inform you which unit you are in. When we split the participants down into the units, we do try and spread people around. We have a policy of separating siblings (so that they have different experiences), and definitely putting any children of WSJ leaders into different units. We also try and not have large blocks together (so a District that has a large number, will be split into a number of units). For the Isle of Wight, they may be split into 1 or 2 different units.

**Can I change the Unit I am placed in?** We don't usually allow unit changes. However, in rare exceptional circumstances this may be considered, and only if a volunteer wishes to move in the opposite direction. The whole point of the WSJ, is to meet and make new friends, so being put into a unit with new people is part of that process.



**Do I have to pay all of the money at the start?** No, just the non-refundable deposit. We will need stage payments to meet the commitment to pay Scout HQ over the next two years (normally around 6 or 7). Once we know the HQ payment schedule, we will set the HIW schedule and publish it. All leaders and participants will need to keep to this schedule.

**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 Jamboree, less the non-refundable deposit, less the cost for training / equipment received or ordered, less the cost of changing names charged by HQ, 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 Grant fund
- G. Any remaining funds returned to participant

You may still need to pay money in to go towards covering any costs, if you have not paid enough in.

**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 Jamboree be handled?** All funds for the Jamboree 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 Jamboree leader**. For keeping track of each individual participant account, we have 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, the Jamboree does not qualify for gift aid, and therefore, no gift aid can be claimed / reclaimed for Jamboree payments / fundraising.

**Can we claim any grants to attend the Jamboree?** 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 and Isle of Wight Scouts will be operating a WSJ Grant fund. If you need a financial support grant, then you will need to apply for this alongside your main application form (however, the two are processed separately).
- c. UK HQ have a Jamboree support fund
- d. 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 County Grant fund?** The link for the online form will be on the website, alongside the main application form.

**Who will know that I have a grant?** Before the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025, only the Grants Committee. After the 15<sup>th</sup> September 25, the WSJ Managers and book keeper will also be aware. However, the WSJ Leaders and local districts and groups will not be notified.

**When will I know if I have a grant?** The grants team will be notifying the Jamboree Management team of grants awarded on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025 (the day after the selection weekend). We will then merge the grant information with your selection letter, so you will know how much grant you have been awarded, when you are notified of an offer of a place on the WSJ / Project 27.

**How can I find out more about what it is like to attend a Jamboree?** The best way to find out about a Jamboree is to talk to someone who has been before, the young people who went to the Jamboree in Korea, Japan or USA would be a good starting point.

**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 Jamboree units. 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 its 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 soon as we receive and process your application, you will be invited to join the WSJ OSM, and to enter your information. OSM will then be used to invite people to the selection processes.

**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 the Jamboree.

**Will each WSJ Unit have its own OSM?** No, for a number of reasons, all of the Hampshire / Isle of Wight units will share a single OSM (so this will be across all 4 units). This does mean that all 16 leaders for the units will have access to all members of the 4 units (along with the HIW Jamboree management team).

**What is the Jamboree Management System?** This is a web based system used by HQ to obtain information on all participants for their management on the planning and running of the Jamboree, and unfortunately, it is NOT linked to OSM. This system usually starts to be used around 12-18 months prior to the Jamboree.

**Do I have to use OSM and Jamboree Management System?** Yes, you will need to use both systems, and keep both systems up to date.

**Is there another expedition in 2027 if I am not successful?** We are expecting a high number of applications (can be 400+ for 144 places). As previous years, we are planning an alternative comparable expedition to be able to offer ALL\* youth applicants that we cannot squeeze into the Jamboree units, which is being called Project 27.

\* Places may not be offered on Project 27 if we receive significant adverse reports during the application / selection process.

\*\* There may need to be a ballot system if we have too many young people for Project 27.

Once you have accepted a place on the WSJ, you will NOT be able to transfer to the Project 27.

Project 27 will be for 3 weeks, based around the same time as the WSJ, and will be a fun expedition, filled with loads of activities, whilst travelling around another Country. If you are offered a place on Project 27, then acceptances will also need to be returned within 2 weeks, and a £200 deposit paid (so the same as the WSJ). More information on Project 27 will be available in September 25.

Hampshire only - Suisse Adventure will also be running a 2 week expedition to Kandersteg – Switzerland, in August 2027. Suisse Adventure usually starts their process around 6-9 months after the WSJ. This will be significantly cheaper than WSJ / Project 27, but will have fewer places and will only be for two weeks. It will be a very different type of expedition (for instance, there will not be training weekends). Providing members have NOT accepted places on WSJ / P27, they may be able to join Suisse Adventure.

**What about GDPR?** As a Hampshire County Scout event, all data for the combined HIW units 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 HIW World Scout Jamboree. Access will be limited to the HIW Management team and Jamboree Leaders, plus County Lead Volunteers as required. Financial data will be held and processed in an accountancy system set up for this purpose. Data will also be shared with UK Scout HQ where needed for the planning and management of the WSJ. Data will be destroyed in various stages, up to 11 years after the last WSJ 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?** The UK HQ will organise the insurance for the expedition (usually through their Insurance arm – Unity). When we have details, we will forward this on to you.

**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 the Jamboree organisers. 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.

**What are the other risks of visiting Poland?** Poland is a modern, developing nation. It is part of the EU and NATO. However, it does neighbour Russia

**Wasn't there some issues with the last WSJ in Korea?** Yes, the WSJ in Korea had to be abandoned due to a number of issues. Some of these were weather related, and some were to do with the jamboree site not being ready for the WSJ. An alternative jamboree experience was held out of hotels in Korea. The feedback from the young people was broadly that they still had an amazing time, massively helped by the response of leaders and the UK Contingent management teams putting on amazing opportunities. A lot of investigation into what went wrong has and is still taking place, and changes are being put into place for Poland to prevent this from happening again.

## Who has the final say?

All places in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight WSJ units are granted by permission of the Hampshire / Isle of Wight County Lead Volunteer. **At any time, and for any reason**, an individual's place may be withdrawn by the County Lead Volunteer. The financial consequences of this, will follow the **What happens if I need to withdraw after paying the deposit. / What happens if I need to withdraw close to departure?**

If the County Lead Volunteer has withdrawn an individual's place, there is no right of appeal.