



# Hampshire County Scouts Project 27

## Participants Questions and Answers

Hampshire County Scouts have run a significant alternative expedition along side the World Scout Jamboree in 2019 and 2023, and we are once again doing this for 2027.

As Hampshire County Scouts have joined together with Isle of Wight Scouts for the 2027 Jamboree, we have expanded Project 27 to be fully open to Isle of Wight Scouts, on the same basis as Hampshire Scouts.

If there are any questions that you cannot find answers to on this Q&A form, please e-mail [P27@hampshirescouts.org.uk](mailto:P27@hampshirescouts.org.uk)

**Where and when will Project 27 be?** After a lot of debate, we can now announce that Project 27 will be in the USA. The provisional plans are to fly into Atlanta (Georgia), and undertake an 1,100 mile coach journey up to Boston (Massachusetts) before flying home. We will be looking to depart the UK over the weekend of 24/25<sup>th</sup> of July 2027, and return over the weekend of 14<sup>th</sup> / 15<sup>th</sup> August 2027.

**What will we be doing on Project 27?** Over the journey, we will be staying at 4 different Scout campsites, having an amazing fun time doing as many different activities as we can find, visiting places like the Blue Ridge Mountains, and Cities such as Washington DC and Boston. There will be other Scouts on the campsites, which will be mainly US Scouts, but may also be from further afield. We are still working on the plans, so things are still provisional and subject to change as we develop the programme.

**Who can apply to go as a participant?** To apply to be a participant you must be born on between 31st July 2009 and 30th July 2013, and be a Scout / Explorer within Hampshire and Isle of Wight. This is the same as the WSJ, as this expedition is a sister expedition to the WSJ, and will initially be offered only to those that applied to the WSJ, but were not offered a place on the WSJ.

**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 If you leave Scouting / are suspended / stop being an active member, your place may be withdrawn.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. As a result, Hampshire County Scouts have extended the Project 27 expedition to include Isle of Wight Scouts, so that those that apply to the WSJ, have the same opportunities and processes.

**What is the Project 27 Core Team?** This is the main leaders that are running and organising the Project 27 Expedition, and is led by Jools Sore.

**Can I join the expedition late or leave early?** The Project 27 teams will leave the UK and return to the UK as a whole expedition team. It will not be possible to join late or leave early.

**I have special needs / disabilities, can I still go?** As with general Scouting, our ethos 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 expedition 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 [P27@hampshirescouts.org.uk](mailto:P27@hampshirescouts.org.uk)

Fundamentally, all for participants Project 27, 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.

**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 [P27@hampshirescouts.org.uk](mailto:P27@hampshirescouts.org.uk)

**What makes up Project 27?** Project 27 will be made up of a number of layers

- a. Project 27 Core Team – 3 or 4 experienced leaders that will plan, organise and execute the Project 27 expedition.
- b. Project 27 Support Team – 3 or 4 experienced leaders that will support the Core Team, and the leader teams.
- c. Project 27 Teams. Each Project 27 team will consist of a nominal 21 Scouts and 5 leaders (26 in total). Each team will carry out training separately (but on the same dates), and will bond together. The leaders within the team will take care of pastoral care for its team, and the day to day running of a team.

**How many teams will there be?** We are aiming to have either 4 or 6 teams on Project 27 (which is either 2 or 3 coaches). However, we can only decide how many, once we have received the acceptance forms, and we know how many leaders apply to lead the teams.

**How many spaces are there?** If we run 4 teams, there will be 92 spaces for young people, needing 20 leaders. If we run 6 teams, there will be 138 spaces for young people, needing 30 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 Project 27 team.

**How much will Project 27 cost?** We are in early days for Project 27, and the provisional budgets are indicating around £3,600 - £3,900. Over the next 22 months, we will be working hard to balance reducing this, and adding additional exciting items into the program. The biggest items will be the cost of the airfare (which should be known around October 26), and the cost for the 4 Scout campsites (which we should know in the next 12 months). We aim to announce the final price around Easter 2027. As we are fully in control of the whole of the Project 27 program, we are able to adapt and change to meet challenges.

**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.
- b. Visa's will be required for visiting the USA. In most cases, this will be an ESTA via the VWP (Visa Waiver Program). Indications are that this is a cost of \$40. Whatever the cost is, you will need to provide your own USA Visa for the visit.
- c. Any vaccinations that you may be required for visiting the USA.
- d. Some kit will be required (such as sleeping bags, mats, footwear etc.)
- e. There are usually options to buy additional Project 27 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 Project 27?** Absolutely, we would encourage you to fundraise to help raise your Project 27 fees, this can be an important part of your journey. In the past many participants have fundraised their entire fee. Essentially, if you work hard at your fundraising, you are more likely to raise more and help your family / the adults financing you !!! If you sit back and let others do it, you are less likely to raise the money.

**Do the Project 27 Leaders help us Fundraise?** The main role of the Project 27 leaders is to form the Project 27 team and help the team bond and prepare for the expedition. They will help with fund raising ideas, and will encourage the team to talk and chat about what is working, and what is not working for the members of the team. 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.

**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 Project 27. This is likely to be the only organised event in Hampshire, however, other opportunities will come up across the County. The Isle of Wight may have a number of fundraising opportunities which will be communicated to all those on the Island.

**What are the Project 27 dates?** We will be looking to depart the UK over the weekend of 24/25<sup>th</sup> of July 2027 and return over the weekend of 14<sup>th</sup> / 15<sup>th</sup> August 2027. However, this is all subject to flights, which we can not book until September 26.

**Will all of the people in the team be from Hampshire / Isle of Wight?** The Project 27 teams will only be made up with Scouts from Hampshire and Isle of Wight. We are not sharing with any other Counties.

**Will I know the people in my unit before we go?** The team is likely to be made up of Scouts and Explorers from across the two Counties and you may not know many (or any) people at the start of the journey. However in the build up to Project 27 you will have a number of training events to get to know your team and many Scouts tell us that by the time they go on Project 27 their team 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 will be a number of training events / weekends, around 7. We will be looking for you to attend all of these so that the unit can bond together as a team.

**What are the dates of the training weekends?** All teams will have the same training dates, and will be as follows

Training Day 1	Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb 26	Single Day to get to know everyone
Training Weekend 2	17 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	First Camping Weekend
Training Weekend 3	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	
Training Weekend 4	9 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2026	
Training Weekend 5	29 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2027	1 <sup>st</sup> Aid – Compulsory Attendance
Training Weekend 6	16 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2027	
Training Weekend 7	2 <sup>nd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2027	Final weekend – Compulsory

**Where will the training weekends be?** It will be down to the Project 27 team leaders to decide on the locations. Most will be within Hampshire / Isle of Wight.

**Do we have to pay for training weekends?** No, the cost of the training weekends will be included in the overall fee. So the more you attend, the more you will gain.

**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 as a participant?** You can no longer apply as a participant, as this was part of the WSJ process.

**I have been offered a Project 27 place, what's next?** If you are offered a Project 27 place, you will need to complete and return the Project 27 Acceptance form and make a £200 non-refundable deposit. Both of these need to be by the end of Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. If you are struggling to organise the deposit, please E-mail us on [P27@hampshirescouts.org.uk](mailto:P27@hampshirescouts.org.uk)

**What's next?** The Project 27 core team will then be looking at how many acceptances we have received, and how many leader applications have come in, and will make a decision as to how many coaches Project 27 will use. This will be either 2 coaches (which is 4 teams) or 3 coaches (6 teams). If we have less acceptances for young people than the places available (92 for two coaches, or 138 for 3 coaches), then all acceptances will be confirmed, and we will look to fill the remaining places from transfers and late acceptances (and even possible direct entries). If we have more acceptances than places, we may need to reduce the number of acceptances by virtue of a random draw process. Those that are removed in this manner will become first reserves in case of any spaces opening (so prioritised above late acceptances / transfers from the WSJ). We will look to confirm all of this for end of October.

**When will I know which Team I am in?** During November, we will be selecting the leaders for the teams. In early December, we will then split all of the leaders and young people down into the 4 or 6 Project 27 teams, and therefore, around mid December we should be able to inform you which team you are in. When we split the participants down into the teams, 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 Project 27 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 teams.

**Can I change the Unit I am placed in?** We don't usually allow team 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 Project 27 is to meet and make new friends, so being put into a team 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 over the next 20 months to enable us to pay for items as required.

	Payment by	Total*		Payment by	Total*
Deposit	22/10/2025	£200	SP4	31/10/2026	£700
SP1	28/02/2026	£200	SP5	31/01/2027	£700
SP2	30/04/2026	£700	SP6	31/04/2027	Remaining
SP3	30/07/2026	£700			

\* If you have been awarded a Project 27 County Grant, this will be spread as a credit against the Stage Payments 1 – 6, with any final adjustments on Stage Payment 6.

**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 Project 27, less the non-refundable deposit, less the cost for training / equipment received or ordered, less the cost of changing names charged by suppliers, 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 Project 27 be handled?** All funds for Project 27 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 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, Project 27 does not qualify for gift aid, and therefore, no gift aid can be claimed / reclaimed for Project 27 payments / fundraising.

**Can we claim any grants to attend Project 27?** 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 have operated a Grant Fund, and is now closed to the current applicants. If you are a new applicant (including Leaders), then please E-mail [P27@hampshirescouts.org.uk](mailto:P27@hampshirescouts.org.uk) for details.
- 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.

**Who will know that I have a grant?** Until now, only the Grants Committee. However, this information has now been shared with Julian Sore, for adding to the WSJ and Project 27 Offer letters, and for administrating into the accounts. However, the WSJ and Project 27 Leaders and local districts and groups will not be notified.

**When will I know if I have a grant?** For applicants via the WSJ process, this will be indicated on your offer letter. For applicants after this point, you will be notified around 2-3 months after application.

**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 27 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! Whilst you may have registered with the WSJ2027 for the selection process, you will now be moved to Project27 to separate out from the WSJ.

**When will we start using OSM?** As soon as we receive and process your acceptance.

**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 27.

**Will each Project 27 team have its own OSM?** No, for a number of reasons, all of the Hampshire / Isle of Wight Project 27 teams will share a single OSM (so this will be across all 4 or 6 teams). This does mean that all Project 27 leaders for the teams will have access to all members of the 4 or 6 teams, along with management structure.

**Do I have to use OSM?** Yes, you will need to use OSM, and keep it up to date.

**Is there another expedition in 2027?** There are other expeditions across various districts.

Hampshire only - Suisse Adventure will also be running a 2 week expedition to Kandersteg – Switzerland, in August 2027. Suisse Adventure will start their process in October, and have indicated that is £1,400 (plus some activity costs) for two weeks in Switzerland. 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 P27, they may be able to join Suisse Adventure. Please note : This is not a sister expedition, so you would need to apply and follow their application and acceptance process.

**What about GDPR?** As a Hampshire County Scout event, all data for Project 27 combined HIW teams 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 Project 27 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 suppliers strictly where needed (e.g. Airline, US Campsite). Data will be destroyed in various stages, up to 11 years after the last Project 27 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 organising the standard Unity Scout Travel insurance for the expedition. This is usually once the flights are confirmed. When we have details, we will forward this on to you. Please Note : The travel insurance cancellation is not for the full listed cost of the expedition, as it will not cover items you have already received (such as training, clothing etc.), or items that we can be reasonably stopped or recovered.

**Will I need any vaccinations?** Quite possibly yes. You will need to have any vaccinations which are compulsory for the USA. 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 risks of visiting USA?** Every country has positive and negative issues, some of which will trigger a connection with individuals. As any Scout Expedition, all areas of the expedition will be fully risked assessed, both before the expedition, and during the expedition. We will obviously be always following the FCO (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and UK Scouting advice. Generally, we will be travelling through and staying in states that are regarded as safe and stable. We will be staying on Scout Campsites. These campsites are very large sites (typically 500 – 1,000 acres – compared to Fernycrofts 31 acres). These sites are set up to accommodate and provide activities for hundreds of Scouts. We don't necessarily agree with all of the policies and law changes that are occurring in the USA at present, but believe that as we will be in the country as Scout tourists rather than residents, the expedition is very viable and safe.

**What if not enough people want to go to the USA?** As you will be aware, we did a poll last week. This had responses from over 180 young people that applied to the WSJ / P27, and 250 of their parents. The poll results showed that over 95% of young people would accept a place on an expedition to the USA, and over 85% of parents would. This gives a high level of confidence that an expedition to the USA is very viable.

**What happens to any left over monies at the end of Project 27?** Any money remaining with Hampshire County Scouts will be

- Used to replenish the Grant funds from Hampshire and Isle of Wight, up to a maximum of the amounts that they provided to support members of Project 27.
- Any remaining funds will then be disposed of as per Hampshire County Scouts financial policy as directed by the Trustee Board.

## Who has the final say?

All places in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Project 27 Teams 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. A typical example (but not limited to) would be unacceptable behaviour, lack of participation etc.

# **Leaders Additional Questions and Answers**

**How do I apply as a Leader / Support?** Applications will be open until Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October for leaders. Please apply via <https://hampshirescouts.typeform.com/to/jppH6yUp>

**Is there a minimum age to be a Leader / Support?** As we are a sister expedition to the WSJ, we follow the same age requirements for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight WSJ Leaders. This is born or before 27th June 2007, For the support role, as you will need to be able to drive a hire car in the USA, you need to be a minimum of 25 as of 24th July 2027.

**Do Leaders / Support have to go to a selection event to get a place?** Yes – you must participate in the selection process to be selected as a leader / Support, and attend one of the two selection days. These will be on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November and Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November 25, at a location in Hampshire.

**Who makes the selection decisions?** The Project 27 core team makes the leader and support selection decisions, with the CLV's confirming.

**When will I know if I have a leader / support 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.

**What will I be doing as a Support person?** Essentially, helping to make everything run smoothly, as support for the Core Team, and supporting the Leader teams. In the training phase, this could be visiting the training events, helping to distribute items, having an input into the core team on decisions, helping leader teams to run an event etc. etc. It could even be things like processing forms and handling paperwork. During the expedition, the support team will do similar things, but will also have their own support vehicle in the USA. Some of the additional tasks could include shopping, taking people to / from Dentists / Doctors / hospitals, and staying with people in hospital (hopefully not, but need to be prepared for anything!). Support people will need to be able to drive a hire vehicle in the USA (so will need to be able to drive an automatic, and will be a minimum of 25 as of the start of the expedition, and have a clean full driving licence).

**What will I be doing as a Team Leader?** You will be part of a leader team, helping to develop 21 young people into a team for the expedition. The leader team will run the training weekends and provide pastoral care for the 21 young people. This work will continue on the expedition, running the team, providing pastoral care, and ensuring that young people achieve and develop as much as possible during Project 27.

**Do Leaders / Support pay the same amount?** Project 27 leaders and supports pay 75% of the young people fee, so estimated at £2,700 - £2975.