

International Links



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Scouting has always promoted international peace, understanding and co-operation through contacts with young people from other countries and cultures. This international contact helps young people to develop an awareness of life outside their own immediate sphere, and assists them in recognising and respecting the differences that exist between the nations and races of the world.

The International Links Scheme offers a means of communicating with other Scouts abroad and provides an international experience without necessarily having to leave town!

There are two types of links available under this scheme:

International Friends: This is a link between individual members in different countries. This is a fun way of learning about the life and culture of a Scout in a foreign country, and may result in a close friendship being established and perhaps even an exchange visit to each other's country.

It is often difficult with non-English speaking countries to link young people under 12 years of age, as good knowledge of the English language is needed.

International Group Links: Many Scout Groups in the United Kingdom like to match up with a Group abroad to exchange letters, photos and other material. The International Group Links section of the scheme is designed to help UK Groups (or individual Sections) to link up with a similar unit from abroad. Groups, as we know them, do not exist in some countries and it is often better to link Leaders as a starting point and then develop this to a Group or Section Link. It is helpful therefore to know the approximate age of the Leader who will be supervising the link.

Because of the language difficulties, it can be difficult finding a partner Group for all Sections; this is especially true of Beaver Scouts as not many countries have an equivalent.

Operation Communication.....

Corresponding with a Scout or Group abroad is not just about writing letters or emails! There are many different methods of communication and exchange that may be employed to establish a varied and exciting Link.

For example, you could exchange:

- Scout magazines, newsletters, bulletins.
- Scrapbooks, postcards, badges, posters, tourist literature, maps.
- Photographs, videos or audio.
- Cards on birthdays, and at Christmas and other festivals.

Ideas for joint activities:

- Hold an international evening devoted to the other half of your Link with films, slides, videos, recorded messages, national dishes from your Link Group's country. Involve parents, committee members and friends.
- Attempt radio contact during Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA) or make contact during the Join in Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) each October.
- Undertake each other's award schemes and badges.
- Do the International Friendship Group Award or the Global Challenge. Your partner may also be tackling a similar award in their country.

The Scout Information Centre

Gilwell Park Chingford London E4 7QW Tel + 44 (0)20 8433 7100 Fax + 44 (0)20 8433 7103 email info.centre@scout.org.uk www.scoutbase.org.uk

How Do I Make A Link?

- Fill in the appropriate application form and forward it to the Postbox Secretary. An acknowledgement will be sent.

Application forms are available from your Assistant County/Area Commissioner (International), the Information Centre or from the Postbox Secretary. Online forms are also available on Scoutbase at www.scoutbase.org.uk/ps/inter/programme/links/

- Think carefully when you fill in your choice of countries. You will need to take language and culture into consideration.
- Be aware of the commitment involved in corresponding with an International Friend. You will need to maintain a regular exchange of letters and material, which involves a lot of self-discipline!

This form should then be forwarded to the Postbox Secretary, whose address is given below. They are in contact with many other Postbox Secretary abroad, and they will do their best to make a suitable link as quickly as possible. Some requests may be difficult to match, so please ensure that several choices of country are given on your form.

Please note that the INTERNATIONAL LINKS SCHEME should not be used as a means of making local contacts in order to obtain campsite information or to arrange an expedition abroad. These requests should be made through your ACC/AAC (I) who will contact the appropriate headquarters on your behalf.

Postbox Secretary: Joan Walker

Waybrook
Ewing Close
Reepham
Norfolk
NR10 4JQ
United Kingdom

Phone and fax: 01603 870352

E-Mail Waybrook@aol.com



INTERNATIONAL LINK SCHEME

Joan Walker

Waybrook

Ewing Close

Reepham

Norfolk

NR10 4JQ

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDS

I would like to be linked with a friend in

- 1.....
2.
3.

(Please give alternative choice of countries or indicate if more than one link is required)

Name.....Age.....

Address.....
.....Postcode.....

Telephone.....E-mail.....

Position in Scouting.....Scout Group.....

District.....County.....

Interests / Hobbies

Ability to write in the following languages.....

Application approved by your Leader or District Commissioner.

Signed.....(Leader / DC) Date.....

Form to be sent with **stamped addressed envelope** to Postbox Secretary at the above address.

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INTERNATIONAL LINK SCHEME

Joan Walker

Waybrook

Ewing Close

Reepham

Norfolk

NR10 4JQ

INTERNATIONAL GROUP LINKS

Name of Group.....

Scout District.....Scout County.....

We would like to be linked with a Group in

1.
2.
3.

(Please give alternative choice of countries and indicate if more than one link is required)

Indicate which part of the country or which province you would prefer to be linked with.....

Sections wanting to be involved: Beaver Scout / Cub Scout / Scout / Explore Scout / Scout Network
(delete as appropriate)

Name and Address of Group Contact

.....
.....Postcode.....

Telephone.....E-mail:.....

Special Interests (Please indicate if the Group is working towards the International Friendship Award)

Ability to write in the following languages.....

If a group link cannot be arranged we will accept a link with a Leader YES / NO

The approximate age of our Leader is years.

I approve this application. Signed.....GSL Date.....

Form to be sent with **stamped addressed envelope** to Postbox Secretary at the above address.