



**Scouting's Profile –  
strengthening communications,  
partnerships and resources.**

## Half a Million Scouts take part in a Jamboree!

### SUMMARY

**JOTA (Jamboree on the Air) and JOTI (Jamboree on the Internet) are events organised over a weekend in October every year in Scout associations around the world. Internet and radio technologies enable Scouts from every continent to meet and chat with each other. Members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) also participate.**

A Jamboree with over 500,000 participants? It's only possible using airwaves and the internet.

Every year, during the third weekend in October, hundreds of thousands of Scouts meet and communicate with each other using the internet and amateur radio. The first JOTA event took place in 1957 and the last 45 years have seen a steady increase in both the number of participants and the number of countries involved.



**A Scout communicates through the internet and amateur radio.**

JOTI is a much newer event and was established as an official 'World Event' in 1996. The number of participants in JOTI has also risen steadily and the number of girls and young women participating in both events is also increasing. Records show that the percentage has doubled in four years, from just over 7% in 1998 to over 14% in 2002. The word 'Jamboree' is said to have been invented by Baden-Powell as a name for an event which brings Scouts together from around the world.

JOTA and JOTI also help Scouts to develop technical skills. At Scout camps, organised over JOTA/JOTI weekends, young people are encouraged to develop and exercise their skills in a range of different technologies. Many Scouts are involved in making circuit boards and developing electronic gadgets. Some Scout associations have proficiency badges related to technology and communications. At a camp in the UK, the activities are extended to include video production, digital photography, musical composition etc., for more information visit: [www.scout.org/strat/sp7en.shtml](http://www.scout.org/strat/sp7en.shtml)

But not all the learning is technical. A set of 'netiquette guidelines' have been developed, based on the Scout Law and Promise. Guidelines are also provided on: safety for young people using the web, good practice when using email to communicate with others and chat on-line, and information on World-Wide-Web guidelines. Scouts are therefore helped to learn and develop good practice in communicating with others via amateur radio and the internet.

Two web-pages provide comprehensive advice to leaders on how to participate and include an update on what has happened. Basic information is available in 16 languages, from English, French and Spanish to Chinese, Esperanto and Suomi.

In some countries, Australia, Chile, Cyprus, the Netherlands, the Netherland Antilles, Portugal and Turkey, the percentage of Scouts





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participating in JOTA/JOTI can be as high as 10%. With 28 million Scouts world-wide, these events have a huge potential to help young people from around the world to communicate with each other.

Further information is available at  
**[www.scout.org/wse/jota.shtml](http://www.scout.org/wse/jota.shtml)**  
or **[www.scout.org/wse/joti.shtml](http://www.scout.org/wse/joti.shtml)**

