

How to host a Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) / Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI)

Summer is here and October seems a world away but you know how fast the time flies and before you know it we will be pulling the sweaters back out from the crawlspace. With autumn comes the annual Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) / Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) sponsored by the World Organization of the Scouting Movement (WOSM). Over 500,000 Scouts participate all over the world during the two days of the event which is always held on the third weekend of October from Midnight Friday to Midnight Sunday local time. This year the event will be held on 15-16 October 2011. The intent of this document is to assist leaders interested in hosting a JOTA and / or JOTI at the Unit or District level.



First of all – what is JOTA and JOTI? Basically is a coordinated forum for Scouts to come together all around the world either over the radio or via the internet. Participation in JOTA / JOTI is a fun activity for Scouts of all ages and requires little in the way of advance preparation. Costs are low and the event is scalable depending on the number of participants.

You have to decide if you want to host a JOTA, a JOTI, or both. The two discriminating factors are: JOTA requires a shortwave radio and someone who knows how to use it and JOTI requires a computer and a connection to the internet. You can host either or both depending on what you have available. Here's some more detail:



Jamboree on the Air – As the “on the Air” would indicate you need a short wave radio which is not too common. There are a number of local shortwave radio enthusiasts and amateur clubs in the metro area, however, and they are very accommodating to participation and will often provide all the equipment and expertise needed. At a minimum you will need power, shelter from the elements in the form of a rain fly or other overhead cover, a line of sight to open sky and preferably some elevation for running an antenna in the form of a rooftop, tree, lamppost or other structure (power lines don't count). Communication is in the form of a QUERY / RESPOND conversation in which each participant has a chance to speak. Common questions are name, age, location, weather and the like.

Jamboree on the Internet – This is an easier event as most people have access to the Internet. You need a computer, internet access and an active browser – that's it! The communication is in the form of a monitored chat session across a series of channels – you can have as many participants as you have computers. You may also participate in a video session should you have a web camera setup. Both methods lend themselves to a larger display should you have a projector.



Patches are available to all participants from the international scouting branch at Scouting.Org and there are international variants for purchase from WOSM as well. There are a number of awards that touch on this to include Radio, Computers and Citizenship in the World Merit Badges and the International Activity Badge. This is a WOSM event so Girl Scouts are welcome as well.

Here are a number of links of interest:

Links

<http://jota.sub.cc/>

<http://www.joti.org/en/index.html>

<http://www.scouting.org/jota.aspx>

http://www.scouting.org/scoutsources/International/ProgramEnrichment/JOTA_JOTI.aspx

<http://www.boyscouts-ncac.org/openrosters/ViewOrgPageLink.asp?LinkKey=29760&orgkey=1988>

Notes

JOTA Homepage

English Language Page for JOTI

BSA JOTA Site

BSA JOTA JOTI Site

NCAC JOTA JOTI Site