

OPPORTUNITIES FOR BSA TROOPS AND CREWS TO CAMP WITH CANADIAN SCOUTS

International Committee, Michigan Crossroads Council BSA

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BSA Scouts and Venturers can have great international Scouting experiences at a low cost by camping with Canadian Scouts and Venturer Scouts. During the 2022-3 program year, they can do that by participating in weekend international camporees near the USA-Canada border. In future years, there will be opportunities to participate in week-long jamborees and high adventure camps in Canada. Use this document and the links it provides to learn about weekend camporees and weeklong jamborees that will give your troop or crew an opportunity to camp with Canadian Scouts. Your discussion and decision about participating in one of these events during a September through August program year plus the following September and October should be part of the annual planning for that program year. In selecting a camporee or jamboree, be sure to consider the extra planning required for an event in Canada and the driving time. The driving time to some weekend camporees listed here requires Michigan Scouts to miss school and Michigan adults to miss work the Friday the camporee begins.

IMPORTANT NOTE - BSA AGE APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES FOR CAMPING

at <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-686.pdf> states that

- **Webelos Scouts may only be day visitors to camporees.**
- **Younger Cub Scouts may not participate in camporees.**
- **Scouts BSA youth must be at least 12 years old to participate in jamborees.**

This is one of two companion documents that are available in the **Camp with Canadian Scouts** section of <https://michiganscouting.org/international-scouting/>. If the event your troop or crew decides to participate in is in the U.S., you can plan for it like you plan for any other weekend campout and don't need **DOCUMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR BSA CONTINGENTS DRIVING TO AND FROM ACTIVITIES IN CANADA**. On the other hand, if the event you decide to participate in is in Canada, there are a number of additional steps you will need to take to prepare to cross the U.S. - Canada border and participate in a Scouts Canada event that are explained there. Once the decision is made to travel to Canada, a team should be selected to plan your trip using that information and to develop a trip budget and an expected cost per participant. As new members join your troop and Cub Scouts make a commitment to cross over into your troop, or new members join your crew, they and their families should be informed of these plans. Adult and youth participants in a trip to Canada, the adults who will serve as drivers on the trip and the vehicles they will drive, and the truck or vehicle and trailer combination that will carry equipment must be confirmed several months before the trip.

OVERVIEW OF SCOUTING IN CANADA

BSA is a member of WOSM (World Organization of the Scout Movement) <https://www.scout.org/> There are two WOSM-affiliated Scout Associations in Canada, the English-speaking Scouts Canada <https://www.scouts.ca/> and the French-speaking l'Association des Scouts du Canada. <https://scoutsducanada.ca/> L'Association des Scouts du Canada units are almost all in Quebec, so MCC interaction is with Scouts Canada. BSA and Scouts Canada are both open to boys and girls and each has an all-girl counterpart, the Girl Scouts of the USA <https://www.girlscouts.org/> and the Girl Guides of Canada <https://www.girlguides.ca/web/> that are members of WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts) <https://www.wagggs.org/en/>

The Scouts Canada sections are:

- Beaver Scouts - ages 5-7 - A unit is a "colony."
- Cub Scouts - ages 8-10 - A unit is a "pack."
- Scouts - ages 11-14 - A unit is a "troop."
- Venturer Scouts - ages 15-17 - A unit is a "company."
- Rover Scouts - ages 18-26

USA - CANADA CROSS-BORDER WEEKEND CAMPOREES - There are a number of annual weekend international camporees near the USA-Canada border. Some are held in the same location every year while others rotate back and forth across the border. These camporees are listed below from west to east. If the name of the event is in **green**, it is always held in the USA. If the name of the event is in **red**, it is always held in Canada. If the name of the event is in **purple**, it rotates back and forth between the USA and Canada.

Hessel International Scout Rally - held annually the 3rd weekend of September, Sept. 16 to 18 in 2022, at Chippewa County Fairgrounds, Kinross, Michigan, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula - **(Registrations are now open.)** - <https://www.facebook.com/HessellInternationalScoutRalley/>

International Friendship Camporee - currently inactive - held on the American side of the bridge that connects Detroit, Michigan, and Windsor, Ontario, in the spring and on the Canadian side in the fall. A May 10, 2022, email message stated: "We do not have a camp planned at this time for fall 2022." - <http://ifcamporee.org/>

CanAm Camporee - held annually on the weekend that contains the 1st Sunday in May, May 5 to 7 in 2023, at Camp Attawandaron near The Pinery Provincial Park on Lake Huron - <https://attawandaron.squarespace.com/camporee-information/>

Dorchester International Brotherhood Camporee (DIBC) - held annually on the weekend that contains the 2nd Sunday in May (Mother's Day weekend), May 12 to 14 in 2023, at Camp Bel near Dorchester, Ontario - <http://dibc.on.ca/DIBC/Home.jsp>

Genesis Ventmoot - held annually on the 2nd weekend in November, Nov. 11 to 13 in 2022, at Camp Bel near Dorchester, Ontario. for Venturing crews and Venturer-age Scouts - <http://genesiscamp.ca/>

Scout Brigade of Fort George Fall Campaign - held annually on the 3rd full weekend in September, Sept. 15 to 17 in 2023, at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario - Reenacts a War of 1812 battle with Canadian Scouts playing British and Canadian soldiers and American Scouts playing American soldiers.- <https://sbfq.scouter.ca/> - There is a *Boys Life* (now *Scout Life*) video showing the event at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=So-a6mZl8fc>

Scout Brigade of Fort George Winter Campaign - Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario - "Join us every winter for the Winter Campaign and bunk right inside the Fort! You'll stay in the blockhouse and eat your meals in historic Navy Hall down by the river." - <https://sbfq.scouter.ca/>

Join-In Jamboree - held annually in August, August 4-6 (or 7) in 2023, at Camp Samac in Oshawa, Ontario - The Monday is in parenthesis because there is an option of camping Friday, Saturday, and Sunday night and departing on Monday morning. - <http://www.joininjamboree.ca/>

World Brotherhood Camporee - "Each year the Loyalist Area Scouts Canada and the Longhouse Council BSA take turns hosting this event. In the even numbered years, it's held in the USA at [Wellesley Island State Park](#) in the Thousand Islands (across from Clayton, NY.) In the odd numbered years it's held in Canada at [Riverside Cedar Campground](#) (near Morrisburg, ON)". <http://www.cnyscouts.org/events/brotherhood/> has information on the Oct. 14 to 16, 2022, 49th annual World Brotherhood Camporee. The website for the years the World Brotherhood Camporee is in Canada is <https://brotherhoodcamporee.ca/>

Tri-District Camporee - held annually in mid-May - rotates between the northeastern USA and southeastern Canada. The website at <http://tridistrictcamporee.com/> has information on the May 13 to 15, 2022, Tri-District Camporee that was held at North Beach Campground in Burlington, Vermont, and a link to [Tri-District 2022 flyer](#) at the top left. The 2023 Tri-District Camporee will be held in southern Quebec. 2023 information will be posted on the website in late September or early October 2022.

WEEKLONG JAMBOREES IN CANADA OPEN TO BSA TROOP AND CREW CONTINGENTS

The last Canadian Scout Jamboree (CJ) was held in 2017. There appear to be no current plans to hold another one. Below are week-long jamborees in Canada that were last held before Covid-19.

Pacific Jamboree - a week-long jamboree held once every four years in British Columbia - The website at <https://www.pacificjamboree.ca/> says "See you at PJ 2023 at Camp Byng" but the Scouts Canada International Events List says the next Pacific Jamboree will be in July 2024. Contingents from a Michigan troop drove to and from the 2015 and 2019 Pacific Jamborees and had a great time.

Great Lakes Jamboree - <https://greatlakesjamboree.ca/> - This is a well-run, low cost week-long international camp traditionally held on even numbered years at Camp Bel near Dorchester, Ontario. Each contingent plans and prepares their own meals, with an adult leader driving into town for groceries. The website says the next Great Lakes Jamboree has been postponed to July 2023. However, they are now looking for a new camp chief. Watch their website for more information.