



**Australian Contingent
Norwegian National Jamboree
Nord 2017, Bodø, Norway
June – July 2017**

Contingent News – March 2016



Hello,

Welcome to our first newsletter for the Australian Contingent travelling to the next Norwegian Jamboree in Bodø, Norway in the middle of 2017. You are being sent this newsletter because you have expressed an interest in joining the Australian Contingent. The newsletter is also distributed to the Branches. It will also be placed on the contingent website (not yet available).

I met quite a few of you during AJ2016, during which you may have received some information about Nord 2017 from the International tent. You may also have seen the promotion of the camp done by the Norwegian contingent during the International night at the main stage during AJ2016.



About The Contingent Leader

I joined scouting as a Cub scout in Norway in 1975 and was very involved in Scouting for the next 20 years, a period I wrapped up by attending the World Jamboree in Holland in 1995 as a Norwegian Jamboree Troop Leader. I then had a break from scouting until I returned in 2012 as a Leader in Kama Scout group in the ACT. Since my return to scouting I have led overseas scout trips to Norway and the USA and attended two AJs (2013 as a AJTL, in 2016 as the JTL). I was the Branch International Commissioner in the ACT branch for a while and am now focused on the Australian Contingent to Nord 2017. Jobwise I work as Executive Director (I am also one of the partners/owners) in a Management Consulting company with offices in Australia and Norway.

The Australian Contingent Management Team

As I write this, the deadline for expressing interest to join the Contingent Management Team has passed – the positions have been advertised through the Branch International Commissioners - and I am working through the applications. Expressions of Interest will be assessed on merit and everyone will be notified of the outcome.

Norwegian Jamborees

Norwegian Jamborees are held every four years. There are two Norwegian Scout associations, and Nord 2017 is organised by the Norwegian Scout and Guide association – NSF (I used to be a member of NSF). Norwegian Jamborees are slightly different from Australian ones, the program is not as packed, and the activities are patrol oriented more than

in Australia. For example, there are normally no troop kitchens or troop cooking. The patrols prepare all their meals in their patrol kitchen and the leaders cook for themselves.

Also, the first couple of days of the Jamboree are spent building the camp – each patrol builds their patrol area (kitchen, eating space) using pioneering skills (start practicing your lashings!) Typically, each scout gets 10 spares so plenty of building materials available. During the Jamboree there is also a hike which involves the patrols going on a 24 hour hike without leaders but with the patrol leader in charge (There are of course, plenty of roaming leaders/rovers to support the patrols).



Another difference is that there is no standardised troop size – some groups have one patrol at the Jamboree, some groups have ten patrols – slightly more challenging for logistics and food but it works well.

Each troop campsite typically has a fire pit for their campfire. Some groups do all their cooking over the open fire but that is up to each troop/patrol.

Just like Australian Jamborees, Norwegian Jamborees rely on activity leader support and there is always a shortage. Please consider this when it comes to apply – more information about International Staff and Activity leader positions will be come later.

Proposed Plan

It is proposed that the Contingent departs Australia on approx. 23 June 2017 (this will depend on final travel arrangements) and arrive in Oslo on 24 or 25 June. Depending on the size of the contingent, we may depart together from one Australian international airport, or meet up in Oslo – this will be determined later (all youth members will travel with leaders from Australia to Norway if departing Australia with the Contingent).

The Contingent will spend a few days in/around Oslo. We are working on home-stay options for all scouts staying with Norwegian families, this will be confirmed later. Depending on the size of the contingent we may end up being hosted by several Norwegian scout groups. The plan is also that the Australian contingent will be split into patrols of 5-7 scouts with 1-2 line leaders, and that 1-2 patrols (with line leaders) will be hosted at the Jamboree by a Norwegian scout group, hopefully the same scouts that host us during home hospitality.

Bodø (the location of the Jamboree) is located just North of the Arctic circle (66 degrees North) and will have midnight sun (24 hours of sunlight a day) at the time of the Jamboree – be prepared for night activities as well as day activities!

The Jamboree opening ceremony is on Saturday 1. July, and the camp is open from Thursday 29 June. There are several travel options from Oslo to Bodø, we have not yet determined how the Australian contingent will travel – bus or train (two days of travel time) or plane are the

main options. Current plan is that the Australian contingent will arrive at the campsite on Friday 30 June.

The program for the Jamboree is still being developed, have a look at <http://www.nord2017.com/#beprepared> for the latest news.



The Jamboree closing ceremony is on Friday 7 July, and departure from the campsite will be 8 July. The contingent members who do not want to attend the post-tour will return to Australia then, most likely by plane via Oslo and then back to the contingent departure airport.

The optional post-tour will start on 8 July, and most likely involve travel further North in Norway. However, the program for the post-tour is still being planned. The duration of the post-tour will be approx. 1 week. The current plan is to be back in on approx. Sunday 16 July (+/- 2 days).

Participants and Leaders

There are several-options for joining the contingent:

- **Participants** (“*speidere*”) - Scouts/Venturers aged 11 to 16.5 years (at the start of Jamboree) Any scouts under 12 need a parent attending the Australian Contingent as an approved leader/parent helper.
- **Youth Staff** (“*rovere*”) - Venturers/Rovers aged 16.5 to 25 years (at the start of the Jamboree). Will be camping in the “rover camp”, will be supporting activity leaders/ running activities for participants. There is a separate activity program for “rovere”
- **Service Staff** – Scouts Australia appointed leaders/parent helpers/ fellowship members aged 18 and above (at the start of the Jamboree). Will be camping in the “Staff Camp” and will be allocated roles/ duties by the Jamboree
- **Line Leaders** – Scouts Australia appointed leaders/fellowship members aged 18 and above (at the start of the Jamboree). Will be camping with the Australian scouts in troop camps, will act as line leaders during the Jamboree

The details for the contingent are still to be worked out, however, the scouts (“*speidere*”) will be split into patrols of approx. six scouts and 1-2 patrols will be placed into/ hosted by a Norwegian group together with 1-2 Australian line leaders. If there are many scouts attending from one “home group”, there may be an option for that group of scouts to be hosted by one Norwegian group (some Australian troops already have a Norwegian friendship group that will host the scouts from that group).

Note that many Scouts will be the only ones from their home group and therefore not know anyone before attending, but they will be put together with at least one scout from their home district if possible. In my experience, however, even if you do not know anyone before departing, you will make friends very fast. I did not know anyone else when I attended my

first international scout camp back in the 1980s – some of the people I met during that trip are still some of my best friends!

For Leaders, priority to attend the Jamboree within a Troop will be given to Scout Section Leaders. Leaders from other sections may still be placed into a Troop (depending on experience) but are encouraged to apply and assist with the Jamboree activity program.

The Norwegian Jamboree also has a program for “rovere” (youth staff), depending on numbers. The Australian contingent members in this category will be co-located with “rovere” from the Oslo Branch in Norway.

Further details about eligibility requirements will be posted on our website when it is established.



Australian Contingent Fee

The Australian Contingent Budget is being drafted and yet to be approved by the International Commissioner. Please understand that this is a tedious process as some costs are not yet known. The Exchange rate between Norway and Australia has also been somewhat unstable the last 18 months, primarily due to the volatility of oil prices (the Norwegian currency is very dependent on the Oil price).

The camp fee for Nord 2017 (fee payable to the camp) is NOK 2600, so quite a bit cheaper than an Australian camp, but this is of course only a small portion of the total cost.

To provide some **guidance only**, the fee for the Australian scouts to the last Norwegian Jamboree in 2013 was a flat \$4500 for Scouts and leaders, this included a post-tour. The airfare to Norway from Australia in mid-year varies a lot, current allowance is \$2500.

Current high level estimate for the whole trip including the post-tour is between **\$5000 and \$5500**, the post-tour part of this cost is approx. 30-35% (just an indication at this stage). It is assumed that all domestic travel to get to the international departure point in Australia for the contingent will come on top of these amounts.

It may be possible to meet up with the Australian Contingent in Norway, however, this will be agreed on a case by case basis. For youth members under 18, this would require being accompanied to Norway by an adult family member or as agreed with the Contingent leadership and also picked up in Norway after the Jamboree/ post-tour.

More details about the fee will become available as soon as possible, the goal is to keep costs as low as possible. The final number of contingent participants will impact the final figure. At this stage the cost will be the same for youth participants and leaders.

Application System

Expressing an interest to attend the Jamboree does not guarantee your inclusion in the Contingent. Those wishing to attend the Jamboree must complete an online application which will open later in the year (date to be confirmed). An approval process (as stated in the application documentation) is also to be followed.

What do I do next?



When the contingent website is established, it will be published to the mailing list that has been established – to sign up, please send an email to baberge.nord2017@gmail.com or nordjamboree2017@scouts.com.au with your name, age, branch and contact details.

When the Contingent Management Team has been established, more information will be provided as well. If you have any further questions, please write to one of the two email addresses above.

Tell your Scouting friends and get them to come along.

I am looking forward to go to Norway with lots of Australian scouts in 2017!

Yours in Scouting

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