

# What to Look for in a Jamboree Participant: Guidance for Leaders

The World Scout Jamboree is a unique and demanding experience, and selecting young people to take part is a significant responsibility. This guidance is designed to help Unit Leadership Teams and local volunteers identify young people who will benefit from the experience and contribute positively to their Unit.

There is no single “ideal” participant. The Jamboree is not just for the most confident, the most experienced, or the most outgoing. It's for young people who are ready to grow, challenge themselves, and be part of something bigger.

## What Might a Great Participant Look Like?

Use these prompts as a starting point, not a checklist. You're looking for potential, not perfection.

### Personal Qualities

- Willing to try new things and step outside their comfort zone
- Open-minded and respectful of others
- Shows resilience or a willingness to develop it
- Curious about the world and other cultures

### Teamwork & Communication

- Able to work well with others and contribute to a team
- Listens to others and shares their own ideas
- Willing to support and encourage their peers

### Commitment & Responsibility

- Shows signs of being reliable and willing to commit to a long-term project
- Understands the expectations of preparation, fundraising, and participation
- Has the support of their family/carers and understands the scale of the experience

### Growth Potential

- May not have had many opportunities like this before

- Would benefit from the challenge and return with new confidence, skills, and perspective

### Things to Keep in Mind

- Diversity matters – Aim for a mix of personalities, backgrounds, and experiences. A balanced Unit is a stronger Unit.
- Inclusion is key – Consider how you can remove barriers for young people who may need additional support to take part.
- This isn't for everyone – And that's okay. Some young people may not be ready for this experience right now, and there are many other brilliant opportunities in Scouting that may suit them better.

If a young person isn't selected or decides not to apply, it's important to help them find an international adventure that's right for them. The World Scout Jamboree is just one of many opportunities in Scouting to explore the world, grow in confidence, and connect with others. Work with your County/Area/Nation to identify and signpost alternative experiences — whether that's local international camps, exchanges, leadership roles, or other adventures. If there's nothing currently available locally, consider reaching out to neighbouring Counties or Areas to see what they're offering and explore ways to collaborate. Every young person deserves the chance to take part in something meaningful and we can support each other to make that happen.