

IHQ Bulletin



THE SCOUT ASSOCIATION OF MALTA, ISLAND HEADQUARTERS, E.S. TONNA STREET. FLORIANA VLT 16

Tel: (356) 2122 4334 Fax: (356) 2125 1382

Website: <http://www.maltascout.org.mt>

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FOR YOUR SEPTEMBER DIARY

Thu 11th – National Scout Council Meeting
Tue 16th – Cub Leaders Meeting

Thu 31st – Camporee Registration Meeting

Other Dates for your Diary

Fri29/08 - 7/09 – Camporee at Ghajn Tuffieha.
Friday 11th /12th Oct – Cub Leaders' Camp

Saturday 1st Nov National Cub Camp

POINTS TO REMEMBER

Enjoyment of Life

Aids to Scoutmastership B.-P. 1920

Why is Nature Lore considered a Key Activity in Scouting?

That is a question on which hangs the difference between Scout work and that of the ordinary boys' club.

It is easily answered in the phrase: "We want to teach our boys not merely how to get a living, but how to live"-that is, in the higher sense, how to enjoy life.

Nature lore, as I have probably insisted only too often, gives the best means of opening out the minds and thoughts of boys, and at the same time, if the point is not lost sight of by their Scoutmaster, it gives them the power of appreciating beauty in nature, and consequently in art, such as leads them to a higher enjoyment of life.

This is in addition to the realisation of God the Creator through His wondrous work, which when coupled with active performance of His will in service for others constitutes the concrete foundation of religion.



Help the boy to become self-reliant, resourceful, to "paddle his own canoe" - that is, to look ahead and shape his own course in life.

1. Scouts Are a Gift for the Church and the World, Says Pope

Noted by Mr Vince Cassar the Chief Scout

Message Read at International Jamboree

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy, AUG. 19, 2003 <http://www.zenit.org/english/> John Paul II is certain that scout groups are a gift for the Church and for world fraternity.

He said so in his message to the International Union of Guides and Scouts of Europe. The papal message was read at the institution's 4th Jamboree, held in Poland from Aug. 1-12, and attended by 8,000 Catholic guides and scouts from 20 nations.

The participants made a pilgrimage to Czestochowa on Aug. 7, where they attended a Mass presided over by Cardinal Jozef Glemp.

According to the papal message, "the scouting experience, a privileged itinerary for spiritual growth, is of great value in making possible the integral education of the person."

In particular, "it helps to overcome the temptation to indifference and egoism, to be open to one's neighbour and to society," the Pope said. "It can effectively foster the acceptance of the demands of the Christian vocation: to be 'salt of the earth and light of the world.'"

For this reason, the Holy Father invited guides and scouts "to be faithful to the rich tradition of the scouting movement, committed to formation in dialogue, and to the sense of justice, loyalty and fraternity in social relations."

"This style of life can be your original contribution to the realization of a greater and more authentic fraternity among the peoples of Europe, a valuable contribution to the life of the societies in which you live," he said in the message.

"You are a valuable gift not only for the Church but also for the new Europe that you are seeing being constructed before your eyes," the Holy Father told the young guides and scouts.

"You are called to participate, with all the ardour of your youth, in the construction of the Europe of nations, so that every man's dignity as a loved son of God will be recognized and so that society will be built on the foundation of solidarity and fraternal charity," he concluded.

The Pope added that the fulfilment of this mission of the scouts "requires first of all that you cultivate a genuine life of prayer, nourished by the sacraments, especially by the Eucharist and reconciliation."

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2. Tunisian Transport Scout Group of Tunis – Malta Visit 6th to 17th July 2003

By Mr David Schembri Commissioner for Human Resources & Support

Ten scouts and three leaders from the Tunisian Transport Scout Group of Tunis have just returned home having spent their summer camp in Malta from the 6th to 17th July 2003. The groups consisting of scouts whose parents work in the Public Transport sector of the Tunisian capital, Tunis

The group, camped at the Paola Scout Group headquarters visited numerous historical and tourist sites around Malta and took the advantage of meeting several other scout groups during their stay on our island.

On Wednesday 9th July 2003 the Tunisian scouts gathered with other scouts and guides at Pinto Wharf, Floriana to welcome the Peace Ship "Constanta" that was sailing on its Odyssey 2003 Mediterranean peace voyage. Participating alongside the scout groups from the South District of the Scout Association of Malta, mainly the Cospicua, Marsa and Zejtun Bands and the B'Bugia, Paola, Fgura, Qrendi, Tarxien, Zurrieq, the small contingent of young Tunisian scouts from the Transport Scout Group of Tunis, dressed in traditional costumes gave a fine interpretation of Tunisian song and dance whilst giving an additional colour to the event.

The Transport Scout group of Tunis also joined the Paola Scout Group during a Group Barbeque in Mellieha and the Qrendi Scout Group at a football match and reception as guests of both Scout groups.

The local branch of the Red Cross visited the Transport Group at their Paola camp and compared the association's Road Safety Campaign shortly to be launched in Malta, to that of the Tunisian counterparts whose Road Safety campaign has been long established. All present participated in Road Safety Awareness Games.

The highlight of the Group's stay in Malta was a Tunisian Traditional Night and Scout campfire, where all present were able to witness Tunisian song and dance and savor Tunisian delicacies. Attending as "Guest of Honour" on the night was the Scout Association's Chief Scout, Mr Vincent Cassar who spoke about the excellent relationships that have developed between the Maltese and Tunisian Scout Associations that is seeing a yearly increase in the Tunisian Groups wishing to spend their summer camp in Malta.

3. Leaders go bowling

By Mr David Schembri Commissioner for Human Resources & Support

Following the success of the ten pin bowling challenge organized for the Scout Venture and Guide Ranger Units, and on the initiative of the Venture Scout Leader Twanny Bugeja and the Stella Maris College Scout Group, a sequel was once again organized but this time with a difference.

The ten pin bowling challenge, this time was not organized for the scouts and guides but for the leaders from the respective groups within both the scout and guide associations.

On day 13th June 2003, no fewer than eighteen scout and guide 'five-person' teams made up from the Tigne, Hamrun, Qrendi (2), Paola, St Augustine, Stella Maris, Dingli, San Gwann (2), Rabat, Mosta, Naxxar (3) Scout Group and the Attard(2) and San Gwann Guide Units joined together to compete against each other in a relaxed and highly entertaining evening organized at the Eden Super bowl in Paceville.

Teaming up with the Qrendi Scout Group were their foreign scout visitors from the United Kingdom comprising of the 40th Stockton Brook, Scout Leader Steve Brown who was joined by his wife Gill together with their children Chris and Samantha.

The San Gwann Scout Group with Naxxar and Qrendi Scout Groups placing second and third places respectively won the leaders' competition.

Presenting the awards to the winning groups the Scout Training Commissioner Mr. Mike Cefai and the Guide



Commissioner Ms Marjoe Abela thanked all present for accepting the invitation to participate once again in this “social gathering with a difference”, hoping that this ten pin bowling challenge would be run on a yearly basis. Both Commissioners also thanked the Stella Maris Group Scout Leader Ms Pauline Cefai Azzopardi and all the Group leaders, particularly the Venture Scout Leader Mr. Twanny Bugeja for once again organizing such a successful event.

The evening ended on a high and festive note when a candlelit birthday cake was presented to the Scout Association of Malta Training Commission, Mr. Mike Cefai on the occasion of his birthday that very same day, with all participants, guests and friends wishing him a happy birthday.

4. National, Venture and Rover Scouts BBQ Adventure Weekend

By Mr John Micallef Engerer Commissioner for Venture Scouts

The National Venture and Rover Scouts BBQ Adventure Weekend was held on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th July 2003 at the Dwejra, Gozo.

A total of 45 Venture and Rover Scouts and their leaders from Birkirkara, Cospicua, Mosta, Stella Maris College and St Julians Groups attended. Also a member from the Malta Red Cross took part and gave a helping hand during the abseiling activity.

The Scouts enjoyed themselves during a BBQ held late in the evening on Saturday and also took part in swimming during the afternoon. Abseiling the well known it-‘Tieqa’ was held on Sunday morning with scouts having to swim ashore to reach ground. Other water activities were also held.

Many thanks go to the Organizing Committee especially Edward Vella (Commissioner for Rover Scouts), Twanny Bugeja (Venture Scout Leader Stella Maris College) and Albert Cassar (Venture Scout leader St Julians).

The Commissioners for Venture and Rover Scouts would like to thank all participants for their cooperation.

5. National Venture Scouts 5 a-side Football Tournament

By Mr John Micallef Engerer Commissioner for Venture Scouts

The Tournament will be held on Saturday 20th September 2003. A meeting for all Venture Scout Leaders of all interested venture units will be held on Tuesday 9th September 2003 at IHQ at 18.00hrs. The Scout Shop is again the official sponsor of this event. Further information will be issued in due course by means of a circular.

Those Venture Units who are interested in participating are to inform the commissioner for Venture scouts by the end of August 2003.

6. National Venture and Rover Scouts Camp 2003 badges.

By Mr John Micallef Engerer Commissioner for Venture Scouts

All are informed that the camp badges are now on sale at the scout shop. Certificates are to be presented when these are being purchased. These Certificates may be obtained directly from the Commissioner of Venture Scouts. Units and Crews from the Birkirkara, Cospicua, Mosta, Rabat, Stella Maris College, St Venera, St Julians, Tarxien, Tigne and Zurrieq Groups are requested to collect their certificates.

7 Kamp ta' tmiem il-;imæa æal Sports tas-Sajf

mis-Sur Alex Cutajar Scout Leader Marsa scout Group

It-Truppa tal-Marsa Group organizzat Kamp ta' tmiem il-;imæa f' San Pawl il-Ba[ar bejn l-4 u s-6 ta' Lulju 2003.

F' dan il-Kamp saru diversi attivitajiet b' konnessjoni mal-ba[ar fosthom *Ball possession, Water Sports Festival, Nights Quiz, Swimmers Badge u Fishing Challenge*. Il-Kamp mexa fuq bali ta' Kompeti]]joni bejn il-Patrols li wrew [afna entu]ja]mu f' dak li ;ie organi]]at.

8 National Scouts Summer Football League

By Mr Alex Cutajar Scout Leader Marsa Group

This is too advice all those interested that the National Scouts Summer Football League will be organized on October. All those interested are to contact Mr Alex Cutajar (Scout Leader Marsa Group).

9 Tarxien Venture Scout attends course in Germany

By Mr Carmel Mangani GSL Tarxien Scout Group

Katia Mangani, Venture Scout from Tarxien Scout Group, will be attending the Peseckendorf International Training Course that will be held in Germany from 20 August to 1 September 2003. The host organisation is LKJ Sachsen-Anhalt which is an umbrella youth organisation working with different kinds of art and culture. The aim of this course is inter-cultural and is specifically targeted for young leaders engaged in the planning, budgeting and controlling youth projects. Other participants coming for this course are from Germany, Lithuania and Slovakia.

10 Tarxien Summer Camp – The GSL ponders

By Mr Carmel Mangani GSL Tarxien Scout Group

I feel exhausted and sleepy. Yet I am very happy.

The summer camp is over and I am back to work. I trust that we have all learned something new. For many this was a good camp. But I am sure that there are also a few that were disappointed. From my personal point of view I can say that those that were disappointed must be their fault. I think that they were not prepared enough. Long stay campings need not just material preparations. But we also need to be spiritually prepared. Please allow me to repeat myself; scouting is not just camping. For me this was the best camp ever. For some it may seem strange and they may not agree. The fact that there were some minor clashes doesn't change my point of view. From my experience I feel that during a long camp all the characteristics and state of mind of the camper are exposed. The fact that we are subjected to stress and endurance, all our inner feelings are subjected to pressure. A case in point is the last day's long (and sometimes rather emotive) discussion. But all in all we have all grown up a bit more. I have learnt many lessons that no university can teach you. I feel calm and relaxed. Yes, a bit sun burnt but the aim has been reached. We have come closer in spite of the clashes and misunderstandings. We have entertained eighty-five people from all ranks and walks of life. We have taken care of two diabetics, a hyperactive and a home sick. We have been successful in spite of all odds. We have taken up the challenge and together we have succeeded. The programme has been executed to the satisfaction of all.

The well-attended campfire was the icing on the cake. We were honoured by the presence of the Chief Scout and Tarxien Mayor. We have appreciated the visits paid by the Chief Commissioner and the District Commissioner during the camp. Thanks for their encouragement we keep on going.

The pack has been the best ever since the beginning of the group. They were the main attraction of the campfire and the cherry on the cake. Thank you Natasha, Delina and Maria. You couldn't do better. The troop was solid, consistent and well organised thanks to Ryan and his team of senior scouts.

I wished to share the sufferings of both Sebastian and David. The flexibility and support of the unit combined with the experience of the Rovers was priceless. Well done to Paul and his team. They were always readily available when requested to do a job. Thank you Irene for your support and particularly for the help rendered to Karlina and Jessica. Last but certainly not least thanks to the helpers in the kitchen for their sterling job perfectly done.

Grazzi lil Joe the quarter master who is always busy putting all equipment in working order. And he succeeded. They have spent many hours preparing for the big week. Shopping around, looking for sponsors, mending tents and doing hundreds of mission impossibles. Thanks and thanks. Thank you also for the many others who in one way or another have given their help for this success.

Insomma tghidu x'tghidu u kien x'kien, dan zgur kien kamp bomba. hej, hawn sarli l-hin biex norqod.

Sahha u sliem.

11. Fundraising through the collection of old Malta postcards

By Mr David Schembri Commissioner for Human Resources & Support

Mike Jeffries is an ex-scout who grew up in a small village in Devon, England. Upon leaving school he joined the Royal Navy and visited 28 countries during his time in the Service, one of which was Malta. He remembers vividly the warmth and hospitality of the Maltese people and returned for his honeymoon. Unfortunately, Mike did not take many photographs of the places he visited, so has decided to try and collect postcards where he would like to build an album for every country that he has been to and is wondering if the Malta scouts can help.

Mike is looking for pre-1970 (his first visit to Malta) type postcards showing scenery, churches, people and events on the Islands. It does not matter if the cards are old or faded as this will help show the history of Malta, and is prepared to pay the cost of packing and postage plus one British pound (£1.00) for every five cards that you can send him, (ie £20.00 per 100 cards) as he knows too well that this money will be well used in supporting your Scout groups.

Those individuals or Scout Groups interested in helping Mike with his new hobby, can contact him by email, making the necessary arrangements at mikej0072003@yahoo.co.uk

12. Cub News

By Mr Leslie Bonnici Commissioner for Cub Scouts

Cub Program.

As we all know the Cub Program have changed from Last March, with a new approach towards the Individual Cub and cubbing. It has been noted that there are some Packs who are still using the old system and working on the British Cub program, which was never adopted or used by the Scout Association of Malta.

Also there are still Packs who have not yet instructed their Cubs to buy the Cub Book, so that each cub can choose and work his or her progressive training scheme. It is very important that each cub must own his or her personal Cub Book.

CSLs Handbooks.

As from the last week of August/first week of September a number of CSLs handbooks and CDs will be available. Those Leaders who have already booked their copies are to bring their receipts to IHQ and check them with the Scout Shop for confirmation. We would like to apologise with all those leaders who pre booked their copies and had waited such a long time to supply these Handbooks.

Cub Leaders Meeting.

A Cub Leaders Meeting is going to be held on Tuesday 16th September at IHQ at 18.00 Hrs sharp. During this meeting the Leaders Camp and the National Cub Camp will be discussed.

Leaders Camp.

Would all those leaders who are interested to attend the Cub Leaders camp at Zurrieq on the 10-11-12th October, try to make a pre booking by the end of August with the Commissioner for Cubs. A meet will be held prior to the event for all those who will be attending.

National Cub Camp.

This year's National Cub Camp will be held on the 31st October 1st and 2nd November. All those leaders who would like attend with their Pack are encouraged to notify the Commissioner for Cubs by the end of August. There will be preliminary meetings about this event.

Those Leaders who would like to attend this event as individuals (their packs will not be attending for whatever reason) are also welcomed. These will be given different duties and responsibilities during the camp.

The Planning Team for this event has already met for the first time and a preliminary program have already been set.

The event will take place at Ghajn Tuffieha Camp Site.

13. Summer activities of the St Venera Scout Group

By Mr Mario H Calleja GSL St Venera Scout Group

During this summer the Local Council and the Scout Group of St Venera got together to organize two activities aimed at bringing together families in a relaxed environment outdoors.

The first activity was held on the 21st June and the occasion was the St John's Bonfire. This is a tradition that is being rekindled in many localities and this year St Venera held this event in the courtyard of the Umberto Calosso School Complex, thanks to the headmaster Mr John Saliba. The evening was full of activity and was also honoured with the presence of the Grand Master and his retinue who started the bonfire to give the activity a touch of culture. Entertainment was organized during the evening and present were The Greenfields, The Paul Curmi Dancers and Folk singers. Maltese traditional food was also available throughout the whole evening.

The second activity was a summer camp for those boys from St Venera who are not Scouts. This was in fact held from the 12th up to the 17th August at Island Headquarters in Floriana, which provided all the necessary amenities and most important of all, good shelter from the harsh sun. The program was packed full of Scouting activities and included basic first aid, pioneering, fire & cooking, a cultural tour, swimming and much more. The camp ended with a family gathering on Saturday night in the form of a Barbeque. Fr Renato Valente, Founder and Patron of the St Venera Scout Group, celebrated Holy Mass before the activity.

The Group would like to thank all the members of the Local Council especially the Mayor Mr Michael Caruana and the Sub-committee for Family and Social Affairs, under the chairmanship of the Mr Mario Farrugia, for the great support given.

14. Two Groups' joint visit to Sicily

Together with 4 leaders, a group of 27 Scouts and Ventures from the San Anton School Scout Group joined up with the Stella Maris College Scout Group and traveled to a scout campsite at Milazzo, in the north of Sicily, between 26th July and

3rd August. The scouts had the opportunity of mixing with the Stella Maris Scouts as well as scouts from Italian scout groups who were camping there at the same time.

The campsite, set in a 300 year old olive grove on a peninsula, offered great opportunities for our boys and girls to practice their skills, which included building their own tables and seats and outdoor cooking. Trips were organised to the Gole D'Alcantara, Taormina, Catania, Castel Mola, Tindari, Parco Museo Jalari as well as the Aeolian island of Lipari. Unfortunately a trekking trip to the Nebrodi Mountains had to be cancelled due to the weather. However, the spell of bad weather over the last three days of the camp only served to dampen belongings but not spirits. The whole trip was a great success, with the children returning home happy but very tired. They are now eagerly looking forward to the next overseas trip – that is when the leaders have recovered their energies!