

Jamboree Selection Report – March 2010

In February 2010, the young people of Lonsdale with birthdays between July 1993 and July 1997 were invited to apply for the 22nd World Scout Jamboree 2011, this time to be hosted by Sweden.

Saturday 27th March brought together 20 participants of 24 invited scouts and explorer scouts and young leaders, to live and work together for a weekend, in the hope that they would be selected to represent Lonsdale and be part of a 40 strong west Lancashire contingent, for the 22nd World Scout Jamboree in Sweden 2011.

All participants were split into patrols. Each participant, in each patrol, was from a different group / section / unit. Each patrol had an equal age mix.

The Tasks

1. To erect camp and discuss sleeping arrangements. No participant is to sleep on their own and no more than 3 tents per patrol consideration needed to be given between the age ranges. A gateway then to be designed and erected using a variety of materials.
2. Plan and Make a two course meal using a given set of ingredients wash up afterwards.
3. Erect a Vango tent in the dark
4. Pioneering project – walk the 'A' frame
5. Safety in numbers – Archery with a difference
6. Fire , Axe, Knife and Wood properties
7. Environmental project – the Littledale Challenge

The Interview – 3 interviewers bravely took on the challenge to ask a series of set questions to the 20 participants. This took 6+ hours, the interviewers taking only 30 mins for lunch then deliberated for over an hour afterwards.

Points were awarded for every single task and question based upon character, skill, commitment, leadership, camaraderie, problem solving and Team work.

Following a BBQ and Campfire with a Cub pack from Blackpool, discussions took place regarding competition and competitiveness. Other International opportunities in Scouting – the emphasis that only 4 out of 20 would be chosen for the Jamboree – lead to a discussion surrounding rejection. Photographic presentations and memorabilia from the last Jamboree and verbal accounts from past participants of – Holland, Thailand and Great Britain were listened to with great excitement. A huge Thank-you goes to Vincent O'Connor, Daniel Coulthard, Tom Law and Craig Dewar.

Selecting participants is very stressful but not just for the selectors, the participants also feel the stress at times. The emphasis for this weekend was, above all else, to have FUN, something I think, everyone would agree is what we ALL had.

I would like to personally thank Pete Willingham who unfortunately could not be with us for the Selection. Pete has spent many an hour visiting troops and units, spreading the word regarding Jamboree application and selection. He has also helped tremendously with the production of the application forms.

My thanks for making the weekend a huge success go to Pat Griffin, Paul Sargent, Mark Walker, Kevin Greene, Adrian Moeckell, Andrew Holland, Lynn McCann and Billy Davies. These Leaders gave up another weekend to ensure we chose the right candidates.

To the Independent Interviewers – Craig Dewar, John Edwards and Lesley Sayer – My thanks go to you guys for giving up your Sunday to undertake a 6+ hour marathon. You gave each candidate equal opportunity and careful consideration and the feedback from the candidates is one of gratitude for making them feel at ease even though the questions were thought provoking!!

I would also like to thank Matthew Harwood who is the West Lancashire Contingent - Assistant Unit Leader. Matt came to meet the participants and answer any queries, that the participants may have had regarding this Jamboree experience. Matt was also very impressed at the calibre of Scouts Lonsdale is producing – a credit to all the hard work and effort section Leaders undertake each week.

Only 4 could be chosen and I would personally like to thank all the young people who applied and all who took part in the Selection Weekend. We in Lonsdale have a fantastic Scouting future – we have high standards and you all stepped up to the mark with ease. You all entered into the spirit of what a Jamboree is and what it entails and above all you had fun doing it - you should all be PROUD of yourselves as I am of you ALL.

Finally all the points were then calculated and the Following participants became Lonsdale's Ambassadors for the 22nd World Scout Jamboree 2011

- Joe Timperley - 16th Morecambe Scouts
- James Harries - 1st Silverdale Scouts
- Matthew Alpin – 1st Warton Sea Scouts
- Harriet Butterfield – Young Leader – Warton Cubs.

WELL DONE AND CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL – I now look forward to working with you over the next 18 - 24 months – its going to be FANTASTIC !!