

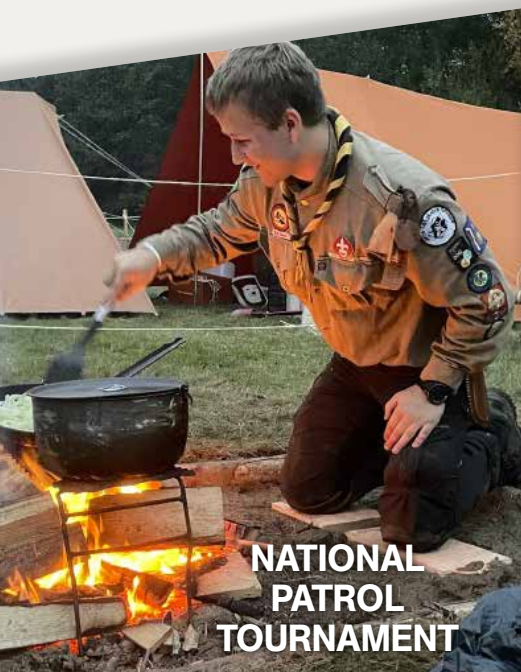


EURO LETTER

Internal memo of the
WFIS Europe



#02-2022



NATIONAL
PATROL
TOURNAMENT



PROJECT 2022

PIONET...

WFIS



CISC
THINKING DAY

EURO LETTER

#01-2022



The articles
for the Euroletter
can be sent to:
third@wfis-europe.org



WORLD FEDERATION
OF INDEPENDENT
SCOUTS - EUROPE

WFIS-Europe is a Scout organization for independent scouts. We meet in camps, leadertraining and jamborees. WFIS-Europe was created in 1999 and is an organisation under WFIS World-Wide. Every scout organisation can join WFIS-Europe if they are not member of another world organisation. If you want to know more about WFIS-Europe, please contact one of the members of the committee.

COMMITTEE

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- Scouts of Europa

BELGIUM

- Onafhankelijke Scouts en Gidsen

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- SKAUT - cesky skauting ABS
- Svaz skautu a skautek Ceske Republik
- Skaut S.S.V.

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- Baden-Powell Scouts of Denmark
(De Gule Spejdere i Danmark)

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- Scouts de Chavagnes

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- Bund Europäischer St. Georgs Pfadfinderinnen und -Pfadfinder
- Bund Unabhängiger Pfadfinder
- CP Dreieich
- Deutscher Pfadfinder Bund e.V. gegr. 1911
- EPSG Baunach
- Europäischer Pfadfinderbund - Georgsritter e.V.
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- Independent Scout Association
- Solmscher Pfadfinderschaft
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- Pfadfinder im Mühlenbecker Land e.V.
- Pollution Police e.V.

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- Baden-Powell Scouts Slyguff
- 2nd Cavan Scouts

ITALY

- Assiscout
- Esploratori e Guide d'Italia
- Federscout
- Sezione Scout di Gela
- Assoraider
- Federazione Italiana di Scouting Raider
- Confederazione Italiana dello Scouting Cristiano
- Baden Powell Scout Italia

KOSOVO

- National Scout Center of Kosovo

LATVIA

- Latvijas Kristigie Skauti

MALTA

- Baden Powell Scouts of Malta

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- Asociația Cercetasilor Traditionali din Romania
ACT-RO

PORTUGAL

- UEP - União dos Escoteiros Portugueses

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

- Russian Union of Scouts

SPAIN

- Asociacion Scout Independiente De Madrid
- Associació Catalana de Scouts
- Grupo Scout Alpha
- Association Juvenil Groupo Scout Independiente Gilwell
- Federation Scout de la Comunidad Valenciana
- Scout Independientes del Principado de Asturias
- Grupo Scout San Pío X
- Asociación Grupo Scout Alcazaba
- Asociación de Scouts Independientes de Córdoba
- Grupo Scout Hotara

SWITZERLAND

- Feuerkreis Niklaus von Flüe

UKRAINE

- Association of scouts "Rozvidnyk"
(Volyn and Lviv region)

TURKEY

- Kapif

TURKISH CYPRUS

- Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus Girl Scout Association

UNITED KINGDOM

- Baden-Powell Scouts Association
- Scouts and Guides of Saint Joseph, Fife, Scotland

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

- Scout Group Margyp, **Spain** - ■ 1st Blackwater Valley Scout Group, **United Kingdom**



Dear Scouting friends,
it is with much sadness that we have to inform you that our Scouting brother, Norman Boxall from England, died on June 24, 2022. Norman loved the WFIS and was at the General Assembly last weekend, enjoying every minute of his time in Italy. Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this sad time. He will be a great loss to family, friends and Scouting.



SCOUTING IN TIMES OF CONFLICTS

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine breaks our hearts. Scouting is fraternity and friendship, and we firmly believe in peace between peoples.

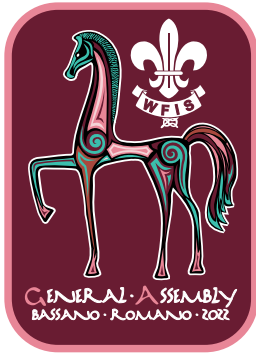
Our founder, Robert Baden-Powell was a great supporter of International Scouting, he believed that if there were enough Scouts in every country of the world, there would never be conflicts or wars because those Scouts would grow into adults, following their Scout Laws, always remembering that a Scout is a friend to all and a brother to every other Scout, whatever their colour, class, creed, or wherever they come from.

Sadly, this is not the case today and there are many conflicts across the world, with the most recent being the invasion of Ukraine.

Scouting is not “just another” youth organisation, it has the responsibility of training new generations to become future good citizens of the world, a difficult task perhaps but one which is possible if our Scout Laws are followed. We hope that this multiple human suffering in Ukraine, can end as soon as possible so that we can meet again with our Ukrainian and Russian Scout brothers, as well as with Scouts from across the world, without looking at which country all are from.

Should you wish to help by sending donations, we ask that you follow the guidance from WFIS Worldwide:

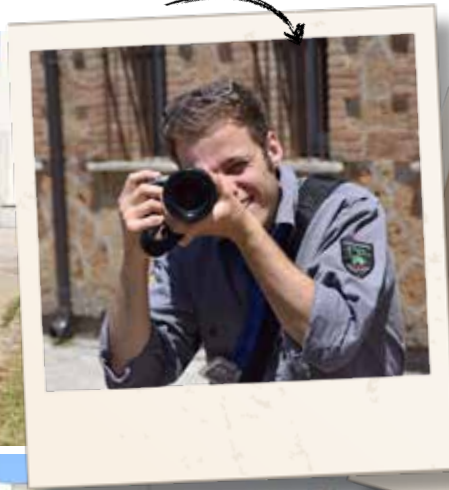
Together we are stronger.



A FEW PICTURES FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2022

On 18 June 2022, the annual European General Assembly took place in Bassano Romano, Italy, organised by Federscout.

The event took place in a beautiful atmosphere of scout serenity and fraternity. In the next three pages are some pictures taken by Marlon May and Carlos Luis García Pérez.





Congratulations to Margon for his President Award!





WORKSHOP DENMARK



23th-25th September 2022

We're happy to finally again be able invite you to the annual WFIS Workshop, organised by our association 'De Gule Spejdere i Danmark'. It'll be at Arresøcentret, Frederiksværk <https://www.arresoe.dk/> in a beautiful area north of Copenhagen, about 1.5 hours from the airport by public transport. We can offer to pick you up/drop you off from Frederiksværk train station.

Rejseplanen will help you find public transport connections – it can be downloaded as an App for smartphones too, and does German/English as well as Danish: If you need help finding the best connection, please email us, and we'll try our best to help. Unfortunately, we're not able offer you to arrive earlier or stay longer at Arresø – but we're happy to assist you on finding accommodation, if you want to visit our beautiful country for longer.

► **Arrival from Friday 15:30 - Closing ceremony Sunday 9:00 - Scout Market till 12:00**

Registration on link below by 10th July 2022

<https://dgs-wfis.nemtilmeld.dk/1/>

► **Participation fee is €65/person – for that you'll get:**

- Pick up/drop off at Frederiksværk Station, accommodation, meals from Friday dinner till Sunday breakfast including tea/coffee/water/squash, all activities.
- You need to bring your own sleeping bag.

In the evening it'll be possible to buy fizzy drinks and beer/wine – you can pay by €notes, but change will be Danish Kroner. Due to our laws and insurance, we need to let you know, that if you bring any young people under the age of 18, you're responsible for looking after them and their safety at all times.



► **Optional Outing on Sunday morning - €10**



If you wish, after closing ceremony we will take you to see the impressive Bassebjerg Loghouse, home of Grib Skov Trop – our largest group.

From there, we'll take you to Frederiksborg Castle in Hillerød. You can walk round the gardens for free as long as you like, but entrance to the castle buildings and National History Museum is €10.

For your onwards journey from there, you'll find train connections between Hillerød Station and Copenhagen/airport 4x/hour.

WORKSHOPS

There'll be a morning and an afternoon session, some of them can end up running double sessions, but as most have limited space, we'll recommend that you to put in 2 wishes when you register – we'll then try our very best to make everybody happy

- Wickerwork – Small useful items from willow.
- Leatherwork – Little gadgets like woggles, key hangers, wristbands, pouches ...and learn techniques to decorate the leather.
- Rope Making – Learn how to make lines as well as thicker ropes ...on machinery that is relatively simple to build.
- Spare time activities with rope – such as woggle, key hanger, splicing, placemats.
- Blacksmith – Make little things on an oldfashioned forge such as candle holders, buckle for campfire blanket or knife blades. We can make one shipment/country with any sharp items, which you're not allowed to bring as hand baggage on your return flight.
- Raft Building – Build a raft from poles, barrels and rope ...and race the Canadian canoe on the lake. If you're planning to fall in, you probably need to bring dry clothes :
- Pioneering – have fun with sisal and pioneering poles
- Tree Climbing – We've got certified instructors to facilitate climbs with harness and rope
- Open fire cooking - building and lighting fires to cook typical Danish food ...including cooking a roast for dinner in a ground pit.

► **REGISTRATION**

The online booking system will ask you to fill in the following information:

- Name, group, association, country
- If you'd like to purchase a €10 T-shirt – they'll be dark grey with the workshop logo
- If you want to join Sunday morning outing
- 2 wishes for workshops
- Any special dietary requirements are very important to put down on the booking form.

That includes vegan, vegetarian, nuts/lactose/gluten or any other, which we haven't thought of. We'll then make you a personal Diet-ID card, to make sure, that we can identify and meet the special requirements you may have.

In Denmark we don't have a long tradition for being vegetarian, but we know how to cook it, and we're happy to do so – but it's important that you know, that the vegetarian option will be available **only** for the ones who's told us beforehand.

If you've got any problems on the register system or other questions, we'll try our best to help you.



Workshop2022@gulspejder.dk

SPAIN



▼ Abel Lobbilo

ST. GEORGE'S DAY

Dear brothers and sisters in scouting, Finally we can celebrate again our patron, Saint George's day, like before the pandemic. We raise stronger after the restrictions and difficulties and keep working hard to make a good scouting and to increase our members/groups.

As legend has it, St. George (Jordi in Catalan) did release the princess from the dragon's claws by killing it, and from its blood a rose grew. April 23rd is also internationally known as World Book Day as it commemorates the

date when both William Shakespeare and Miguel de Cervantes died.

Therefore, it is a tradition here in Catalonia for couples to exchange gifts: men give roses to their girlfriends and women give books to their men. The streets fill with life and stands selling books and roses. The buildings are decorated with flowers and Catalan flags, there are street concerts and, well, better if you come and see it by yourselves.

And of course, on behalf of the Associació Catalana de Scouts (ACS) we wish you and your groups a happy St. George's day.



ASSOCIACIÓ CATALANA DE SCOUTS
www.ac-scouts.org/
facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/ACSWFIS/>



TURKISH REPUBLIC
OF NORTHERN CYPRUS

▼ Esen Bahadır

From Cyprus came
a response to the
Steering Committee's
message on
St. George

23rd OF APRIL

Dear friends, brothers and sisters in scouting..

Since we are Muslim, we do not have Saint George day, however thanks for very nice explanation. I like the idea to renew our promises, its really nice indeed.

In our country, 23rd of April is the children's day which is given by Atatürk the founder of Turkey. So, because of this want to celebrate the children's day of all children of the world.

YIS

LET THE WORLD TO CHILDREN

Let the world to children at least for one day

Let them the world and let play like a tinsel balloon

Let play with singing among the stars

Let the world to children

Like a huge apple, like a nice and warm loaf of bread

Satisfy them at least for one day

Let the world know friendship at least one day

Children will bereave the world from us

They will plant immortal trees

NAZIM HİKME



TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN
CYPRUS GIRL SCOUT ASSOCIATION

ITALY


 Volscos Rover Crew

Dear Brothers and Sisters Scout, these two years have been extremely challenging for the whole world, as we all know. There have been sad and dark moments that put all of us face to face with an invisible and common enemy. This enemy is strong and cruel; nevertheless, thanks to solidarity and sharing, we have weakened it.

The monster's weakening allowed us to come back to the normality we all missed.

Scouts know these feelings very well when it comes to solidarity and sharing.

Scouts believe in fundamental principles transmitted by Baden-Powell, such as fulfilling duty towards God, homeland, and community. In every part of the world, each scout relies upon these principles. Today- 22nd February 2022- everyone of us celebrates Thinking Day. Therefore, we would like to address thought to all of you on this very day. With this bit of thought, we send our solidarity and closeness. The Assoraider Sora group (Italy) wishes you never to give up on your scout mission. Even if you encounter obstacles on your path, remember to keep your scout spirit alive. Whenever you feel lost or disoriented, reread this letter, and embrace its message. Just think about the group of Sora, which is in the joyful Ciociaria, and remember that a group of teenagers will always be on your side. We virtually hug each of you.

Buona Strada
(May Your Road Be Good).

**ASSORAIDER**www.assoraider.it

facebook

assoraider - associazione italiana
di scautismo raider aps

ITALY



▼ Stefano Speranza

THE SUMMARY OF PERFECT THINKING DAY



Last February 20th in Pescara, our Association Gruppo Scout Pescara 1° carried out activities to commemorate the birth of the founder of Scouting, Sir Robert Baden Powell. Around 160 group members took part in the activities prepared by our scout leaders. After the break of the last year due to the spread of Covid-19 disease, in 2022 we had the chance to make something memorable. All the participants showed huge competitiveness and scout spirit. Despite the long break period our Association kept strong and has proved capable of facing great difficulties. We're back with a new awareness, for a scout who's accustomed to solve problems, nothing is impossible. Now, let me introduce you to the words of the various Scout leaders who organized the Thinking Day. Enjoy the reading!



**CONFEDERAZIONE ITALIANA
DELLO SCAUTISMO CRISTIANO**

www.pescara1.org/scout/html

facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/ciscscout/>

Firstly, let's give the floor to Akela, Stefano Terenzi.

"The activities of this year were still affected by the pandemic, but with due precautions we managed to get back to them almost completely. Since it was not yet possible to join other Packs as we usually do in the Thinking Day, this year we celebrated B.-P. only with our Cubs on the morning of February 20th. The Sixes played the cadets who contributed to the defense of Mafeking, with games that simulated the tasks assigned to those boys: rescuing an injured person, fixing damaged equipment, carrying orders and messages. We told our Cubs about how much those boys, a few years older than them, really did their best and that our older Scout brothers are precisely the legacy left to us by those brave Mafeking cadets!" .





Now is the turn of our Scout master, Paolo Dell'Elce.

"I wouldn't want to be taken for granted but it was really nice and exciting to re-propose the Thinking Day after two years. It was a return to normality or almost... The participation of the girls and boys was remarkable, there was really a desire to scout, to compare us, to have fun. Two years of pandemic have been heavy, sad, we thought that perhaps it would be impossible to meet again but, for us scouts, there is no word impossible, let's throw them a good kick! What else to say ... Ad majora semper!".

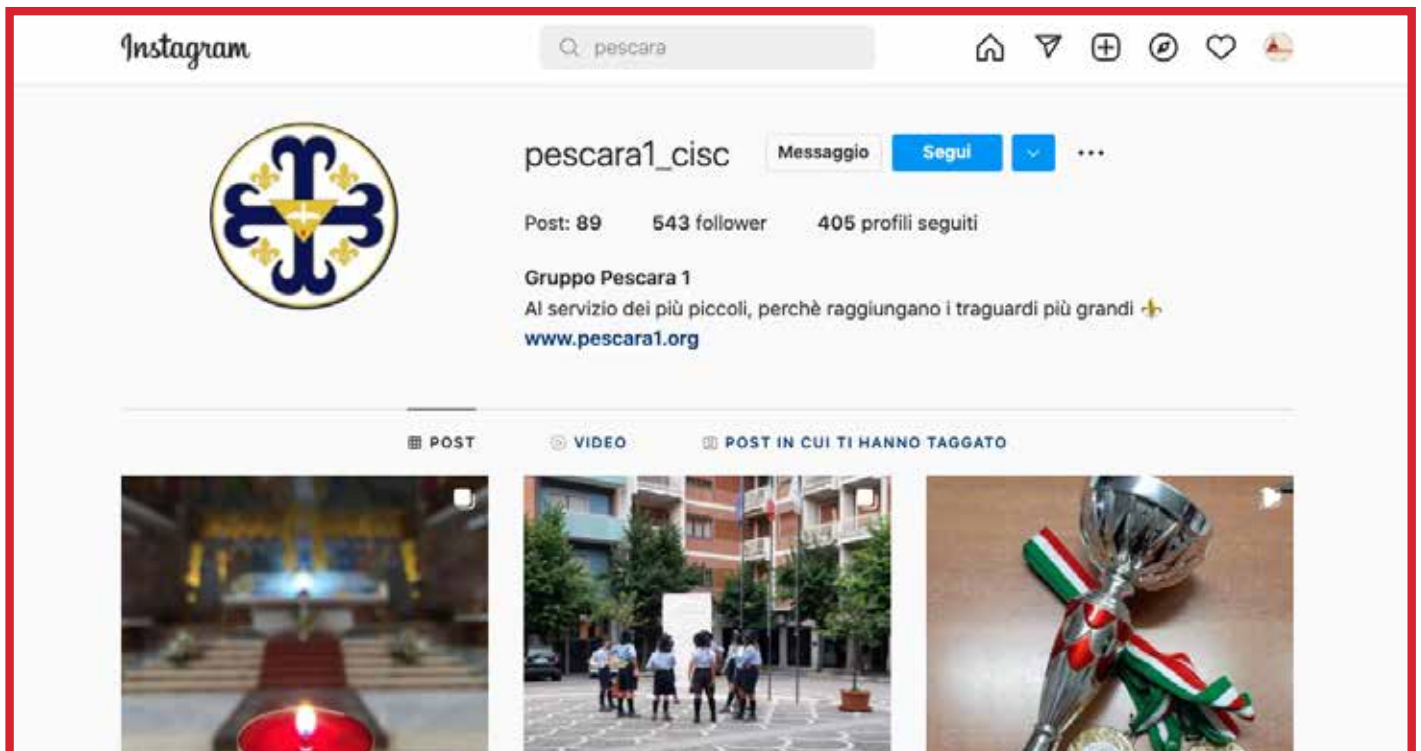


At the end, let's read the words of the Ranger's assistant leader, Marta Pennese.

"This year we did our first thinking day after the pandemic. While older members of clan and fuoco were doing activities with their branche, the ones in the first year of noviziato participated in tournaments in a big city park. They were divided into two teams that challenged each other in the most popular scout sports such as pallascout, roverino and basket scout. It was an occasion to test their collaboration skills and mutual trust, but also to have fun and get to know each other better. The motto of the day was "gioca, non stare a guardare", "Play, don't stand by", a famous sentence by BP that encourages us all to be an active part in our scout group and in general in the society we live in. And this is particularly referred to these young people that are willing to do experiences and catch up with all the things they have missed in these two years. Besides that, we organized the songs for the mass and did a little rehearsal. This is one of the main tasks that we do for the group. After that we meet the others in front of the monument we have in honor of BP and declared successfully closed 2022's thinking day with a loud "crack"!".



pescara1_cisc
is on Instagram



DENMARK



▼ Sophie Vesterby



LPT (NATIONAL PATROL TOURNAMENT)

LPT

LPT (Lands Patrulje Turnering) or National Patrol Tournament is the toughest scouts camp of the year. It is when all the troops from the different areas of Denmark come together to compete in this competition for scouts. The children



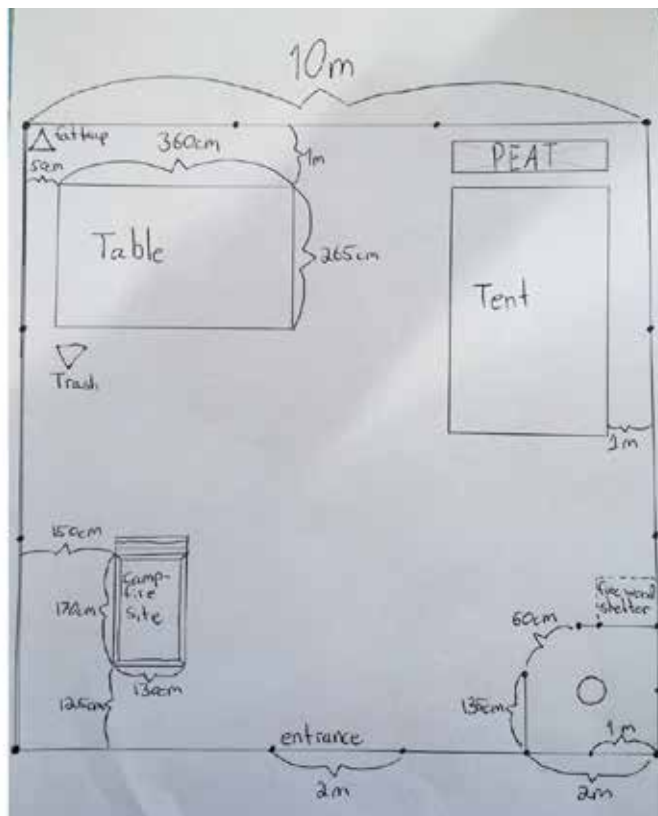
**DE GULE
SPEJDERE**
I DANMARK

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<https://gulspejder.dk/forside/>

<https://www.facebook.com/degulespejdere/>

(or teens) participating are in the age group from 13 to 17. The tournament is held at one of the scout groups huts or nearby. It is held once a year during the autumn holiday and usually lasts four days and three nights.



CAMP CONSTRUCTION & EXTRA TASK

When building the camp there are many things to include such as a campfire site, the table and setting up the tent. Every patrol has a toolbox with everything the team needs except for a large shovel and a pile drill which they bring separately. The area they get to build their camp is 10x10m. The entrance poles have to be two meters apart, three meters in the air and one meter in the ground. The tent has to be set up in the top right corner. The campfire site is 130x170 and is placed in the bottom left corner. The chopping area is 2x2 meters with a corner cut off as the entrance which is 60cm. It is placed in the bottom right corner. The table is 360x265cm and is placed in the top left corner. The peat from the fireplace is set behind the tent on plastic bags in order to prevent it from growing into the ground. For extra tasks the patrol needs to add a garbage place and other smaller things. The extra task is not essential but if you want more points it is best to add it.



FOOD

The food is made by yourself and is judged depending on the taste, texture and the time it took to make it. Every breakfast the food the patrol is supposed to make is oatmeal, which I would say is one of the most important parts of making food because it is all about making it in the fastest time without having it burn or taste weird. For lunch you are usually given some bread and some cold cuts. For dinner you are given a basket with the foods you need and then a recipe of the course you have to make. The food you are told to make can be anything from potatoes and sauce to shark or bison.

TURN-OUT & UP TO STANDARD

For turn-out it is just about acting mature and responsible throughout the entire camp. You are not supposed to mess around or throw stuff. Swearing or acting out of place can cause your team to lose points. Up to standard is about having your camp cleaned up, including your tool- and foodboxes. For up to standard the judges can be very strict. They check if there is a single drop of water on the pots or a tiny piece of rope on the ground.

They also check the tent to make sure that the bags are placed properly and that the tent is neat. If there are two teams that have done equally well they can ask to check your nails for dirt, so for Up To Standard you have to make sure to thoroughly clean your camp in order to prevent your team from losing points.

DIARY, PRE-TASK AND SECRET TASK

The diary is a normal diary you write in throughout the year for it to be judged and awarded points for the creativity of both the writing and the drawings. The diary includes the meetings and other camps before LPT. The pre-task is a task that we are given a few weeks before the tournament in order to have time to make it. The task can be anything from some cooking tools to some hangers or a fishing pole with a wheel. The materials used for making the task usually have to be all natural materials and have to be formed by the scouts themselves. The secret task is a task you are given at the tournament which you must complete the day the task is given. This task is usually more simple than the pre-task because there aren't as many people to help make it because there isn't as much time to make it.



HIKE

You are sent out on a hike either the first or the second day where you have to pack all of the stuff you are told you will need such as a pot or two and some spoons including the spices you might need to make food. You pack as few backpacks as you need so you don't have to carry more than what is necessary. On the hike you have posts you have to reach with different tasks such as medical, building, tying rope, orienteering and code solving. The tasks are all some that test and challenge your skills. On the hike you usually always have to sleep over and complete the hike the next day on the way back to the camp. Throughout the hike you have to write a hike report where you track how long you walk, what time it is and each time you turn or take another path and which direction you are heading in so it is important to bring a compass.

ORIENTERING RUN

We have two orienteering runs throughout the camp, one at day time and one at night. They both usually have 10 posts throughout the run that you have to find. The competition is about getting to all the posts the fastest but not every patrol chooses to go to each post so it also depends on how many posts you get. None of the posts requires the team to do anything, instead each post has a kind of hole puncher which you use to put a hole in the paper the patrol received from the start in order to prove that you have been to the post.

BONFIRE ENTERTAINMENT AND TUG OF WAR

Bonfire entertainment and tug of war are both done on the third evening. For bonfire entertainment you usually prepare before the camp to have the greatest and funniest act.

There are judges judging how many points you get for your patrols act. For tug of war you start by competing against another patrol and if you win you move on and if you lose you are out. It keeps going like that until there is a final winner.

OBSTACLE COURSE

The obstacle course is done on the last day. The patrols complete the course one at a time.

It is of course a competition about who is the fastest to pass through the obstacles and complete the course. The course can have many different types of obstacles like a ladder you have to climb and poles you have to run around. There are many obstacles throughout but the hardest part of this task is the mud on the ground throughout the course which slows you down a lot and not everyone would want to run through mud reaching their knees.

POINTS & PRIZES

Every part of the task has a specific amount of points a patrol can earn for each task. Prizes are given at the end of the entire camp where the least valuable prizes are given first and the prizes that give the most points are last. The points for the different tasks and the total points can change from tournament to tournament, however it usually stays at about the same;



We had everything prepared for the tournament with the diary and pre-task, however we did not know what we were gonna do for bonfire entertainment which we figured out on the way to the tournament. So we had everything prepared by the time we arrived.

The first night two of us stopped working and went to sleep at 00:00 which is considered early while the others stayed up a bit longer. The second day was the day we had to go hiking and I was responsible for the hike report which gave me a lot more stress than I thought it would.

We completed the assignments at the posts and made it to the place where we were supposed to set up camp. At this point I was very stressed because I had to work on the hike report while helping set up a bivouac. When it was time to eat I was too stressed and tired to eat so I didn't eat much. I had been freezing the night before and was freezing already even though I had several layers of clothes on so our scouts leaders decided to bring me back to the original camp so I wouldn't freeze during the night while the other three went on an orienteering run. When the third day came I was back at the temporary camp and helped the others with packing our stuff to head out on the rest of the hike. The assignments we were set to do went pretty well although we didn't get back as some of the first. We were sent out on an orienteering run almost immediately after we got home.

At evening time we had bonfire entertainment and tug of war. We lost at tug of war immediately but for bonfire entertainment we did pretty well. Four the fourth and last day we only had to break down our camp and complete the obstacle course. I chose not to do the obstacle course because I was too exhausted. We ended up winning five prizes and got a total of fifth place which I would say was very good for our first time participating in the camp.

Camp Construction: 250p

Extra task: 40p

Food: 50p

Turn-out: 50p

Up to Standard: 50p

Diary: 50p

Pre-task: 50p

Secret task: 50p

Hike: 200p

Orienteering run: 150p

Obstacle course: 30p

Bonfire Entertainment: 30p

In total: 950

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

The last National Patrol Tournament I was on, was my first tournament for both me and two others, however we did have one experienced person on our team. We all knew that it would be a tough four days. I must say we were surprised by how hard it was and how much work and effort we had to put into the work we had to do.





PIONET.. 2022

► It's for all European Patrols

- **2 phases** in which the Patrols will be evaluated
- the Patrols will have to work very hard to win!

Let's start with the name...why PIONET...?
It is the union of two words:

PIONEERING (we won't even explain it, because if you don't know what it means ... your Patrol will not even be last !!) and

NET..., as network, it is meant in the sense of connection between several people, in fact, the activity of a Patrol is the sum of the work of its Scouts!

PIONET... is a pioneering competition for Patrols, with complex and elaborate pioneering constructions, with an adequate design, a perfect technical realization and an equally important presentation of the construction.

The final result will be the sum of the work of the Patrols, so the report will have to show in particular the contribution that each Scout has given.

THE ACTIVITY SHOULD BE DEVIDED INTO TWO PHASES:

1 First phase: (due to Coronavirus for this phase the Patrols can meet online with zoom or skype meetings or whatever they prefer): each Patrol

must do a complete design of the structure and calculation of the materials and a report in English must be submitted, as detailed as possible, by **July 31, 2022**. The report must include the name, a photo and the role of each Scout in the Patrol. All reports must be sent by email to:
pionet@wfis-europe.org

2 Second phase: realization and consequently, submission of a detailed report with photographs by **December 31, 2022**. All reports must be sent by email to:
pionet@wfis-europe.org

The works will be evaluated by "professionals". The sum of the votes of each individual phase will provide the final classification.

There will be three prizes for the first three classified Patrols.

Each Scout that participated will receive a badge and each Patrol a participation certificate.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

An e-mail must be sent to:

pionet@wfis-europe.org

that says: "We are the XXX Patrol (and the name of the Association and Nation) and we want to participate at PIONET...!!!!"

Good pioneering to everyone !!!!!



HANDICRAFT 2022

- > **It's a project for everybody!**
- > **each work will be carefully evaluated considering the age of each participant**

This project can be done by anybody, from the youngest Beaver to the oldest Rover.

It is very simple, all it is to be done is a homemade handicraft, it could be a drawing, a pioneer model built in scale, or sew a leather sheath for the axe, or anything that is Scouting and that can be done at home during the long lockdown days/months.

There will be a winner and each participant will receive a participation certificate.

THE ACTIVITY WILL HAVE ONLY ONE PHASE:

Each participant must send by **October 31, 2022** a maximum of 4 photos of his/her handicraft by e-mail to **handcraft@wfis-europe.org** indicating: name, surname, association, group and, most important of all, the age!

Each participant may participate with only one handicraft.

So... start working! The judges are already waiting to see all your wonderful works!

PATHFINDER BELT

International Project for Rovers and Scouts in WFIS worldwide



INTRODUCTION:

The Pathfinder Belt is the challenge of a lifetime, which is open to Scouts aged over 16 and members of the Rover Section. It is a chance to take part in a ten-day expedition that brings a real understanding of a different country, its people and way of life.

The Pathfinder Belt is described as 'the antidote to the package holiday'. It is designed to help young people develop a real understanding of another country by travelling through that country, completing surprise projects, working as a small team and meeting local people.

THE REQUIREMENTS:

To complete the Pathfinder Belt, a Scout or Rover must:

- Be over 16 years old
- Plan and train for an international expedition as part of a small team
- Travel to another country and travel through that country over ten days
- Complete a self selected major project
- Complete about ten smaller projects
- Keep a Logbook during the expedition
- Take part in a debriefing after the expedition
- Make a presentation about the expedition

TRAVEL:

Most Pathfinder Belt expeditions are undertaken on foot, although other forms of transport including canoe, boat, bicycle and horseback are equally acceptable. Some teams may wish to use local public transport as part of their expedition and, as long as this provides real opportunities to meet and talk with local people, then it is acceptable. Teams may wish to mix forms of travel. Please note that hitchhiking is not permitted by The WFIS.

DURATION:

The expedition should last for at least ten days. The Pathfinder Belt is more of a marathon than a sprint! During this time, the team should spend at least 30 hours travelling from place to place and visit at least four different towns or villages. For a typical team travelling mainly on foot, this would suggest a route of about 100 miles (160km). However, it is important that the route and distance take into account the local geography, methods of

transport, physical ability of the team members, daytime temperatures and likely weather. Time spent travelling to and from the country of the expedition should not be included.

TRAINING:

Teams must complete training appropriate to the expedition they plan. For most young people, completing projects while on the move will be a new experience. A 'mini-Pathfinder Belt' in which teams undertake a journey over a weekend, near to home and with two or three surprise projects is excellent preparation. Training should cover expedition safety and emergencies, physical preparation and some considerable discussion about the best ways of approaching and meeting local people for help with projects. It is essential that, by the end of the training, teams understand that the aim of the Pathfinder Belt is to 'develop a better understanding of another country, its people and way of life'. Teams that approach the Pathfinder as a purely physical challenge are unlikely to achieve the requirements.

WHERE AND WHEN:

Many Pathfinder belt expeditions are organized by a Country or Association. These expeditions benefit from the cost savings of group travel and the extra support that an experienced Country or Association team can offer. In this case the team may not have much influence over the destination and dates for the expedition. However, decisions about the precise route will always remain with the team.

Alternatively, Scouts and Rovers can organize their own Pathfinder Belt expeditions as a small team, perhaps as part of a larger trip or camp.



ROUTE:

The route should be chosen with the following in mind:

- It should pass through at least four towns or villages
- It must not include any wild country
- It should support the major project and provide opportunities for completing smaller projects

In many countries, it will be easier to meet local people in villages rather than larger towns.

EQUIPMENT:

You will be on your own for at least 10 days; so all the gear must be reliable. Boots must be broken in, while adequate clothing for the conditions anticipated and suitable light-weight tents must be obtained.

Check what fuels are readily available in the country.

While you will be living largely on the food of the country being visited, ensure that you have dehydrated foods available as a reserve.

You should aim to carry no more than 16kg each or one fifth of your own body weight.

SAFETY AND TEAM SIZE:

The safety of teams is essential. Pathfinder Belt expeditions should not be undertaken in adventurous country.

Where it is necessary to pass through rough areas, the adventurous activity rules must be followed. Because it is

essential to meet local people in order to complete the projects, it is much more effective to travel in semipopulated areas and in small groups. Teams should consist of no fewer than four people, but the size of team will depend on the hazards likely to be met.

In most areas where Pathfinder Belt expeditions take place, there should be good access to a mobile telephone network and this should be seriously considered as one of the emergency contact options, but not the only option. Teams should be clearly briefed about what to do in an emergency. Common-sense advice, appropriate to the country being visited, should also be given about approaching and meeting local people. Many teams have reported that wearing a Scout uniform at all times provides a quick and effective way of being recognised as a Scout.

BUDGET:

Most Pathfinder Belt expeditions operate on a tight budget. In practice, this helps because it encourages teams to eat local food, avoid large commercial campsites and to take advantage of home hospitality.

PROJECTS:

Each team should choose a major project. The assessment team should approve the project before departure. A good major project is one that:

- Surveys of the leisure and recreation interests of young people and the facilities available to them.
- Investigates typical rural industries and crafts
- Makes a comparison of lifestyles in the villages and uplands
- Follows the course of a river and investigate the different communities it serves, their industry, agriculture and lifestyles
- Musician development of this Country
- Culture
- Food and drink
- Architecture
- Language

Each team should also complete ten smaller projects. Five of these should be surprise projects set by the other members of the Network or Unit. These projects should be given to the team 24 hours before departure. Teams should be able to choose projects from a longer list of around 20 projects, in order to provide flexibility and choice based on local circumstances.

A GOOD PROJECT IS ONE THAT:

- Needs help or information from local people
- Will prompt the team to try or do something that they might otherwise have missed
- Takes an hour or so to complete
- Is based around something unique or special about the area being visited
- For example 'chat to the oldest person you can find in a village about the changes they have seen in the area during their lifetime' or 'in the UK, many people use the Internet every day. How important is the Internet to people in the area you're visiting?'

DEBRIEFING:

As soon as the expedition is completed and, if possible, before leaving the country being visited, the team should hold an informal debriefing with a Leader. This is designed to help the team reflect on:

- What they have done
- The people they have met
- How their views have developed about the country visited
- How they worked as a team
- The appropriateness of their planning and training
- What they have achieved

The debriefing is not an assessment and no judgements should be made.

LOGBOOK:

The logbook is assessed. Its purpose is to help teams keep personal notes about their expedition and to support the debriefing and presentation. The logbook could be kept on paper, dictated or completed as a video diary. Photographs or slides are also useful and can help to support the presentation.

ASSESSMENT:

The Pathfinder Belt is assessed by a team who will base their decision on:

- How much the team have developed their knowledge of the country, people and way of life
- How much the team members have developed personally and as a team from the experience
- The quality of the expedition

The members of the assessment team will normally include:

- Any expedition leaders.
- The Network Co-ordinator.
- Another person appointed by the District, Country or Association.

The debriefing, the presentation and a discussion with the team normally help to make the decision. Successful teams receive a certificate and the Pathfinder Belt, which is a belt with a special buckle and is available from the WFIS Supplies.

Pathfinder Belt expeditions may count towards the 'Other Adventurous Projects' requirements of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold Expedition, provided that a notification form is sent to the appropriate Association Headquarters at least four months before the expedition. The Pathfinder Belt can also be used to fulfil the requirements of the St George Award expedition or parts of the other Awards, but it may not be used more than once.





EURO CAMP 2022 POSTPONED

Dear fellow Scouters,

due to the current pandemic, war in Europe and following the discussion and vote at the meeting of March 13, 2022, we have to announce that the Eurocamp cannot take place in 2022.

We will consider options for a postponement and get back to you with information as soon as available.

A big thank you for the organizing team for the work done so far.

Yours in traditional Scouting

WFIS-Europe e.V.

