

# EURO LETTER

Internal memo of the WFIS Europe





#01-2024



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

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 commitee.

organisation under

#### COMMITTEE

#### 1. Chairman

Margon Sørensen first@wfis-europe.org

#### 2. Chairman

Julie Bryceson second@wfis-europe.org

#### 3. Chairman:

Sandra Orebi third@wfis-europe.org

#### **Treasurer**

Henry Seelig treasurer@wfis-europe.org

#### Secretary

Marco Landsberger secretary@wfis-europe.org



#### **CZECH REPUBLIC**

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

#### **DENMARK**

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

#### FRANCE

■ Scouts de Chavagnes

#### GERMANY

- 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.
- Freier Pfadfinderbund Asgard
- Freier Pfadfinderbund St.Georg
- Independent Scout Association
- Solmser Pfadfinderschaft
- Pfadfinderbund Weltenbummler e.V.
- Christliche Freie Pfadfinderschaft Goldenstedt
- Pfadfinder im Mühlenbecker Land e.V.
- Pollution Police e.V.

#### **IRELAND**

- Baden-Powell Scouts Slyguff
- 2nd Cavan Scouts

#### **ITALY**

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

#### LATVIA

■ Latvijas Kristigie Skauti

#### MALTA

■ Baden Powell Scouts of Malta

#### **ROMANIA**

 Asociatia 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
- Asociation Juvenil Groupo Scout Independiente Gilwell
- Federation Scout de la Communidad Valenciana
- Scout Independientes del Principado de Asturias
- Grupo Scout San Pío X
- Asociación Grupo Scout Alcazaba
- Ascociación de Scouts Independientes de Córdoba
- Grupo Scout Hotara
- Scout Group Margyp

#### **SWITZERLAND**

■ Feuerkreis Niklaus von Flüe

#### **UKRAINE**

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

#### **TURKEY**

Kapif

#### **TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS**

■ Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus Girl Scout Association

#### **UNITED KINGDOM**

- Baden-Powell Scouts Association
- Scouts and Guides of Saint Joseph, Fife, Scotland
- 1st Blackwater Valley Scout Group

#### PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

■ Grupo Scout Picos del Oso, Spain - ■ Grupo Scout Espinardo, Spain - ■ Phoenix Independent Scouts Association, United Kingdom - ■ Zrzeszenie Harcerskie Piąta.PL, Poland - ■ Grupo Scout Cicónidas 345, Spain - ■ Grupo Scout Aéreos Torrejón, Spain



#### **CZECH REPUBLIC**





## WORKSHOP WFIS 2023 IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

he workshop in September 2023 took place in the Czech Republic at the Orlova Grove.

It is the place where the founder of Czech scouting Antonín Benjamin Svojsík translated the book "Scouting for boys" and also wrote a publication essential for all Czech scouts "Základy junáctví" ("The basics of scouting"".

SKAUT -

SKAUT - CESKY SKAUTING ABS http://abs2013.skautabs.cz/

Orlovy lies in the beautiful country-

side of the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands surroun-



ded by forests. The first Czech scout camp was held near the grove in 1912.

Around 40 participants from Germany, England, Romania, Malta, Danmark and Italy came together. Among the activities on offer, carving, leather decorating and wirework were the most popular. The other activities as tee-pee building

and fire-making had fewer takers.

Those interested could also go and see the site of the first Czech Scout camp. In the evening we all sat around the campfire.

The kitchen team was a great success with their work and prepared many goodies for the participants. Everyone enjoyed the workshop and took home many memories of a nice meeting. The success consisted of the following ingredients - beautiful weather, good food, a place with special atmosphere and the good will and spirit of all participants.

Thank you all for your participation and we look forward to seeing you again sometime.





# THE PEACE LIGHT OF BETHLEHEM



Carlos Paredes - Spain

ince 1986, each year, a child from Upper Austria kindles a flame from the "Eternal Flame" from the Nativity Grotto in Bethlehem where Jesus was born. The light is then flown to Austria from where it is distributed at a Service of Dedication to delegations from across Europe who take it back, with a message of Peace, to their own countries.

There has been a great deal of co-operation between Scouts and Guides in many countries which has allowed the light to travel throughout Europe, such that the light is passed on to 30 European Countries and for the past few years, on to North America, Mexico, and Canada.

Scouts can then take the light on to other churches, hospitals, old people homes, prisons, and places of public, cultural and political importance - to anybody that appreciates the significance of the "gift".

We are well aware that this ceremony, done mainly in churches, can have some connotations of faith, of the belief of a particular religion (Christian...), but the message that is proclaimed with that symbol is so universal that it can be understood, accepted and shared by any belief without the need to be Christian.

BUT, for the times in which we live in and due to the conflicts, that we are astonished to witness, especially wars in which many children suffer the consequences... we thought it would have been very nice, due to the strong message that it carries, to receive from WFIS scout groups and associations their contribute with pictures and a small text of their testimony.

Thank you, thank you to everyone who joined the initiative by sending in their testimonials.



#### **GERMANY**



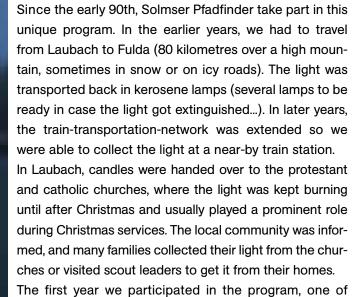


SOLMSER PFADFINDERSCHAFT www.solmser-pfadfinderschaft.de/facebook

www.facebook.com/solmserpfadfinder



#### **Funko**



our adult scouts was a priest in a village 25 kilometres away and he invited us to a service in his church, which he arranged around the Peace light and told us the stories behind it. We sang songs from Israel and gave a presentation.

In many houses of our scouts the Peace light is kept burning until Christmas. As we have in our house still natural candles on our Christmas tree it is illuminated on Christmas eve with the Peace light! In the night, we bring candles with the Peace light to the graveyard to illuminate the graves of our beloved ones throughout the Christmas days.

After some years, we started a new tradition, which we run every three years. Starting with a short send-out service in one of our churches scouts and their families who





live in the villages around Laubach walk to their villages and hand over the light to the churches there and bring it to people, who asked for the light (based upon earlier advertisements). At these churches, families and scouts from the next villages are waiting, take over the light and walk with it to their villages. In some years, the starlike routes walked total up to more than 50 kilometres!

Cars driven by our scoutmasters are present at all those meeting points and supply warm drinks and snacks and return the kerosene lamps from the final destination. There is always a reserve light in these cars in case one of the lights transported around extinguishes.

In the past two years, our priest was invited by the regional TV Station to talk about Christmas traditions. In both years, he presented the Peace light, which he had received from us.

In 2023 it was a bit complicated as a war had broken out in the holy land. So, it was unclear, if at all the light could be brought from the church in Bethlehem. So, arrangements could only be made on a short notice after it was clear, that the light had arrived in Vienna. And as we heard, it was for the first time that it wasn't transported in a plane leaving from Tel Aviv (as in all the years before) but had to be transported to Amman in Jordan and came in a plane from there... (I assume, it was done so for security reasons, as still rockets were fired towards the airport in Tel Aviv).

How much has changed in the Holy Land. In 1978 my wife Nati and I toured the area for a week in a rented car. We were able to travel free not only through Israel, but as well through the Westbank and the Gaza strip. When we came to the "Birth-Church" in Bethlehem, there was a parking place right in front of it. We entered the church – a fortified church with thick walls, only accessible through a small door which can only be passed by one person at a time – and went down the stairs to see the

place, where Jesus Christ was born and stood there for some time to watch the eternal flame. Close to the church there was the "Field of the Shepards" where we bought the nativity figures we use underneath our Christmas tree ever since.

In 2019 we had another chance to visit the birth church in Bethlehem, as there was a one-day stopover on a vacation trip in the North-Israeli city of Haifa. This time, we decided to go on a guided tour in a tourist bus. For many kilometres our trip went along a huge fence, which has been erected in the meantime to prevent terrorist from the West back to enter Israel. As Bethlehem is located just a mile behind the border in the Westbank, we had to pass a security checkpoint and a long queue of cars and busses was waiting there. Nowadays there is no longer a chance to cross this border in a rental-car...where there used to be the Shepard's Field there are now huge buildings and within this area there is a big parking garage - exclusively for tourist busses! Of course there was another long queue in front of the small entrance door and inside the church we had to learn, that the waiting line was so long, that it would have been taken more than one hour to get a chance to step down to the eternal light - too long for our tough time-schedule... We were happy, that we had had to possibility to see the place 41 years earlier...

It really became a sad and oppressive feeling for us.

After seeing all these (negative) changes, we are glad and happy that we are still able to receive this important call for peace in the world – the Peace light of Bethlehem – each and every year until today. We hope that this great tradition will continue – despite all those negative changes, terrorism attacks and wars - in the years to come.



#### **ITALY**





CONFEDERAZIONE ITALIANA
DELLO SCAUTISMO CRISTIANO

www.pescara1.org/scout/html facebook

www.facebook.com/ciscscout/



#### Andrea

Once again, this year, Scout Group Pescara 1 C.I.S.C. took part in the "Light of Bethlehem". The lamps with the 'Light' were brought to the headquarters and church and kept lit until the Epiphany.



#### Sara

The light of Bethlehem, the friendly light of Christmas, which illuminates the darkness of humanity, gives the ability to see with the heart. The word Christmas comes from the verb nascere or 'to come into the light' and Jesus with his coming brought with him the spiritual light that enables us to see."





#### **BELGIUM**



LES COMPAGNONS DU MT-BLANC -SCOUTS DE NODEBAIS ONAFHANKELIJKE SCOUTS EN GIDSEN facebook

Les-Compagnons-du-Mt-Blanc-Scouts-de-Nodebais



#### Castor

Hello,

For many years now, our little group "Les Compagnons du Mont-Blanc" from Nodebais (Belgium) has taken part in sharing the flame of Bethlehem.

On 10 December 2023, our Cub Scouts went to collect it from the church of Saint Médard in Jodoigne, where the whole congregation gathered around a brazier to welcome the flame in the darkness. Readings, songs and a blessing punctuated this symbolic moment!



Two weeks later, on the morning of 23 December, the scouts travelled to the two neighbouring villages to share the flame with the two parishes.

In the afternoon, Cub Scouts, Scouts and Guides took IT to the streets of the village to bring this message of Peace to the elderly and wish them a happy Christmas. Articles on our Facebook page dated 11 and 29 December:

www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064614559451
With my fraternal Scout greetings.







#### **ITALY**



A.S.C.I. - ESPLORATORI E GUIDE D' ITALIA HTTPS://WWW. ESPLORATORIEGUIDEDITALIA.ORG/ facebook

www.facebook.com/ASCI.
ESPLORATORIEGUIDEDITALIA/





Once again, this year, the Bethlehem light of Peace was welcomed by the Scouts belonging to the A.S.C.I. Esploratori e Guide d'Italia and brought to the parishes of various localities. The precious flame, which has been burning for centuries in the Basilica of the Nativity in Bethlehem, travelled by rail throughout Italy. Our Scouts picked it up among other groups:

Casandrino I, Valdaso 1, Merano 3, Iseo 1, Valconca 1 and Palermo 1, who collected it at the railway stations closest to their locations and made it available to those who, understanding its value and meaning, wanted to pick it up and take it to their homes, PEACE is the heritage of all humanity and should be spread as widely as possible.







#### **CZECH REPUBLIC**





SKAUT - CESKY SKAUTING ABS http://abs2013.skautabs.cz/





Representatives of the "Lesní moudrost" (Forest Wisdom) group from Brno went to collect the Bethlehem Light for the first time in 1995, when they were part of a delegation of Brno Scouts and received the Light for the first time in Vienna from Austrian Scouts. Representatives of the Lesní moudrost group went to Vienna regularly for the next 15 years. Since 1995, the Hitchhikers unit have been distributing the Bethlehem

Light around their neighbourhood to households according to a list of selected addresses at the end of the Christmas party on 23 December. There was only a forced break during the Covid period, nowadays we continue the tradition of distributing the light from Bethlehem. The Bethlehem Light from the Boy Scouts brings some peace and reflection on the original meaning of Christmas.











V

Eva Tůmová - photo by Joel Cuce

Distributing the Bethlehem Light has a long tradition in our town. We first shared the Light of peace in 1989 and this tradition has not been broken yet. Czech scouts distribute the light across the whole country by train. After we pick up the Bethlehem Light at the train, around mid-December, we keep it burning in several households until the 23rd of December, when we organize an event for all interested people from our town in the main square. Every year on the same date and time. Scouts and Girl Scouts from our troop bring the Light in a parade to the sound of jingle bells, followed by the singing of carols. People have long got used to the event and come in large numbers with their lanterns to bring home the Light from Bethlehem. On this occasion we always meet many familiar faces, wish each other a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and above all we always remind ourselves that Christmas is a holiday of peace and joy. Together with the Light, we all take this feeling back to our homes.







#### **ITALY**





**FEDERSCOUT** 

facebook

facebook.com/FederScout/



The first "meeting" between FederScout and the Light of Peace took place in Trieste in 1995. Some Austrian Scouts, guests of AMIS-FEDERSCOUT, spoke about the Light that they took in Bethlehem and which, after bringing it to Vienna, distributed throughout the Northern Europe, including Russia. This did not happen, however, in Italy through the Italian Scout Associations. AMIS immediately liked the idea and, in particular Fabiano, managed to organize a group of leaders to go and get the Light and start distributing it in Italy. The first trip with a minibus in December 1995!!! Until December 2000 AMIS took care of transport and distribution with the collaboration of the Italian Railways reaching many cities, after that year a Committee was created in Trieste among all the Italian Scout Associations which distribute everywhere, and always with the collaboration of the Railways, the Light of Peace.

In December 2003 it was delivered to Pope John Paul II, with a special crystal lamp, by a Cub from the AV-SC-FEDERSCOUT together with a Leader of MASCI Association.

Every year FEDERSCOUT participates in the distribution of the Light of Peace to families, hospitals, churches, prisons and wherever this sign of peace can help hope for a better future.









#### **SPAIN**



V

David Serrano and Carlos L. García

### **1ST IBERIAN SCOUT FORUM**



n the 03rd and 04th of June 2023, the 1st Iberian Scout Forum - WFIS was held in Madrid, we met in the premises of the Scout Group Eslabón of ASIM. We had a participation of about 60 people between both days from groups and associations from all over Spain, participated the Scout Group Altaïr (Córdoba), ACS (Catalonia), Scout Group Alcazaba (Extremadura), Association of Independent Scouts of Madrid - ASIM (Madrid), Scout Group Hotara (Madrid) and Scout Group Nomads (Madrid). On Saturday 03 there was





JUN

a table and dynamics about what is WFIS, how we want to organize ourselves at national level, collaboration between groups and associations in Spain. And on Sunday 04, ACS gave us a talk on protocols for action in cases of Bullying, Sexual Abuse in the areas of Leisure and Free Time.

This is the commemorative badge of the meeting, the brothers of WFIS Portugal were invited, but in the end, they could not attend, that is why the Iberian peninsula is represented, the border shows the flag of Spain and Portugal as a symbol of twinning. And the puzzle symbolizes the union of all the WFIS associations and groups in Spain.

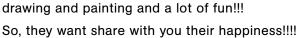


## BEAVER COLONY SUMMER CAMP

ear Friends, some news about the Beaver Colony summer camp of Scout Nautici Antares (a FederScout member Association).

Few words and many photo!!!

According with the Beavers background, the campsite was near a seashore and, also according with the Beaver Promise, they made some activities in touch with the principle to take care of the world. There were, also, night tales and awards, games,













FEDERSCOUT SCOUT NAUTICI ANTARES

http://www.federscout.it/wp/

facebook

https://www.facebook.com/FederScout



of work.

## HANDICRAFT 2023

The Handicraft 2023 Project came to an end!

Thank you very, very, very much...we had a massive participation and we carefully evaluated each piece

Since we received so many entries and all of them were great, in the end, we decided to award one winner for each age group and all participants will receive a badge and a participation certificate.









**Elisa Carosi** 

14 years old Francigena 3 - Federscout Italia



Gabriel Busutill
6 years old
Baden Powell Scout
Malta
Zebbug - Malta





Leah Borg 8 years old Baden Powell Scout Malta Mgarr - Malta





**Lenah Camilleri** 9 years old Baden Powell Scout Malta St. Paul's Bay - Malta



**Liam Guillaumier** 5 years old Baden Powell Scout Malta Zebbug - Malta



Michele Pengo 16 years old Scout del Brenta -Federscout Italia



Maria Del Carmen Munoz Casares

7 years old ASIC – Asociacion de Scouts Independientes de Cordoba Grupo Scout Altair -Spain



Octavia Negoita
15 years old
ACT-RO
Moara Vlasiei Group - Romania



Paolo Chemello
17 years old
Scout del Brenta Federscout
Italia



Raul Dogaru 11 years old Busto 33 - Federscout Italia

#### **Will Morton**

13 years old Baden-Powell Scouts Association 1st Wigton - UK



## PROJECTS 2024

## THE BEAVER PROJECT SHARING FUN

The Beaver Project - Sharing Fun is for Beavers all over Europe.

Through the sharing of fun Beavers from different areas or countries

can share fun with other Beavers from WFIS - Europe.

Complete the registration form and send it to beavers@wfis-europe.org

Sofie Stigaard is the Big Brown Beaver for the project. She is your contact if you have any

questions about the project. You will get her contact details when you register.

Remember to order the Sharing Fun badges on the registration form.

The price for the badges is 1.50 Euro.

You can send the registration form any time until the end of August 2024 and we will match your Colony with another one as applications come to us, that way we hope there will be less waiting time for children.

It is very easy to join the sharing of fun, here is what you have to do:

- 1. Send a photo of your Beavers looking happy.
- 2. Make a picture of a Beaver to send to other Beavers, you could paint it, make it out of material stuck to card, anything you want.
- 3. Sing a Beaver song and record it to send to other Beavers.
- **4.** Ask a leader to write a little about what you do at Beavers, so it can be read out to other Beavers.

From Big Brown Beaver you will get the name and address of a Beaver Colony to send your package to.

## **HANDICRAFT 2024**

- > 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 has to be done is a 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 or with vour leaders**.

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

#### THE ACTIVITY WILL HAVE ONLY ONE PHASE:

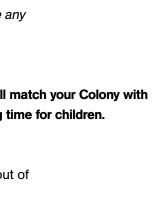
Each participant must send by NOVEMBER 30, 2024,

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!



## CUBS CONNECTING OUR FRIENDSHIP 2024



The Cubs Connecting our Friendship is for Cubs all over Europe.

Through this Connection, Cubs from different areas or countries can learn more about other Cubs from WFIS - Europe. It is very easy to join the Connection, here is what you have to do:

Fill out the registration form and send it cubsconnect@wfis-europe.org

Sofie Stigaard is the leader of the Connection project and she is your contact if you have any problems or questions about the project, you can e-mail her at <a href="mailto:cubsconnect@wfis-europe.org">cubsconnect@wfis-europe.org</a>

Remember to order the badges on the registration form.. The price for the badges is 1.50 Euro

#### You can send the registration form until the end of August 2024

- 1. Take a picture of your Cubs and leaders.
- 2. Now your Cubs have to find a lot of information about:
  - ▶ What they are doing at their meetings; ▶ Who they are; ▶ Maps and information about the city they live in
  - ► Maps and information about the country they live in; ► Stories from summer camps; ► Great drawings
  - ▶ Anything else your Cubs want to tell about.; ▶ One picture of the Cubs and leaders.

The Cubs have to make one information package.

- 3. From the leader of the project you will get the e-mail address of the Cub Pack you will be sending to. You must then e-mail to get the details and address of where you have to send your package.
- **4.** You must post your package to the given address. Your Cubs will get one package from the Cub Pack you have contacted and you have to share the information you get with the rest of the Cubs in your Pack.
- **5.** When you have posted your package you have to tell the project leader by e-mail. The leader will, if you have ordered them on the registration form, send you the badges.

## **PIONET... 2024**

- ► 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!

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 Patrol, so the report will have to show in particular the contribution that each Scout has given.

## THE ACTIVITY SHOULD BE DEVIDED INTO TWO PHASES:

First phase: 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 June 30, 2024. 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 15, 2024.

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 !!!!!



### WFIS EUROPE- GENERAL ASSEMBLY



We would like to thank our Portuguese scout brothers of the UEP - União dos Escoteiros Portugueses association for the wonderful organisation of the General Assembly that took place on 27 January 2024 in Almada (Lisbon).

We received this email from our Romanian scout brothers it is a pleasure for us to share it with you all.



Dear Julie,

Next year we will celebrate 10 years since we started our scouting association. Even before starting the legal procedures, we contacted you / Second Chairman of WFIS, today are 10 years since then.

Thank you, Julie!

Our thanks to the whole WFIS team for advice, training, support and for being together!

Yours in Traditional Scouting,

**ACT-RO Team**