

How can I Include International Opportunities in my Section's Program?

The Canadian Path includes six Program Areas for all Sections: Environment & Outdoors, Active & Healthy Living, Beliefs & Values, Leadership, Creative Expression and Citizenship.

The Citizenship Program Area suggests a few different kinds of adventures. Citizenship adventures may mean finding out more about the local community or Canada. They may mean providing service.

Citizenship adventures can also mean finding out more about other

countries and cultures, and Canada's place in the world.

How can your Section include international opportunities in its Scouting program?



Many youth and Scouters may feel that international Scouting opportunities are too expensive or complicated to be included in their programs. While international travel can be a great part of Scouting, keep in mind that international program opportunities aren't just about long trips to see the world. More than ever before, we are able to explore the world from our home communities!

International program adventures can be a part of an evening meeting or a weekend camp. Encourage your youth to have a look at the Citizenship Trail Cards for your Section. There's a good chance that there will be ideas for easy international-themed adventures that will appeal to your youth. Your Section might plan a party to share in a celebration taking place in another country, or share a potluck supper for which the youth bring dishes that are traditional in their family and culture.

Your youth can also discover other countries and cultures by taking part in **Scouts Canada's Pen Pal program**. This is an opportunity to correspond with youth in a matching Scouting Section, either by posted mail or online.

Similarly, your Section might want to take part in the **Jamboree on the Air** (JOTA) or the **Jamboree on the Internet** (JOTI) – two virtual jamborees sanctioned by the World Organization for the Scouting Movement. Youth from all over the world get together

over the air and online every year over the third full weekend of October; it's a safe and exciting way for your youth to make new Scouting friends all over the globe!

Older Sections will have opportunities to travel internationally through Scouting. Jamborees in the United States can be a great introduction to international Scouting travel. In fact, the next World Scout Jamboree (taking place in 2019) will be held at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia. Scouting youth aged 14 to 17 years old are invited to attend. Many senior Scouting youth also organize or take part in international development projects.

Attending a major international jamboree or planning any international Scouting adventure can be complicated and expensive. Bring these opportunities to the attention of your youth months or even years in advance of the scheduled event so that your Section has plenty of time to fundraise and sort out all of the details. With enough time, it is possible to reach these fundraising goals.

Scouting is a global movement, and it offers Canadian Scouting youth many amazing opportunities to discover the world. Whatever your Section, encourage your youth to think beyond Canada's borders when planning their adventures.

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It starts with Scouts.

