

# **Fun Facts and Frequently Asked Questions For the USA Contingent to the 24<sup>th</sup> WSJ**

## **General Event Details**

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- What are the dates and location of the 24<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree?
  - The jamboree will be held at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia July 22 to August 2, 2019.
  
- What is a World Scout Jamboree?
  - It's a place for friendship, fellowship, and particularly at the Bechtel Summit, adventure! It's a once in a lifetime opportunity for a BSA scout to get engaged with the global scouting community; this is truly something you won't want to miss.
  - A World Scout Jamboree is the World Organization of the Scouting Movement's largest event, with regular attendance of over 35,000 scouts and scouters from all around the world. And now that the World Jamboree is coming to the Bechtel Summit, it will be the largest ever, with nearly 50,000 scouts and scouters from over 169 countries in the world.
  
- What makes a World Jamboree different from a National Jamboree?
  - So many things!
    - The people. Scouts from 169 countries are invited to participate and the International staff that runs the Jamboree are also from these countries all around the world.
    - The experiences. Scouts and scouters across the US will get to deep dive into the heart of international scouting, meeting friends for a lifetime.
    - The memories. When do you get to meet someone from halfway around the world that shares the same values as you? If you hold up the scout sign, they will instantly know what you mean, no matter what language they speak. Scouting is a universal language.
  
- How many people get to go?
  - It's our largest contingent to a WSJ ever! While we have a large group of Scouts and Scouters, we are limited by WOSM on the number of folks that we can send.
  
- What makes this World Jamboree so special?
  - Two main things:
    - This is the first world jamboree held in the United States since 1967; that's 50 years ago!
    - Hosting this jamboree is a collaborative effort by all of the Scouts from North America, from Scouts Canada, Scouts Mexico, and the BSA.

## Applying to Attend the WSJ

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- How can I attend the WSJ?
  - There are three key ways for you to attend the World Scout Jamboree:
    - Co-ed Participants: between the ages of 14 to 17 by the time of the Jamboree
      - Born between July 22, 2001 and July 21, 2005
    - Staff (International Service Team, IST): over 18 years of age by the time of the Jamboree
    - Unit leaders: over 21 years of age by the time of the Jamboree, except for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Assistant Unit Leader. Similar to BSA's National Jamborees, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Assistant Unit Leader will be a "young adult," between the ages of 18 and 21.
  
- When will applications open?
  - Applications opened on November 1, 2017 at [wsj2019.us/apply](http://wsj2019.us/apply).
  
- How much will it cost to attend the WSJ?
  - **USA Contingent Cost**
    - **Participants and Leaders** - The participant and unit leader fee includes registration for the Jamboree, meals at the Jamboree, tents, and patrol and cooking gear. The fees also cover appropriate travel expenses (including food) between "Hub Cities" and the Jamboree. An appropriate number of "Hub Cities" will be identified across the continental United States depending on the distribution of youth and leaders that make up the various units. Applicants will be responsible for the costs to get themselves to and from these "Hub City" locations. The USA Contingent will not have pre or post touring in order to keep the cost down and allow more participation to this once in a lifetime opportunity.

Region	Early Bird Discount*	Regular Fee
Northeast	\$2,400	\$2,500
Central	\$2,400	\$2,500
Southern	\$2,400	\$2,500
Western	\$2,700	\$2,800

- **International Service Team (IST)** - IST will receive four-person wall tents and cots. Staff will eat in the staff dining hall and have lunches that are portable and do not require cooking. The IST fee does not include transportation and travel related expenses. Transportation to and from the Jamboree will be the responsibility of the IST member based on when they need to report or depart from their staff assignment. The World Jamboree Organizers (Host) will provide transportation to and from a limited number of Gateways to the jamboree site. Those Gateway locations are identified as Yeager Airport in Charleston, WV, Charlotte/Douglas International Airport in Charlotte, NC, the AMTRAK station in Prince, WV, and the Ruby Welcome Center in Mt. Hope, WV.

	Early Bird Discount*	Regular Fee
International Service Team	\$1,700	\$1,800

- When do we have to pay?
  - The payment schedule is posted at [wsj2019.us/apply](http://wsj2019.us/apply).
- Are there any discounts?
  - Applicants who submitted their \$250 deposit (required to submit the application) between November 1, 2017 and January 31, 2018 and make all additional payments on time will have a \$100 discount applied to their last payment.
- Are scholarships available?
  - A need-based scholarship fund will be available to provide partial scholarships to USA youth contingent members. Partial scholarships, if received, will be applied to the last payment.
- How old do participants have to be to attend?
  - Youth participants must be 14 and not yet 18, meaning born between July 22, 2001 and July 21, 2005. IST members and unit leaders\* can be 18 or 108. (\*3<sup>rd</sup> Assistant Unit Leader is a “young adult,” between the ages of 18 and 21. All other unit leaders must be 21+ years old.) **There are no exceptions.**
- I will be one day too young/old to participate. Are the dates flexible?
  - Unfortunately not. The age requirements were established by the World Scout Committee. You should consider attending as an IST member or as a unit leader!
- Can a registered 18 year old Venturer attend as a participant?
  - Unfortunately not. The age requirements were established by the World Scout Committee. You should consider attending as an IST member or as a 3<sup>rd</sup> Assistant Unit Leader!
- How can someone register if they are currently not a member of the Boy Scouts of America due to current membership age requirements?
  - A World Jamboree is a coed event and all BSA members are encouraged to apply. If a potential participant is currently not a member of the Boy Scouts of America due to current membership age requirements and would like to apply for the jamboree, they should contact their local council for further instructions. They will learn how to register in order to apply for the World Jamboree.
- How will the number of troops/participants be allocated across BSA?
  - The number of units have been allocated on an equitable basis among BSA’s Regions and Areas.
- Who will decide on who is selected to go as a participant or as a unit leader?
  - There are many levels of approval to participate in any capacity, including your local council, BSA Area and with National Council.
  - There are no “Golden Tickets” to attend the World Jamboree; there is not a set of things to guarantee attendance at the World Jamboree.
  - The registration order will be taken into account, but it is not “first come, first served.”

- When will those decisions be made?
  - Decisions on members are made on a rolling basis, as applications are received. Timing could vary by Region/Area.
  - The registration order will be taken into account, but it is not “first come, first served.”
  - **Participants:** Participants will be notified by Contingent unit leadership if they have been accepted or are being placed on a wait list.
    - If they are put onto a wait list, they will continue to pay according to the Contingent payment schedule.
    - Applicants on the waiting list that are not ultimately selected will receive a FULL refund (including initial \$250 deposit).
  - **IST:** Once approved by their local Council and USA Contingent leadership, the application will be sent to the WSJ Host team (the organizers of the Jamboree).
    - The Host will notify the applicant of acceptance/denial and a job assignment. Some assignments will likely come in late 2018 or 2019.
    - The applicant will need to continue to pay their fee per the payment schedule. If an applicant is not selected, they will receive a FULL refund (including initial \$250 deposit).
  - **Unit Leaders:** Each Contingent unit will have 4 unit leaders, and acceptance timing will be based on the filling of youth in the units, which will have been allocated to each Region and Area.
    - Leaders will continue to pay, according to the payment schedule, even if they have not been confirmed. BSA Regional and Area leadership will select leaders based on their qualifications.
    - Unit leader applicants who are not ultimately selected will receive a FULL refund (including initial \$250 deposit).
    - If an applicant is not selected as a unit leader, they are encouraged to modify their application to be considered as an IST member. If that transition takes place, the selection of the application is handed to the WSJ Host team for final determination.

## Staffing the WSJ

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- I have been staffing the past XX number of BSA NSJs. That means I'll get a spot on staff, right?
  - Unfortunately, it's not quite that simple. While previous experience is absolutely a consideration, it is not a golden ticket. The World Scout Jamboree is staffed by Scouters from around the world and NSOs are limited on the number of staff that can attend.
- What does an IST member do?
  - Just like any NSJ, program and operational responsibilities still have to be fulfilled. Think of any job to make a 50,000-person city come alive, and it'll likely be there!
- When will I know what job I have as IST?
  - It takes a lot of specialized skills to host a World Jamboree experience. The Jamboree Host committee plans to make as many IST assignments as possible in advance of arrival at the Jamboree site. Consideration of factors such as a candidate's skills, areas of interest, and experience will likely figure into the selection process. IST prospects will need to be cleared by their NSO before they can be considered for appointment to the IST. Please note that the primary role of IST is to serve the youth by helping deliver the World Scout Jamboree experience.
- When will IST members need to arrive? When will IST members need to leave?
  - The jamboree will be held at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia July 22 to August 2, 2019.
  - BSA IST members arrival and departure dates may vary depending on their position.
- Will I be able to attend only half of the WSJ as an IST member, similar to BSA's National Jamboree?
  - At this time, the answer is probably not. Staffing at a World Jamboree is different due to many factors. However, the ultimate decision for IST staff and schedules will be decided by the Host team and we will let you know if we learn of shorter team staff opportunities.

## Communication

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- How can I learn more information about the US contingent to the WSJ?
  - We have a really great website: [wsj2019.us](http://wsj2019.us).
  - Also, follow us on social media on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and wherever else you are. Look for @wsj2019usa
  - If you are looking for more information about the World Jamboree program, visit the hosts' website at [2019wsj.org](http://2019wsj.org).
- I want to talk to a real human being. How can I do that?
  - The BSA contingent has top-notch BSA professionals work with it. To directly contact them, send an email to [uscontingent2019@scouting.org](mailto:uscontingent2019@scouting.org).
  - Questions about the application process can be directed to BSA's Member Care at (972) 580-2489.