



JAMBOREE on the INTERNET

Getting started with JOTI

What is Jamboree on the Internet?

The **Jamboree on the Internet**, or **JOTI**, is an annual Scouting event that uses the Internet to link Scouts around the world, around Canada, and in your own community. Held on the third full weekend of October each year, this worldwide jamboree requires no travel, other than to a nearby Scout meeting place, camp or community center.

JOTI has been around since 1997, but it grew out of another existing event called **Jamboree on the Air** (JOTA) which started *right here in Canada* in 1958. In 1997, communicating through the internet was added, and because it paralleled Jamboree on the Air, this was called Jamboree on the Internet or **JOTI** for short. Both annual events are now international in scope, and sanctioned and sponsored by the *World Organization of the Scouting Movement*.

Each year, more than 500,000 Scouting and Guiding youth from around the world take part.

How do I get started?

To participate in JOTI you really only need two things: a connection to the Internet and a computer with either Internet Relay Chat (IRC) software or a web browser to access Web Chat.

Both of these are easy to get hold of, and on the next page, you will find pointers and instructions on how to get the needed software and how to participate in JOTI.

Many Scouting groups combine JOTA and JOTI into one event on the third weekend of October each year, but you can participate in one or the other if you wish.



It starts with Scouts.
Tout commence avec les Scouts.

JOTI – Getting Started Guide

On these next few pages are some helpful hints on how to get “on-line” for JOTI. If your question is not answered in these pages, you can contact the Scouts Canada **National JOTA/JOTI Co-ordinator** at JOTA.Coordinator@scouts.ca for further assistance and information.

Getting access – IRC Software or a web browser?

The most common way to participate in JOTI is to use software that can handle the IRC (Internet Relay Chat) protocol, and an available Internet connection.

IRC as a protocol was designed in 1988 and uses freely-available software that can be downloaded for most major computer operating systems. IRC uses specialized servers on the Internet to make your chat sessions work, but you don’t need to worry about the server software – obtaining the client program is all you need to do.

Any **IRC client program** should be fine, and should be compatible with JOTI. You may already have an IRC program on your computer, so check first before trying to download a new one!

A helpful summary of available IRC client programs is available at:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_Internet_Relay_Chat_clients

HexChat would be a good IRC client to look at, as it works on all major operating systems and is easy to install.

However, *you do not need an IRC client program* if you have access to **webchat** – also available as described below.

If you are planning to use **webchat** because of convenience... it is worth having a backup plan for another technology to access chat. In the past couple of years, at times the webchat servers for ScoutLink have been very heavily loaded and it has been difficult to connect to them. In all those cases, IRC clients have worked fine.

On the next pages you’ll find details on how to connect to the IRC servers and how to join in JOTI chats.

While there are other IRC systems out there for chatting, the important thing about ScoutLink is that it is **just for Scouts** around the world, and is supervised and monitored.

There are channel moderators watching the conversations, and removing participants who don’t follow the rules. This helps keep our participants safe during JOTI weekend.

JOTI BASICS – CHAT ON THE INTERNET

JOTI takes place on the third full weekend of October every year. It officially starts at **0000** hours local time on **Saturday** and officially ends at **2359** hours on **Sunday**. Because of the time range, the event really starts Friday (our time) because for some places in the world, that is Saturday already. The number of participants varies throughout the weekend. Remember the Internet is international, and there is a time



JOTI IRC SERVERS

These chat servers are just for Scouting, and used all around the world on JOTI weekend.

If using an IRC client, connect it to:

chat.scoutlink.net port 6660-6669

(or port 6690-6699 for secure connection)

If you are not using an IRC client and want to use webchat instead, open your favourite web browser and point it to:

webchat.scoutlink.net

difference – there are “night owls” everywhere, but most Scouting aged youth will likely be in bed at night, and not chatting on the Internet!

Once you are connected to a chat channel (see next page for more information on what *channels* are) you can begin to chat. You may be joining a conversation already in progress, or maybe waiting for someone new.

One key thing is to test out your software and connection *before* the event. There’s nothing more frustrating than having a line-up of youth waiting to chat while you fiddle around with the software – and I suspect we’ve all been there before!

CHANNELS AND LANGUAGES

Once you are connected to a chat server, you have some choices to make. The biggest choice is what **channel** you wish to join.

Each channel is a separate conversation; all the participants on a particular channel are all chatting together. In IRC chats, channel name begin with a hash (#) sign followed by the name of the channel.

There are channels devoted to particular languages – usually the channel you are connected to is called **#english** unless you specify a different channel when you connect. As you might imagine, this is for chatting in English with others on the channel. Also as you might guess, there is a **#francais** channel for conversations in French.

But wait... there’s more! There are also other channels for other languages, including **#suomi**, **#hungarian**, **#dutch**, **#indonesian**, **#polish**, **#deutsch**, **#portugues**, **#espanol**, **#greek**, **#croatian**, **#serbian**, **#italiano**, and

even **#esperanto** (if you're not sure what that is, check here: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esperanto)!

However, those are all channels just for general chats; there are also “**topic channels**” including **#international**, **#scandinavia**, **#help** (for help using chat), **#hamradio**, **#trefoil** (for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts), **#uno** (for fans of Uno), **#collectors**, and a channel just for **#leaders**.

Pick a channel that interests you, and try something new!

“JID, please”

The most common request you'll see on JOTI chats is “JID, please” or some variation on that.

The JID, or Jamboree ID, is a special code assigned to each registered JOTI participant (group or individual). These are used as a sort of trading card, and for playing some Bingo-like puzzle games, word scrambles, etc. called JamPuz.

Your JID is assigned when you register with the World JOTA-JOTI team on jotajoti.info and you can download the JamPuz game sheets from jotajoti.info/JamPuz.

But remember (and remind your participants), JOTI is about meaningful conversations, not JIDs. The goal isn't to collect JIDs ... JIDs are a side game that you can exchange after you have a conversation, learn something about Scouts in another country, or just generally chat.

MAKE IT A FUN DAY

Many successful JOTI events are combined with other events to make a well-rounded, fun day for Beaver Scouts all the way up to Rover Scouts.

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) also takes place on the same two days using amateur radio. Many Scout groups have access to people who are qualified Radio Amateurs, and if not, many communities have Amateur Radio clubs who are enthusiastic about sharing their hobby with youth, so it is often quite possible to arrange a radio station and have Scouts talk on the air with other radio operators and Scouting/Guiding youth around the world.

Your JOTI event can include many other themes and activities, including:

- **Communication oriented games** (contact the National JOTI Co-ordinator for some suggestions)
- **Educational activities about communications and the Internet, including online safety**
- **Computer related badge work**
- **Emergency preparedness** (contact the Canadian Red Cross for some ideas and program help)

Also, for many groups (depending on your local schedule), JOTI weekend often happens to also be Apple Day, and it is great if you can combine the two events together so your Scouts can come out and participate in two great events with one trip.

Finally, consider organizing your event in a public location in your community (if you can get Internet access there and have the space to set up computer equipment), like a community recreation centre or shopping mall. This can turn into a great recruiting tool for Scouting as curious passers-by stop to see what is going on.

AFTER THE EVENT...

All Scouting countries that participate in JOTI share information and reports after the weekend. We need to be able to collect this data from those who participate in JOTI so we can summarize it and make our report to the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

Please register your JOTI activities ... information on how to register is found on the Scouts Canada JOTA/JOTI microsite:

www.jota-joti.ca

and this will allow us to collect your participation data.

You can also register on the microsite to order the annual Scouts Canada National JOTI Crest.



Scouts Canada JOTA/JOTI Crest

IF YOU NEED HELP

If you need help, we will do our best to get it for you.

Most Councils in Scouts Canada have a **Council JOTI Representative** who can assist you in connecting with other groups who are participating in JOTI.

Register on the microsite at www.jota-joti.ca to be automatically connected with a JOTI Representative.

Or send an e-mail to the **National JOTA/JOTI Co-ordinator** at JOTA.Coordinator@scouts.ca and we will get you the help you need!

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