



JOTA / JOTI

NEWS FLASH

October 1, 2020



It starts with Scouts.

To: **National JOTA/JOTI Team**
Council JOTA/JOTI Representatives
JOTA/JOTI Enthusiasts throughout Scouts Canada

From: *Andy Dunn*, **National JOTA/JOTI Co-ordinator**

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Pandemic Program Modification

At present, Scouts Canada is in **Pandemic Stage 2** and likely will be in stage 2 on JOTA-JOTI weekend -- meaning all activities must be conducted outdoors or virtually in individual homes, with strict limits on outdoor in-person participants, following all local health rules. Keep this in mind when planning your event.

This year's JOTA-JOTI runs October 16th - 18th

Registration is NOW OPEN at jotajoti.info for this year's event. All participating groups are encouraged to register as it helps us track participation

Since we are still in **Pandemic Stage 2** as per the reminder above, this year's event will not look like it has in the past. However, there are lots of great JOTA-JOTI activities we can still do, albeit with a bit more advance preparation. See the suggestions below.

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) and Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) are the largest Scouting events in the world. It is expected that up to two million people might participate this year.

Imagine the largest jamboree ever – and you don't have to leave your local community to participate. So how do we get started?

There are two components to this great event, and both run at the same time:

- JOTA takes place using a variety of amateur radio technologies, ranging from voice to morse code, analog and digital modes, satellite communications and slow-scan TV
- JOTI takes place entirely on the Internet using IRC chat, streaming technologies, social media and more

On the Air

JOTA does require, to an extent, some physical presence in the form of access to radio equipment and operators. The way we've all done it in the past may not work this year.

There are three main ways to approach this:

(1) run an activity (which under current protocols would have to be outdoors) with a physical radio station set up, and control the flow of participants to ensure the appropriate Scouts Canada rules for maximum youth, maximum people and distancing are followed (very much as usual but with time and flow controls and sanitizing in place)

or

(2) run an activity outdoors at a location that does have a physical radio station set up normally indoors (such as an amateur radio club "shack") but where the radio equipment itself can be moved outdoors, yet still take advantage of existing antennas, power, and so on

or

(3) run an activity with a physical radio station but no Scouting members visiting, and then provide virtual access to that using whatever collaborative tools you have been using for your virtual meetings

Take some time now to think about how that might work, and talk to your Amateur Radio resource people to see how they think it could work technically.

On the Internet

JOTI can be run very successfully with participants accessing the Internet from home (this is how the spring **Special Edition of JOTI** worked - *and it worked well!*) and this is likely easier to set up than dealing with shared resources (computers that would need to be sanitized between users) in addition to maintaining distancing and maximum numbers.

So consider doing the fall JOTI like we did in the spring - from individual's homes with parental supervision and support.

One thing to note (and this was done for the spring event as well) - in keeping with World Scouting's Safe from Harm policy, private messaging will remain disabled. This helps to avoid safety hazards such as bullying or luring in what are essentially public forums. Even at a supervised event, it is difficult to monitor what goes on in a private chat room and this exposes our youth to unnecessary danger. We are looking at other ways to try to make the online experience more manageable without the hazards introduced by private messaging.

Something for your campfire blanket?

Of course... there will be a crest! However, to accommodate the fact that it may be very difficult to know numbers in advance due to a new way of participating and rules and procedures that may change between now and JOTA-JOTI weekend, we will take orders for the crest between October 19th to 30th and they should be mailed to you before Christmas.

Plan before you Do; and always Be Prepared

Each group's local rules, requirements and preferences may vary, based on what you have decided to do in person, what you are doing virtually, and what you are doing differently. Keep in mind also that rules vary from province to province and council to council, and be prepared to adapt if (or perhaps when) the rules governing Scouting in your area change. A Scout is **wise in the use of all resources!**

Resources to Get Started

There are resources to help you on the JOTA-JOTI microsite at www.jota-joti.ca

There are getting started guides, quick reference information, ideas for games and competitions, and more.

And if you need more help getting started, let us know at the email address below.

Ensure JOTA and JOTI are in your return-to-Scouting plans ... **and JOIN THE JAMBOREE!**

Yours in Scouting,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Dunn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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