



# JOTA / JOTI

## NEWS FLASH

August 23, 2021



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**

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### **Less than two months to go!**

Believe it or not, folks, it's just under eight weeks to this year's JOTA-JOTI Event.

The **64<sup>th</sup> annual Jamboree on the Air** (and the **25<sup>th</sup> Jamboree on the Internet**) will take place **October 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> 2021**. Yes, that's right... *JOTI turns 25 this year!*

We've come through 18 months of great uncertainty and massive change, and we've proven how resilient and adaptable Scouts are. I wish I could say the uncertainty was over, but of course it's not, and we still have to plan for an uncertain future.

Everyone across Canada is allowed at least limited in-person outdoor Scouting, and in many places, indoor meetings are now permitted as well (and the list of places is growing). **Nevertheless, if the last 18 months have taught us anything, it's that we need to stay flexible and be prepared to adapt as circumstances change.**

*So the time to start planning is now... and plan for the uncertainty so your plans can remain flexible. You may be allowed indoor in-person now, but it's possible that may change by mid-October. Local health rules must be observed no matter what goes on in the rest of the country.*

As you contemplate your back-to-Scouting plans for September (which is just over a week away), plan to participate in JOTA, JOTI, or both, and since the date is known, get that date on everybody's calendar now.

### **REGISTRATION UPDATE**

The original plan from the World JOTA-JOTI Team was to have individual and group registration open on August 15<sup>th</sup>, but there have been some technical delays and registration is not yet open.

I'll send updates as soon as that changes... but for now, try to move your group / area / council's plans along and get people ready to go, so that when registration does open, that's only one thing to worry about happening.

*For the benefit those who have just joined the list, I'm including again some information that was sent out in July, but gives you a framework to plan your JOTA-JOTI event this fall.*

## **Things to Consider - Pandemic JOTA-JOTI plans**

Here are a number of points to consider in planning for your Fall 2021 JOTA-JOTI activities, since no matter what happens, this year will likely be - *again* - unlike any other we have planned:

- are there activities we can do either outdoors or indoors if the need arises?
- even if indoors is permitted, are there some people who will be more comfortable attending an outdoor function?
- is there a potential local or area event we can visit (if conditions, numbers and local health restrictions allow)?
- is there a local resource, like an Amateur Radio club or a library, who can help us with equipment (radio, computers, Internet, etc.)?
- if we wind up doing JOTI at home because of health restrictions, what should we do as advance preparation for our families so they have a successful and safe at-home activity
- do we have volunteers available who are comfortable doing an in-person activity, whether it is an indoor one or an outdoor one (including technical resources)?
- will our local meeting place (school, community center) be open and allow us to run an event, and if not, is there somewhere else (service club, library, local business) that can help give our event a home, especially if we need Internet access?
- will we have access to materials we have stored at our group's storage location or usual meeting place, and if not, what can we get as substitutes?
- are there any special approvals or permissions we will need to put on an event this Fall, or things to consider if we have to change our event at the last minute?
- if we can successfully put on an event, can we use this to gain some local publicity to help tell our community Scouting is back, vibrant and a great thing to join?

### **Crests?**

**Yes, there will be a crest.** *We can't celebrate JOTI's 25<sup>th</sup> birthday without a crest!*

Recognizing that fall restart is going to be difficult for many groups, and that most groups will not know their numbers in time to pre-order crests, this year we'll do again what we did for last year's crest and take orders up to the week after the event. **October 22<sup>nd</sup>** will be the deadline for ordering crests, and then we'll have them produced in one batch.

After that they will be sent out to groups and should still arrive before Christmas break to hand out to your participants.

Otherwise, we suspect that there will not be enough pre-orders from groups who really know their numbers to keep the first batch price down to what you've come to expect.



SCOUTS CANADA's Fall Program is *AROUND THE WORLD IN 60 DAYS* and it focuses on different countries and on the Sustainable Development Goals.

This year's JOTA-JOTI event is also about communicating with Scouts in different countries, and the World JOTA-JOTI Team have built a focus on the Sustainable Development Goals into this year's event as well.

And... JOTA-JOTI takes place right in the middle of the *60 DAYS*.

So...

**Try to make "International Scouting" your fall focus and work on both great events at the same time.**

To learn more about "Scouts for SDGs" go to this link:

<https://sdgs.scout.org/>

### **Approach to Jamboree On the Air this year**

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

There are two main ways to approach this:

**(1)** run an activity (which depending on health restrictions in place in October might 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 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.

### **Approach to Jamboree On the Internet this year**

JOTI can be run very successfully with participants accessing the Internet solely from home (this is how last year's 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 might need to be sanitized between users) in addition to maintaining distancing and maximum numbers.

Depending on local health restrictions, it may also be very possible to do it in person. One thing to keep in mind is that JOTI can be particularly challenging to do in an outdoor setting in inclement weather (water and electricity not mixing so well) so this is one area where you may plan an event and have to change at virtually the last minute.

So consider a fallback plan of doing JOTI from individual's homes with parental supervision and support.

**Whether you do an in-person event or a virtual event...** ensure JOTA and JOTI are in your return-to-Scouting plans ... **and JOIN THE JAMBOREE!**

Yours in Scouting,



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