



JOTA / JOTI

NEWS FLASH

September 24, 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**

Registration is NOW OPEN!

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

JOTA-JOTI weekend is only **three weeks** away!

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Registration on the World JOTA-JOTI site is now open at jotajoti.info

More information is available at: <https://www.scout.org/node/637083> including a link to a range of resources to help you promote JOTA-JOTI

Register your group or event now! To register a group or event, you **first register yourself** using your **scout.org** login account (if you don't have one, you can create one as part of registration), **then proceed to Group registration** as a second step. Please ensure these details are passed around.

Strategies if you can't run an in-person event

As of right now, all of Scouts Canada is in either Pandemic **Stage 4** or **Stage 5**.

That does allow for in-person events, but there are several challenges this year.

One is that multiple provinces have implemented vaccine passport rules that restrict certain gatherings or settings to people who are fully vaccinated. While Scouts Canada will also mandate this, that doesn't come into effect until November (after JOTA-JOTI weekend), but a number of provinces have already made similar rules, and some local health units are also placing restrictions on certain kinds of in-person gatherings.

So if you can't do in-person... what can you do?

JOTA from home?

For **JOTA** there are challenges because you (theoretically) need access to radio equipment and people who are licensed to operate the radio equipment.

There is an innovative solution that was employed by several groups and areas last year that worked well... and was employed by the team at the Scouts Canada National Museum (amateur radio station VE3SHQ) and they will be doing it again this year.

Here's their plan (and yes, you can join in):

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) October 15 to 17, 2021

COVID-19 continues to cause havoc with our planning so once again the Scouts Canada Amateur Radio Station (VE3SHQ) will not be able to participate in this important annual international Scouting event by operating from the museum station.

Last year the National Museum Radio Team used Zoom to successfully allow Scouts and Guides to participate in JOTA virtually and safely from their own homes. Zoom allowed us to virtually bring the youth to the radio so the youth, leaders and Radio Team could safely talk to other members of Scouting and fellow radio amateurs around the world.

We have decided to operate the same way again this year. The Radio Team members will operate from their home Amateur Radio Stations by passing the National Museum's VE3SHQ/P call sign (i.e., P = portable) back and forth between their home stations as required. This method will allow Youth to talk safely with other Scouts around the world from their own homes. If they don't want to talk on the radio, they can watch and listen.

All those who would like to participate should contact VE3SHQ@scouts.ca to register with the Radio Team's Zoom operator, who will be responsible for queuing participants. Those who wish to participate must install the Zoom video conferencing client on their computers.

One member of our Radio Team will be on-air Friday evening, October 15th from 8:00 to 10:00 PM, but registration of Youth will only be scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM each day, with a break for lunch from 12:00 Noon to 12:30 PM.

Last year's virtual event was very successful so we expect that this year will also be successful and lead to new and renewed friendships, not only amongst Scouts and Scouters in Voyageur Council, but also nationally and internationally. Registration for the event can be made by contacting VE3SHQ@scouts.ca. Your registration will be confirmed with the Zoom link for the event.

Many thanks to Chris VE3CBK, Rod VE3RXN, Harrie VE3HYS and the rest of the team for giving us a great idea to cope with the limitation of Scouting in COVID times!

For **JOTI** it's a fair bit easier to do virtually, since JOTI is already in essence a virtual event.

We did this quite successfully for the special Spring JOTI held in 2020 while everybody was completely locked down. Scouting youth, families and Scouters all participated from their own homes... all you need is a computer, tablet or smartphone and an Internet connection.

Preparing for a virtual JOTI

There are a couple of things to send to all your participants (youth and adult members) to get them ready.

First, ensure they know they need to have a working Internet connection and some sort of device, which could be a smartphone, a tablet, or a laptop or desktop computer.

It is expected that the mainstay of **at home JOTI** will be IRC (via Scoutlink.net as we usually do for JOTI) and Minecraft. There will be other activities as well.

Participants can test their connection to Scoutlink.net now and be ready (Scoutlink is actually available all year long) – visit <https://www.scoutlink.net/>

Second, it is worth downloading the following guides from the SC JOTI microsite:

- http://www.jota-joti.ca/downloads/JOTI_Guide.pdf
- http://www.jota-joti.ca/downloads/JOTI_Safety.pdf

Third, and very importantly, for those helping to facilitate this event (and this will likely include parents, who otherwise are not usually a JOTI resource when we meet in-person, but are likely those supervising at-home activities), the following link has information for those facilitating participation in our **at-home JOTI**.

- <https://www.jotajoti.info/be-safe>

Ensure participants know that to register themselves they need to be at least age 13. Those under the age of 13 can be signed up by a parent or guardian who must participate with them when they are online during JOTI. For those age 13 – 18 it is expected that they make a parent or guardian aware of their participation and review the Internet safety information before they participate.

JOTI can be run very successfully with participants accessing the Internet from home (this is how the spring 2020 **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.

One thing to note (and this was done for the past couple of events 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.

JUST THE FACTS, PLEASE... WHAT IS JOTA?

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) is the amateur radio element of JOTA/JOTI, with Scouts all over the world speaking to each other by means of amateur radio. Scouting experiences are exchanged and ideas are shared via radio waves.

Amateur radio involves antennas, transmitters, and receivers, sometimes at a permanent location and other times set up at a camp in a temporary installation. Amateur radio operators are licensed by their country's telecom authority to operate within strict guidelines.

They operate the JOTA station following their local regulations as well as the guidelines and the world Scouting frequencies for JOTA.

Typically over 20,000 amateur radio operators are helping with local JOTA/JOTI stations. Plus, many amateur radio operators are also on the air engaging with Scout stations and sharing their own Scout stories. There may be one or more local amateur radio operators who could help you get on the air during JOTA/JOTI weekend.



Julie VA3JBD makes world wide radio contacts



Jim K5ND demonstrates Amateur Radio to international Scouts at the World Scout Jamboree 2019

Visit www.jota-joti.ca for information and resources on how to participate including

- the Scouts Canada JOTA Guide
- some Communication Themed Games for JOTI/JOTA or weekly meetings – build this into your meeting plans in advance of JOTA/JOTI weekend
- a Morse Code information and activity sheet that you can either use at your event or in a weekly meeting
- and a Scout Radio Station sign for your station - print it on 11"x17" paper and post it at your event to guide people in to more JOTA fun

You may have Amateur Radio operators in your local Scout group or your Area or Council who can help supply equipment and expertise, or perhaps there is a local Amateur Radio Club near you who would love to help out.

A partial list of clubs who are affiliated with Radio Amateurs of Canada is available here:

<https://www.rac.ca/affiliated-club-listing/>

WELL, THEN... IF THAT'S JOTA, THEN WHAT IS JOTI?

After people had been talking around the world via Amateur Radio on JOTA weekend for about four decades, the Internet came along and changed how we communicate forever.

So, in true Scouting fashion, we added the Internet to our already-great event and the two continue hand-in-hand to this day. This year marks the 23rd annual JOTI.

JOTI (**Jamboree on the Internet**) uses technologies many of us use every day to connect Scouts around the world.

The original technology is IRC (Internet Relay Chat), originally using special software (called an IRC Chat Client) but soon via website that you can use without installing any special software on your computer. This is familiar to anybody who started off doing "online chat" in the early days of the Internet. The most-used IRC facility is **ScoutLink** which is a dedicated IRC chat network just for Scouting.



Canadian Scouts chat online with others around the world... right from their campsite!

Although ScoutLink is mostly used on JOTI weekend, it is actually available year-round, so you could make this a regular part of including technology and world wide Scouting in your programme for any age group.

Now with Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and many more technologies added, the ways to communicate are limitless. All you need is a computer and an Internet connection, and you are off and running.

JID? JamPuz? Whazzat?

Spend any amount of time on IRC chat on JOTI weekend and you'll see many people asking "*JID please*".

What is a JID, and what is it for?

JamPuz is a game played on JOTI weekend. All participating stations or groups are assigned a 6 character code called a **JID** which participants then exchange with others during the course of their conversations.

The key point to remember is that while this is a contest or game of sorts, the goal is to have conversations, not just exchange JID codes and move on.

People messaging "JID please" and doing nothing else are not living up to the spirit of JOTI. If you do a JID exchange, make it only a part of what you are doing... the point is to have meaningful conversations and learn about Scouting participants in other parts of the world.

A JID code is made up of several parts:

Region Codes

The Region Code is the WOSM region number. The region code is the first character of the JID. 1 = Africa, 2 = Arab, 3 = Asia-Pacific, 4 = Euroasia, 5 = Europe, 6 = Interamerica, 7 = volunteers supporting JOTA-JOTI.

The "7" codes can be the hardest ones to get!

Country Codes

This is another key element of JamPuz and involves collecting the two digit country codes from the JID. The 2nd and 3rd characters of the JID represent the country.

"Bingo" Codes

This a key element of JamPuz and involves collecting the two digit 'bingo' element of the JID. The two digits are the 4th and 5th characters of the JID. If you have a lot of people taking part in JamPuz at your location, then you can take advantage of the different 'bingo' cards available from jotajoti.info on the event weekend.

Suffix Codes

Another element for JamPuz ... each JID issued ends with a letter. The challenge is to collect these.

MOST GROUPS REGISTER ONCE FOR A JID CODE and then send that to all their participants.



JAMBOREE on the AIR and INTERNET

Quick Reference Guide – 2021

64th JOTA / 25th JOTI – October 2021

Start: October 15th at 1800h

End: October 17th at 2359h

JOTI and JOTA both run the full 48 hours local time.

However, not all stations will be on the air the whole weekend. Best time is usually Saturday morning through mid-afternoon with most stations around the world participating.

WORLD SCOUT CALL FREQUENCIES

Band	SSB (Phone) Call/Segment	CW (Morse)
80m	3.920 – 3.940 MHz & 3.670 – 3.690 MHz	3.570 MHz
40m	7.090 & 7.190 MHz 7.180 – 7.200 MHz	7.030 MHz
20m	14.270 - 14.290 MHz	14.060 MHz
17m	18.140 – 18.150 MHz	18.080 MHz
15m	21.360 – 21.400 MHz	21.140 MHz
12m	24.960 – 24.980 MHz	24.910 MHz
10m	28.350 – 28.390 MHz	28.180 MHz
6m	50.160 – 50.200 MHz	50.160 MHz

WOSM suggested calling frequency in **bold**; suggested band segment range as shown. If call frequency in use, try up/down.

Or via IRLP and/or Echolink using VHF/UHF repeaters

If using **IRLP** on VHF/UHF radio, join the **Radio Scouting** reflector on IRLP node **9091** to chat with other JOTA participants all weekend long!

Complete list of **IRLP Nodes** is available here:

<http://status.irlp.net/index.php?PSTART=5>

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**

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

Choose a **chat channel**: **#english**, **#francais**, **#international**, **#hamradio**, **#leaders** or many more... and start chatting. See the **JOTI Guide** for a list of available channels and languages.

*Remember to always be safe when chatting on the radio or Internet.. you can download the **JOTI Chat Safety and Etiquette guide** for tips on staying safe.*

*More resources are on www.jota-joti.ca including the full **JOTA and JOTI Guides**, the **Chat Safety and Etiquette guide**, and helpful program ideas like **Communications Games**.*



It starts with Scouts.
Tout commence avec les Scouts.

Celebrate JOTI's birthday with a special edition crest

Yes, there will be a crest. *We can't celebrate JOTI's 25th 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 22nd** 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.

We know that ordering crests after an event and waiting to receive them is not ideal, but if we don't do it this way, 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... and many groups order afterwards normally.

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,

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

Andy Dunn VE3XAD
National JOTA/JOTI Co-ordinator
Scouts Canada

jota.coordinator@scouts.ca

It starts with Scouts.