



# WHY? EXPERIENCES

Date: Tue, 28 Nov 1995 01:12:47 -0500  
From: LarryAsh@aol.com  
Subject: JAMBO97 Expectations?

What can my Scouts expect from the National Jamboree?

Why should they choose to attend Jambo97 rather than spend ten days in the Canadian wilderness canoeing and camping under the stars?

Just some questions their parents are asking.

YIS,  
Larry Ashbacher  
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Date: 28 Nov 1995 08:55:59 U  
From: "Mike Schatzberg" <mike\_schatzberg@m1mail.sbi.com>  
Subject: Re: JAMBO97 Expectations?  
To: jambo97@hoplite.org

It is somewhat unfair to compare the jamboree with other camping experiences. I can say that 99.99 percent of Scouts attending the jamboree consider it an experience they remember and cherish all of their life. A grandfather of one of my Scouts (and father to one of the ASM's) cannot say enough of his experience at the 1937 event. I've met Steven Spielberg, Green Bar Bill (William Hillcourt), Colin Powell and I've been on the NBC Today Show !

Let's add up some of the facts:

It's expensive: the cost is composed of the actual jamboree fee plus travel expenses, plus equipment costs. Many councils have camperships to defray the cost.

It's in Virginia. That's fine for me, only a 5 hour car trip, but many folks have to cross the US (or more) to get here. It's hot. Virginia in August is usually in the 90's both in temperature and humidity. We usually also have at least one major rainstorm.

It's not camping in the woods, or hiking the trails of Philmont, or scuba diving in Florida. If that's what you like, go for it. Although those things can be done almost any year, while jambo is only every four years. Even so you can camp amongst the trees of Fort A. P. Hill, hike for miles, and scuba

dive and snorkle at the jamboree.

It's so much fun. If you spent every waking hour trying to visit everything at the jamboree, you'd run out of time before you did it all. Why not see if somebody in your council has the souvenir videos from the 1989 or 1993 events.

It makes a good show for your Scouts and adults. Over 5,000 adults and Scouts will put on the best camporee in the US for you and your Scouts. The good will and enjoyment are visible on everybody's face.

But - you have to like large events. 35,000 people camping together, eating mass-produced food (you cook it). The show, with Lee Greenwood singing "God Bless the USA", and the best fireworks I've ever seen, brings a large lump to my throat. I still re-read the daily newspapers (I'm prejudiced, I worked on them).

Talk to a Scout or Scouter who has attended, and ask them to tell you all that they did and how they enjoyed it. Some folks do not go for this type of event. If you can only do one thing - jambo or camping trip, you and your Scouts need to ask what type of experience you want to have. Usually a Scout has only one chance to attend a jamboree.

If this all sounds like I'm high on the jamboree, you're right. I've gone twice in 1989 and 1993, and I fully intend to go again in 1997. I hope to see you there.

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Date: Tue, 28 Nov 1995 10:04:40 EST  
From: ocanna@alpha.caer.uky.edu  
To: jambo97@hoplite.org  
Subject: RE: JAMBO97 Expectations?

Why attend the '97 Jamboree rather than a high adventure trip?

The two experiences are plenty neat but very different. The Jamboree (with a capital J) is a great chance to participate in MANY of the activities that boys enjoy in Scouting. It does not offer solitude, true. Off the top of my head I'll try to remember a few of the high points from our trip in '93 to give an idea of what is likely to be offered.

Water related sports:

Canoing, rafting, snorkeling, scuba diving, swimming and fishing.

Dry land related sports:

Rapelling, BMX biking, mountain biking, skiing, black powder and air rifle shooting, bull whip cracking, orienteering and many more than I can remember just now.

Advancement related:

Just about every merit badge that can be earned in 10 days is offered.

Collecting of scouting paraphenallia:

Name it and you can swap for it or buy it at the trading post.

Patch swapping is a BIG activity. Pins and all kind of "friendship gifts" are exchanged. The trading post has almost every item in the catalog. Most Scouting relates stamps are available too. Remember POGs? As far as I can tell they first came to the mainland USA at the '93 jambo.

Everywhere you turn you get patches, pins and other really neat goodies. Most of which are specificaly produced for the Scouts at the jambo.

Meeting new friends:

Did 'ya ever want to talk to or have dinner with somebody from Hawaii? Alaska? How 'bout guys from Europe, Asia or South America? I didn't see much of it at the '93 jambo but I know of fellows who traded for Scout uniforms from all over the world. Everybody is friendly, wants to shake hands and say, "Hello".

Shows:

Most of the military services and lots of other organizations have bands, singing groups and and such that perform for the scouts several times a day. Speaking of shows, there were 2 of the best stage shows I ever saw one of which included somebody from just about every patrol at the jambo. A flyover by a couple of F-14 Tomcats, parachute team demos and one of the best fireworks displays you'll ever see are just a few of the highlights.

Military hardware:

Ever want to climb in a Bradley fighting vehicle, M-60 tank or Cobra attack hellicopter? Those and just about every other piece of military gear is likely to be on display for Scouts to see and touch.

Media:

If you want to be a reporter for a daily newspaper with circulation of over 35,000, file a story with your byline in your home town paper or be a news photographer (perhaps hitch a helicopter ride to shoot an aerial photo of your camp?) you have the chance at Jamboree. Maybe you would like to do a TV or radio news clip for the station back home. Every troop has an opening for these activities.

There was much more but I only had 10 days and couldn't see it all. Neither can you. There is simply too much cool stuff happening. It's kind of like Disney World for Scouts.

Pass this along and see if it gets your boys' attention.

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Date: Tue, 28 Nov 1995 10:02:16 -0500  
From: JJMSR@aol.com  
Subject: Re: JAMBO97 Expectations?

A jamboree, either national or world, is a radically different experience from a wilderness expedition (obviously, duh!) and comparing the two is like comparing the proverbial apples and oranges. A jamboree broadens one's perspective by providing the opportunity to meet a broad spectrum of people from around the world. Contingents attend the US national jamboree from many other nations, one of our council troops included a patrol from Haiti in 1993. That troop, basically white middle class, didn't know what to expect (voodoo, savages???) and were thrilled when at the first unit campfire the boys from Haiti joined in a common US scout song in French. Those boys came back with a radically different view of the world.

It is hard to describe the feelings of unity and brotherhood one feels when 30,000+ scouts and scouters light their candles for the closing arena show. Without being there, it is impossible to understand the change in perspective that is generated by sharing the jamboree experience with 30,000+ other scouts from around the world.

A wilderness canoe trip, yes, do it sometime. A jamboree opportunity comes to most boys only once in their scouting career. You don't have to choose between them. Do both. Just have the boys work harder to raise the money themselves to do them in two different years.

YIS  
JJMSr

Date: Tue, 28 Nov 1995 08:31:05 -0800  
To: jambo97@hoplite.org  
From: dwgentry@netcom.com (Doug Gentry)  
Subject: JAMBO97 Lifetime-of-Memories

To add to the "Expectations" thread on the Jambo97 list [For Scouts-L readers, we've been discussing why go to a Jamboree and what makes it special.]

In my home troop I've taken to thinking about Philmont, Sea Base, the Jamboree, etc. as lifetime-of-memories events. We try to schedule one of these each summer. That way, with typical summer schedule conflicts (summer school, camp staff, Brownsea, etc.) a Scout can probably fit in 1 or 2 of these super activities during his tenure as a Scout.

Each of these events offer a singular set of experiences, challenges, low points, thrills, and tingle-in-the-spine memories.

For me, the Jamboree means brotherhood. I've watched it develop in both of our last two trips there. When we gather at the airport to start our trip, many of the Scouts are self conscious in their uniforms, and cluster together for security. When we change planes in Chicago, we usually spot at least one other troop, and "Hey, those guys must be going to the Jamboree, too!" When we tour Washington, DC, Scouting is everywhere, and we start noticing different Councils and countries. By the middle of the Jamboree our Scouting community is complete - we accept each other and look to each other across all sorts of borders, cultures, and backgrounds.

I love Philmont, too, and often use the same theme when explaining why a Philmont trek is something more and different than a 50 miler in the Sierra Nevadas.

These experiences are precious, and the fulfillment of providing them for our guys is unbeatable.

....Doug

\*\*\*\* P.S. for Scouts-L Readers \*\*\*\*

If you have an interest in the 1997 National Jamboree, take a spin through Don Tolin's Jambo97 Web Page:

<http://w3.trib.com/~dont/scouting/jambo97.html>

If you want to spend some more time learning and contributing to the discussion among those who will be Jamboree leaders, committee people, staffers, etc - Then you're welcome to the Jambo97 mailing list.

Don has a way to subscribe to Jambo97 straight off his web page. Or you can send an e-mail to:

[majordomo@hoplite.org](mailto:majordomo@hoplite.org)

In the body of the message, type:   subscribe jambo97

You'll get a confirmation from the listserver and can then start sending messages to [Jambo97@hoplite.org](mailto:Jambo97@hoplite.org)

Questions? Give me a jingle...

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Date: Tue, 28 Nov 1995 09:35:35 -0700 (MST)  
From: Amick Robert <amick@spot.Colorado.EDU>  
Subject: Re: JAMBO97 Expectations?

Larry:

Many good reasons have been sent back on the net as to why your Scouts should attend a National Jamboree, and they are very well documented. I have had the good fortune to attend each National Jamboree since 1957, two as a Scout and the rest on staff. I have also attended four world jamborees, and can tell you that each experience has been special and very unique. Scouts who have attended will share the same viewpoint. May I suggest that you ask some Scouts who have been to a National and/or World jamboree to attend a recruiting meeting with your Scouts and their parents to to share with you their experiences. This is by far the best way of convincing the Scouts of the "mountain-top" experience offered by a jamboree. If it comes of a question of either a high-adventure or a jamboree due to cost, a convincing argument is that jamborees only occur once every four years so most Scouts only have one or possibly two opportunities to attend a national jamboree. Similarly, World Jamborees occur in the "off-years" (two years apart from the nationals) but again, most Scouts only have one opportunity to attend a world jamboree. I have known a few Scouts who were so motivated that they attended both a national and then a world jamboree and they will tell you that both were unique and well worth the cost and effort that it took to raise funds and prepare for these trips.

High adventures are equally important but can be offered more frequently. We had nine Scouts who decided to attend the World Jamboree in Australia in 1987-88, and deferred a Philmont trip to the following year so they could attend the jamboree.

Not all Scouts will be willing or able to do both trips, but those who are inclined should be strongly encouraged, and most of all, should be given opportunities and methods for fund-raising very early. A number of scouts who would have liked to participate have been excluded due to insufficient time or opportunities to raise funds before the trips. Your largest challenge is convincing Scouts of the importance of the jamboree opportunity. Again, our greatest success in "marketing" the

experience has been taking Scouts who have been on a trip with their "jamboree junk" (patches, trading souvenirs, photographs,)and letting them "sell" their fellow Scouts on the experience.

Another good "tool" to use is video from previous jamborees. Live action shots are an excellent way to tell the "jamboree story."

We often use the commercially produced version from the previous jamboree and then mix in some of our own videos into a short (15-20 minute) edited version so there is a "local connection."

Good fundraising ideas are contained in the Explorer Leader Guidebook under "fundraising." We often copy those pages and hand them out to Scouts and Parents, along with some ideas that local scouts have used to raise funds for their trip.

I hope this information is helpful. Let me know if you need more input.

Bob Amick, Longs Peak Council Jamboree Committee recruiting chair