



World Organization
of the Scout Movement
Organisation Mondiale
du Mouvement Scout

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To: National Scout Organizations

Volunteer staff opportunities at the Kandersteg International Scout Centre

The brainchild of Baden-Powell, Kandersteg International Scout Centre rightly describes itself as the 'international home of Scouting'. Every year, around 10'000 young people, Scouts and non Scouts, from as many as 40 different countries stay at the Centre for about 58,000 guest nights, with a very considerable positive impact on the building of their personalities. Since it was established in 1923, more than 1.5 million guest nights have been recorded by the Centre.

Since 1995, the Centre has been running an ambitious development project to improve the basic infrastructure and service offered to the guests. This has involved expenditure of nearly CHF 4 million, as well as considerable development of the organisation and activities offered. The Centre is now able to offer many more facilities to its guests, but, by the same token, has need for *a more stable and professional staff on a 'long term' basis year round.*

The Centre is operated by young volunteer Scouts from around the world, age 18 to 35, who stay at the Centre for a period of between three months (seasonal) and several years (long term). The opportunity to join the staff at the Centre is made available to the members of all the national Organisations in the 154 countries that currently make up the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM), with some 28 million members worldwide. The culture of volunteers is both huge and crucial to WOSM – without all the people who freely donate their time, young people would have far less opportunity for learning, developing and having fun.

The mixture of nationalities living and working together and the strong emphasis on voluntary service create an atmosphere at Kandersteg International Scout Centre that is truly unique. While the 3-month 'seasonal staff' are very important, it is also crucial that the World Scout Centre can employ 'long term staff' from all round the world on a year round basis. But that staff, be it "short term" or "long term", must be truly representative of the various nations, religions, languages and traditions that make up World Scouting. In particular there is a strong need for young people from outside of Europe to benefit from this opportunity.

All these young people come to learn a great deal about World Scouting in general and also about how to operate Scout Centres, an area where Kandersteg is undoubtedly the premier Scout Centre in the world. They also learn a lot about themselves and their capacity to truly live according to the Scout Law in sometimes

challenging circumstances. The knowledge they gain is invaluable when they return home and they can pass on their knowledge and the "Kandersteg spirit" to Scouts and Scout Centres in their own country or even region - something we have seen happen in many cases.

These young people donate their time and receive, in exchange, their food and accommodation; the 'long term staff' also receive a small allowance of pocket money. However, it is precisely the fact that all are volunteers which contributes so much to the unique atmosphere of the Centre.

The World Organization of the Scout Movement and the World Scout Bureau fully supports the aim of Kandersteg International Scout Centre to 'provide better Scouting for more young people' and is therefore prepared to continue to help Kandersteg International Scout Centre by whatever means available. For example, the salary of the full time Director of the Centre is funded by our European Scout Region, both the World and European Scout Committees have representatives on the Kandersteg Committee and many events are held at the Centre.

With the above points in mind, I am happy to give my full support to Kandersteg International Scout Centre in their attempt to give as many young people as possible the opportunity to learn and develop as a member of their staff team. I would ask you to assist in any way possible in helping this desire become a reality.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Jacques Moreillon
Secretary General
World Organization of the
Scout Movement

Applications for the Kandersteg 2003 Summer staff are being accepted until mid-February. Forms are available on their web site: <http://www.kisc.ch/contact/staff>