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Creating a Better World

World Organization of the Scout Movement
Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout
Всемирная Организация Скаутского Движения
Organización Mundial del Movimiento Scout
المنظمة العالمية للحركة الكشفية

Scouts Display Global Solidarity as the 23rd World Scout Jamboree Closes

7 August 2015, Kirara-hama, Yamaguchi, Japan: The 23rd World Scout Jamboree has come to a close, culminating in a colourful and vibrant ceremony where over 33000 Scouts bade farewell to newfound friends and taking home with them an experience of a lifetime.

For 12 days, Scouts from about 150 countries from across the six Scout regions - Asia-Pacific, Africa, Arab, Eurasia, Europe and Interamerica - participated in an amazing Scouting adventure in the sun-scorched Yamaguchi prefecture. Apart from participating in programmes in the subcamps, they also enjoyed various activities organised under the onsite and offsite programmes.

Through the onsite programmes, they learned about global issues, science, culture, nature as well as faith and beliefs. The offsite programme not only took them on memorable outings, getting acquainted with local cultural and natural heritage, but also on a journey through time via the peace programme.

The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony and the Nagasaki Peace Forum were eye-opening experiences for some 150 Scouts. They learned about the tragic nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and why Scouts as Messengers of Peace should always work towards creating and maintaining peace. The Hiroshima Peace Memorial ceremony saw Scouts praying for the victims and for world peace, offering thousands of paper cranes for peace, which were made by Scout troops attending the Jamboree.

As part of the effort to promote Wa: a Spirit of Unity, there were many opportunities for Scouts to gain a deeper understanding of peace and cultures. At the World Scout Centre, tents representing various National Scout Organizations introduced and promoted the exchange of Scouting and cultural knowledge. The Better World Tent, on the other hand, allowed Scouts to explore the many ways to be agents of positive change.

The Crown Prince of Japan and Prince Bandr bin Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia led the list of important guests who visited the Jamboree, which provided “a valuable platform for young Scouts to make their voices heard,” said the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, in his message, which was read out by the UN Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth, Ahmad Alhendawi, who was at the Jamboree for a two-day official visit.

In his closing speech, the Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, Scott A. Teare, commended the Scouts for their spirit of unity.

“Let us continue our mission as Messengers of Peace and live as active global citizens”, said Teare, who also urged them to “share the good work you are doing so that we can all continue to learn from each other. Together, Scouts can create a better world”.

The World Scout Jamboree is held once every four years. Themed “Unlock a New World”, the next World Scout Jamboree in 2019 will be jointly hosted by the Boy Scouts of America, Scouts Canada

and Asociación de Scouts de México, at the Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve in West Virginia.

Ends

About the World Organization of the Scout Movement ([WOSM](#))

Scouting is one of the world's leading educational youth movements, engaging millions of young people around the world to be active citizens to create positive changes in the communities they live in. Since 1907! Founded by Lord Baden-Powell, WOSM is a confederation of 161 National Scout Organizations in a network of over 40 million members, including some 7 million volunteers. As it has been doing for more than a century - creating a better world - it will continue to do so, and even better with the many Messengers of Peace across the globe.

For more on the 23rd World Scout Jamboree, visit <http://scout.org/ws2015> or follow us on www.facebook.com/23wsj2015 or Twitter @wsj2015.

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