

The Scout Networks - Information Sheet

Introduction

Networks are human systems which according to Nancy Foy 'need a spider, not a chairman; a list of members, not a set of bye-laws; groups, not committees; and a phone number (or email address) rather than a building'.

In the United Kingdom we have experience of networks and networking in support of The Scout Association's International work.

The purpose of this paper is to provide an introduction to this type of networking by considering several of the networks that currently operate. In addition, some detail on how they function, what they have achieved and what they can do for you, is provided.

Networking as a methodology

The reference point for most of the Association's current international networks is a paper entitled 'Tents not Palaces', written by David Bull, International Commissioner, in 1997.

Types of Networks

Networking can take many forms. The most popular types of networks that we have experience of in the United Kingdom are:

- **Country specific**

These are informal networks that support the development or consolidate a relationship with Scouting in one specific country. Experience in this area includes work between the United Kingdom and:

- Russia
- Poland
- Uganda
- Hungary*
- Albania*

*no longer active

- **Programme specific**

These are informal networks that support particular threads of the international element of the youth programme in the United Kingdom. Experience in this area includes:

- GAPP - Global Awareness Partnership Project
- Explorer Belt Network

An important note...

Before exploring networking further, it is important to note that where adult groups meet together and

offer direct support to youth members, particularly in relation to the organisation of expeditions and visits, they need to operate as Scout Fellowships.

However, if they are genuinely informal, in the sense that the adults involved gather occasionally to share good practice and exchange ideas with no direct organisation of activity, then it is not necessary to operate as a Scout Fellowship.

Also, it is important that this type of networking is not confused with any methods utilised by the Scout Network section.

Future networks

Because networks often come in to existence as a result of reacting to situations, there is always potential for exploring other opportunities, whether it be country, programme or issue specific.

If you have an idea and are keen to establish a network to achieve a particular aim, contact the International Office to discuss further:

- International Office
The Scout Association
Gilwell Park
Chingford
London
E4 7QW

Tel: 020 8433 7100

Fax: 020 8433 7114

Email: international@scout.org.uk

Country Specific

Poland Network

The Poland Network is an informal collection of Leaders and others who have been to Poland with Scouts and Guides and they've had such a great time, they are keen to ensure that others don't miss out on the opportunities that are available and waiting to be created.

In the early 1990's, Scouting and Guiding in Poland was working towards recognition by the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) and the United Kingdom fulfilled a role in supporting these efforts.

At the same time, exchanges and activities between the United Kingdom and Poland were

being strongly encouraged. In 1996, Polish Scouting and Guiding regained admission to WOSM and WAGGGS, and efforts to promote and support exchanges and expeditions continued. This good work continues to this day.

We come together and meet at least twice year and consider how we can best encourage others to seek out the magic of Poland. Often, this involves the network organising, running and evaluating its own centrally supported projects. For example, in 1999, an Explorer Belt expedition was organised, drawing participants from all across the United Kingdom.

In addition to this, we provide support and guidance if you are establishing your own trip to Poland. We can give you lots of helpful hints and top tips! If you really enjoy it, you too can join in supporting others to visit and make links with Poland by getting involved with the Network.

Poland is an amazing country and the warmth of its people; the beauty of its countryside and the depth of its history overwhelm most visitors. It really is a great place and the Network recommends it to you if you are considering organising an overseas expedition in the near future.

For more information on the Poland Network, please visit: <http://www.polandnetwork.org.uk>

At this web-site you will find lots of useful support information if you are already planning an expedition or event, news regarding opportunities that you can get involved with as well as details of forthcoming meetings. Alternatively, please contact info@polandnetwork.org.uk

UK-Uganda Network

The UK-Uganda Network was formed as a result of the success and interest generated by 'UNITE'.

UNITE was a three-way partnership between The Scout Association, the Uganda Scouts Association and UNICEF to promote Child Immunisation in Uganda.

Following the turbulent years in the 1970's and 80's in Uganda, the country was left needing much help and assistance, in particular the Uganda Scouts Association. In 1988, a small group of Leaders from Northumberland visited Uganda and launched a project to build a Training Centre at the National Camp Site at Kaazi on the banks of Lake Victoria. This came to fruition in 1991 and coincided with the visit to Uganda by Alan Beavis who was at that time Director of Development for

the International Fellowship of former Scouts and Guides and a member of the UK Scout Fellowship. Upon his return, he met with the then International Commissioner, John May, who had a wish to develop support for an African country out of which was born the UNITE Project.

This was the first development of an educational type of project involving all members of the Movement through books on programme ideas for each section, a fundraising badge and Study Tour to Uganda.

This unique partnership between two Scout Associations and UNICEF proved a success in bringing Child Immunisation to six districts in the country. The Ugandan Scouts organised the programme, where they went to the villages and being trusted by the mothers, encouraged them to bring their babies and children to centres for immunisation against six deadly diseases.

The success of the project led those who had been involved to come together and form the UK-Uganda Network.

Mission Statement

The UK-Uganda Network is a group of young people and adults who are interested in promoting International Scouting and, in particular, building friendships with the people of Uganda.

Aim

Its aim is to bring together like-minded members of The Scout Association who have an interest in Africa, particularly Uganda, who wish to gain knowledge, exchange ideas and share experiences both with each other and other interested groups and individuals.

Thus, the Network has provided an opportunity for expanding International Scouting through the International Friendship Award by raising awareness and promoting activities to support ideas and projects in the UK for members of the Uganda Scout Association and their communities.

- Scouts from Northumberland built a new Training Centre at the National Camp Site, Kaazi.
- Venture Scouts from Avon have undertaken a 10 year project to develop a plot of land at Buwenda, with the building of a Training Centre and Camp Site, known as the BP Training Centre and Camp Site, Buwenda, nr Jinga.
- Scouts from Northamptonshire adopted a school in the slum area of Kampala – Bwaise – providing permanent classrooms and funding for child education.

- Scouts in Surrey collected and transported a container full of educational resources enabling a library to be set up in a school in Iganga under 'Books for All'.

Many Scouts pay school fees for their Pen Pals to be educated.

Details of this support and the excellent work carried out through this unique partnership, particularly with Uganda 2000 and our future plans are available on our website or from the Network Co-ordinator.

Thus, the Network acts as a sounding board and means of sharing ideas, experiences and resources. Projects that have been initiated and developed by Beaver Colonies, Scout Groups, Venture Scouts, Districts, Counties and Nationally, have been successfully completed in support of members of the Uganda Scouts Association and the communities in which they live.

To mark the Millennium Year, a project known as 'Uganda 2000' was successfully completed with 150 Scouts visiting Uganda. Some successfully completed a first ever Explorer Belt Expedition to Africa, others climbed Mount Elgon and all participated in community projects before attending the Uganda 2000 Jamboree to mark 85 years of Scouting in Uganda. The effect of 'Uganda 2000' had a great impact on the status of the Uganda Scouts Association in their country, enhancing their work, supported by encouragement from the Government and President Musuveni.

The key to success of the UK-Uganda Network was through the introduction of email and a website, with the members meeting twice a year for renewing friendships, exchanging ideas/ experiences and developing new plans for the future advancement of International Scouting.

For further information contact:

Alan K B Beavis
UK-Uganda Network Co-ordinator
Email: uganda@ugandanetwork.org.uk
Web: www.ugandanetwork.org.uk

Network Russia Scout Fellowship

A party of Venture Scouts from Durham visited the Soviet Union in 1989, followed by contacts between the Committee for Youth of the USSR and representatives of The Scout Association. Venture Scouts and Scouts undertook exchanges in 1990 and 1991.

Greater freedom, coupled with the influence of émigré Russians who had kept Russian Scouting alive in exile, saw a spontaneous re-establishment

of Scouting in various parts of the country and the World Scout Bureau took action to secure this development.

Following a study visit in 1993, the Russian Network came into existence and the first newsletter was prepared.

The UK support network became the Network Russia Scout Fellowship in March 2000 and continues to support relationships with Russia. They have an established web-based point of contact and hold meetings twice a year to spread good practice, share information and encourage developments in Russia.

For further information contact:

Bill Turnbull
Network Russia Scout Fellowship
Email: sjd@dircon.co.uk
Web:
<http://communities.msn.co.uk/networkrussia/>

Programme Specific

GAPP – Global Awareness Partnership Project
GAPP- The Global Awareness Partnership Project- is a recent addition to the Scout Association's portfolio of networks with an international theme.

GAPP was originally a joint project between The Scout Association and the National Federation of Young Farmer's Clubs and was partly funded by the DfEE.

A resource pack called Bridging the GAPP was produced and continues to develop to provide fun activities on global issues of concern to young people all over the world.

Through a number of nationally run training courses, young people were able to develop their knowledge of global issues and train as peer educators (GAPPsters). They present unbiased information to empower the young people they are working with to make informed decisions and choices.

GAPPsters have provided activities at County and regional events, including international camps, at Gilwell Reunion and in the run up to and during world events like the 19th World Jamboree in Chile and 11th World Moot in Mexico.

The members of the new GAPP Network are keen to share their experiences and provide support and help in:

- Providing activities on global issues that can be incorporated into a balanced weekly sectional programme.
- Providing programme support at Group, District, County/Area and Regional Events.
- Help establish mini Global Development Village's (GDV's) at International and County/Area Camps.
- Providing advice on other supporting material.
- Providing training in presenting 'difficult' global issues in a fun way.
- Providing help and training for Jamboree Units/Groups planning visits abroad in global awareness.
- Providing help with training new and existing leaders in international/global issues and scouting.

For more information contact

GAPP

Email:

globalawarenesspartnershipproject@yahoo.com

Web:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/globalawarenesspartnershipproject/>

Explorer Belt Network

The Explorer Belt Network is also a fairly recent addition to The Scout Association's International networks.

Following two Explorer Belt Workshops, and identifying that more focused support and effort is required to allow more young people to take part in Explorer Belt, this non-country specific network came into existence.

By tapping existing knowledge of Explorer Belt, from past participants and those who have helped to organise expeditions, it is anticipated that this network can assist in sharing knowledge, ultimately leading to an increase in the numbers of young people attempting and achieving Explorer Belt.

This is now all the more important as Explorer Belt becomes established as a key aspect of the international dimension in the programme for Explorer Scouts and the Scout Network.

The network meets twice a year, providing workshop activities to assist others in the planning and realisation of their expeditions. Occasionally, opportunities present themselves for those engaged with the network to carry forward specific projects focused around Explorer Belt.

For more information contact:

Craig Turpie

Email: craig.turpie@stormid.com

Web:

<http://communities.msn.co.uk/explorerbeltnetwork/>

More information

If you require more information on any of the networks that are mentioned, please refer to the International pages on ScoutBase for links to relevant websites. Due to the informality of networks, the use of web groups is prevalent, but details can change.

You should also contact your ACC/AAC International for more information on the networks.

If you have an idea for potential networking opportunities related to delivery of the International dimension of the youth programme, please contact:

- International Office
The Scout Association
Gilwell Park
Chingford
London
E4 7QW

Tel: 020 8433 7100

Fax: 020 8433 7114

Email: international@scout.org.uk