



SSAGO NEWS

Student Scout and Guide Organisation

SSAGO News - Autumn 2008

SSAGO Old and New Gather at Essex International Jamboree - Annabel Warren (SSWIGS President)

On a very warm evening at Essex International Jamboree an impromptu SSAGO rally was held!

Ruth (formerly of Keele and York) and I decided it would be a nice way to get all SSAGOers together, for we both knew of various SSAGOers dotted around the site. We took it as a great opportunity to meet some new people and catch up with old friends. It

was also a great way to publicise SSAGO to people who were starting University a few weeks later. We put a brief advert in the camp newspaper and hoped a few people would turn up! We all met in the International Plaza and shared a few stories about our best and most memorable experiences of SSAGO. I think we all found it a nice way to chat and share ideas for socials and activities and it was nice to meet people from clubs who don't often make it to rallies (such as Durham!)

A quick word of thanks for all of you who made an appearance, I hope you enjoyed the Jamboree as much as we SSWIGS did! Looking forward to doing it all again in a few years time!

Scottish Freshers Camp 2008..... Location: Neverland Carla Rennie-AUSSAGS

This year three of AUSSAGS' Old Gits took it upon themselves (!) to organise Freshers camp for the Scottish Clubs. Held at the Jock Neish Scout Centre (can't get much more Scottish can you?) near Forfar, it was attended by Aberdeen and St Andrews. The beautiful Scottish weather greeted us on site and after a hot meal, introductions and some good (and not so good) whisky, the night took off! AUSSAGS' illustrious President has since decided to stick to the good whisky! Saturday morning entertainment provided by the clubs found the campers following a magical silken thread across treacherous terrain in Neverland to bring Tinkerbell much needed fairy dust for her rescue, followed by a session of fun finger painting where amazing artistic talent was showcased. It also proved some

of us should stick to our current degrees!

In the afternoon we headed to JM Barrie's birthplace in Kirrimuir where we saw the inspiration for Wendy's House, learnt to fly and met a real live crocodile which promptly swallowed a SAUSSAG! It was discovered that Aberdeen's budding politician/Army Officer, Hutchy, makes a very fetching fairy!

Contrary to popular belief, once released into Kirriemuir, members of AUSSAGS and SAUSSAG did not head straight to the pub but instead could be found in the old fashioned sweet shop, the art gallery or relaxing with a cup of tea and a scone.

Artistic talents again came to the fore with fairy cake decorating, followed by table wrestling, Poison Ivy and various other games for those who never grow up. The weather cleared to allow for a ferocious campfire, thanks to the wind and those enthusiastic souls who built it.

The Lost Boys (and girls) left on Sunday after thoroughly enjoying their breakfast fajitas and went away with smiles, new friends, new games to share and goody bags.

Next years Scottish Freshers camp already has its volunteer organisers so here's hoping it goes from strength to strength and the rest of the Scottish clubs are able to join us next time!

Left: Hutchy looking stunning as Tinkerbell!!!

Queen Scout SSWG

Richard Organ of Swansea SSWG has managed to achieve a lot during his Scouting career, but his recent achievement is definitely his biggest so far. At the end of this summer Richard completed his Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award which was the final requirement to finally reach his ultimate goal of achieving his Queen's Scout Award. Richard has worked hard over the last few years completing parts of the award and although sometimes the end may have seemed far away his Scouting spirit pushed him through and earlier this month he was finally presented with the award. A presentation was held in front of his friends and family as well as the Mayor of Yeovil, all of whom tucked into a fabulous cake bursting with food colouring and sugary goodness.



Congratulations to Richard on this amazing achievement!

Congratulations to members of Southampton SSAGO who successfully completed their Explorer Belt in Croatia

The Sheriff of Southampton and the County Commissioner recently visited the University of Southampton along with parents and friends of Southampton SSAGO to hear three presentations about the recent Explorer belt expedition to Croatia. At the end of the evening all eleven members of the expedition received their explorer belt from the ACC International and the Sheriff accepted a gift from the City of Pula to the City of Southampton.



To achieve this award the eleven members of the expedition split into three teams and travelled all over the country completing a series of challenges. Each team needed to complete one major project and ten mini challenges. Challenges included sleeping in a Monastery, visiting a local hospital, meeting local scouts and guides and drinking Pelinkovac the vile local herb liquor. While the major projects studying tourism, National Parks and islands provided chances to get lost up mountains, experience bizarre toilets and improvise buckets to find water in wells. These challenges took place in parks and cities, on islands and trains all across the country making this the 'antidote to package holidays'.



While in Croatia the teams swam to deserted islands, visited ruined monasteries and abandoned palaces, explored isolated communities and major cities covering hundreds of miles by foot, train, coach and boat. At the end of the ten day expedition the teams met in Pula for some much needed R&R at a Sea Scout campsite where they enjoyed a Pivo (Beer) or two, or three...



Members of Southampton SSAGO who gained their Explorer Belt.

**Thinking of bidding to run a
National SSAGO Event?**

If your club wishes to bid for a National Event then a provisional plan including venue, theme and proposed activities needs to be written and given to the Chairperson at least 12 hours before the AGM at the Spring Rally

A Quick Update from SAGGA (Scout and Guide Graduate Association)

We were very pleased to welcome a good SSAGO representation to our AGM at Bispham Hall this April. The SSAGO banners were much admired and we enjoyed hearing about the success of SSAGO's 40th birthday celebrations.

Since your last rally we have hosted a number of national events. Summer camp was held at Cudham Guide campsite in Kent where our members refurbished an accommodation block, built a set of toilets (known as "God's Bogs") and painted anything that did not move. On a social front members enjoyed a weekend of water activities on Rudyard lake and spent time catching up with friends and socialising at Foxlease in September. More recently we held a theme weekend when a group put together advice on building a new Scout and guide HQ, which will be shared with Scout and Guide Headquarters and on our website (the scout and Guide Meeting Places Project). This is an excellent example of SAGGA members using their professional skills to benefit the Movement.

Forthcoming activities that may be of interest to SSAGO's membership include a new event, the "Leader Support Weekend" which will be held near Malvern in March 2009. This event is for people who are active as leaders and who would like to meet others from around the country. Previous weekends on a similar theme have generated a lot of programme ideas and discussion about managing challenging situations (read into that what you like!). More information about this event, which may be of particular interest to SSAGO, will be posted on the SSAGO forum as soon as it is available.

Other future national events include the Summer camp 2009 at Giant's Seat, near Manchester in August. We will also be involved in the Girlguiding centenary celebrations at Harewood House, near Leeds in 2010. Information about these activities and other local events can be found on the SAGGA website.

Representatives of SAGGA look forward to attending the AGM at the SSAGO spring rally.

Fancy running for the National Executive?

Nominations for National Executive will be opening shortly after rally, details will be emailed to all clubs and posted onto the messageboard.

If you fancy running and would like to know what the role involves then check out the new SSAGO Exec factsheet (this will be available on the website) or drop the appropriate member of the exec an email.

If you fancy running you need to find yourself a student member of SSAGO to nominate you and another to second that nomination. These members must be from different clubs and must not be from your own club.

The Exec would like to say a massive 'thank you' to Lizzy Horne from Oxford SSAGO who promoted SSAGO at GirlguidingUK's Innovate.

Becky Broughall our GirlguidingUK Rep informs us she was fab and did a great job.



Girlguiding UK
girls in the lead

Thank you Lizzy



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Look what Bath built on their Freshers' Camp....Good Ol' Pioneering!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

February Rally

Hosts: Birmingham and Wolverhampton

Date: 20th-22nd Feb 2009

Theme: Black Country

Location: Rhydd Covert Campsite

SSAGO Ball

Hosts: Loughborough

Date: 14th March 2009

Location: Ramada Hotel,
Loughborough Town Centre

Watch out for more info about this event!