



# World Jamboree Connections

## The Origin of the World Scout Badge or Crest

The World Scout Badge is worn by Scouts in all Scouting countries and territories. This Scout emblem is one of the most widely recognized symbols in the world, because it has been worn by an estimated 300 million former Scouts and is currently worn by more than 28 million present Scouts.

### 3. World Brotherhood Items

The Conference encourages member Associations to build familiarity for the World Scout Emblem and its significance both within Scouting and with the public, directs the World Bureau to continue to study and make available appropriate "World Brotherhood Items" carrying the Emblem, and urges Associations to make such items readily available to their members through Scout Shops, special events and camps.

### 4. The World Scout Badge and Flag

- (a) The World Scout Badge shall consist solely of the World Scout Emblem contained within a circle, as defined in paragraph 1.
- (b) The World Scout Flag shall consist solely of the World Scout Emblem with the field rectangular, three units wide by two units high, the Emblem central and 1.25 units wide.
- (c) The use of the World Scout Badge and World Scout Flag by member Associations, their units and members, is authorized and encouraged whenever appropriate

(Revoked 12/61, 13/61 & 11/63)

From the UK Scout Association publication -The World Membership Badge

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Interestingly, prior to the 1969 conference the current design was already being used, for example the Scout Badge that Eagle Scout Neil Armstrong took to the surface of the moon July 20, 1969 was the World Scout Badge of this design, only slightly larger. Perhaps he wanted to represent all of World Scouting instead of just the Boy Scouts of America.

Because of this new set of resolutions, the 1971 World Jamboree was the first to incorporate the design into the official World Jamboree emblem. This continues for all World events (World Conferences, World Jamborees and World Moot) emblems. Every World Jamboree badge from 1971 through the next World Jamboree in 2015, has included the World Scout emblem.

In 1939 J. S. Wilson introduced an international Scout badge - a silver fleur-de-lis or arrowhead on a purple background surrounded by the names of the five continents in silver within a circular frame. The wearing of it was not universal, but was restricted to past and present members of the International Committee and staff of the World Bureau. A flag of similar design followed, the flying of which was confined to international Scout gatherings [1].

The 22<sup>nd</sup> World Scout Conference held in Otaniemi, Finland from August 21-27, 1969, passed four resolutions that adopted the current World Scout Emblem design. The resolutions as documented in the World Scout Bureau publication "Resolutions of the World Scout Conferences 1922-1985", are as follows:

### 5/69 World Scout Emblem, Flag & Badge

#### 1. The World Scout Emblem

The Conference resolves that the World Scout Emblem shall consist of a field of royal purple bearing the white international arrowhead surrounded by a white rope in a circle and a central reef knot at the bottom, authorizes its use and reproduction by member Associations and their members in forms not intended for sale, and directs that it be incorporated in the emblem designs of official international events.

#### 2. World Emblem, Promotion and Protection

The Conference recognizes the values to the Movement of using the World Scout Emblem, and directs the World Bureau to act on behalf of the Movement to control protection of the Emblem and to license whenever appropriate its reproduction in any form intended for sale.



World Scout Emblem  
1939



WOSM Crest - USA  
1975



WOSM Crest - USA  
1975



WOSM Crest - USA  
1975

The Scout Association of the United Kingdom adopted this new "World Membership Badge" for all of its members in January 1971 [2]. It was a woven rolled edge badge round, 44 mm.

The Japanese Scouts attending the 1971 World Jamboree had the new World Scout emblem on their uniform. It was a small woven badge, square 24x24 mm with royal purple and white - a badge that they still use today.

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) refers to the emblem as the World Scout Crest. The first World Jamboree for which the Boy Scouts of America issued the new World Crest was the 1975 World Jamboree in Norway. Each Scout was issued three (3) and could not purchase more. The BSA National Supply item number of the official World Crest embroidered emblems was 143, still the current item number [3]. The 1975 BSA World Crest badge was embroidered royal purple cloth, with cut edge, round 42 mm with gauze backing.

The BSA originally used the badge from 1975 through 1988 as an award for Scouts and Scouters who participated in an international Scouting event. The World Crest was restricted to Scouts or Scouters participating in an International Experience. Each council devised the requirements for this International Experience badge. During the 1980's most Scouts in the Transatlantic and Far East Councils wore the Crest because it was very easy for them to meet the requirements.

In 1983, the BSA World Jamboree participants were still issued three World Crests, but allowed to buy additional. An International Activity Badge was created with additional requirements beyond the International Experience World Crest [4]. The International Activity Patch was discontinued in 2013 and replaced by the International Spirit Award.

In 1989, the BSA made the World Crest part of the uniform for all Scouts with a portion from the sale of each badge goes to the World Scout Foundation to support Scouting in developing nations [5].

NOTES

[1] Scouting Round the World, John S. Wilson, first edition, Blandford Press 1959, page 210.

[2] An Official History of Scouting, The Scout Association, first edition, Hamlyn Press 2006, page 181.

[3] Uniform Requirements and Order Form, Boy Scouts of America Supply Division, No 70-020, 2-75, pages 3 & 6.

[4] BSA Insignia Control Guide 1983, Boy Scouts of America Supply Division, No 3064A, page 16.

[5] Scouting Magazine, Volume 77, Number 1, January-February 1989, page 4.

## THE WORLD SCOUT EMBLEM - ITS MEANING

**THE TWO FIVE POINT STARS**  
stand for truth and knowledge. The ten points represent the ten points of the original Scout Law

**THE ENCIRCLING ROPE**  
symbolises the unity and family of the World Scout Movement

**SERVICE TO OTHERS**

**OBEEDIENCE TO THE SCOUT LAW**

**THE BOND, showing the family of Scouting**

**THE REEF KNOT** which can't be undone no matter how hard it is pulled, is symbolic of the strength of world scouting's unity and family

THE WORLD EMBLEM IS WHITE, ON A ROYAL PURPLE BACKGROUND, IN HERALDRY, WHITE (OR SILVER) REPRESENTS PURITY, AND ROYAL PURPLE DENOTES LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE.

**THE ARROWHEAD:**  
Lord Baden Powell, Our Founder said:  
"Our Badge we took from the 'Northpoint' used on maps....."  
Lady Olave said later:  
"It shows the true way to go"

Meaning of the WOSM Badge

Attendees receive the official BSA 23rd WSJ patch.

USA Contingent Patch For the 2015 World Jamboree in Japan