

# International Links



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Scouting has always promoted international peace, understanding and co-operation through contacts with young people from other countries and cultures. This international contact helps young people to develop an awareness of life outside their own immediate sphere, and assists them in recognising and respecting the differences that exist between the nations and races of the world.

The International Links Scheme offers a means of communicating with other Scouts abroad and provides an international experience without necessarily having to leave town!

There are two types of links available under this scheme:

**International Friends:** This is a link between individual members in different countries. This is a fun way of learning about the life and culture of a Scout in a foreign country, and may result in a close friendship being established and perhaps even an exchange visit to each other's country.

**International Group Links:** Many Scout Groups in the United Kingdom like to match up with a Group abroad to exchange letters, photos and other material. The International Group Links section of the scheme is designed to help UK Groups (or individual Sections) to link up with a similar unit from abroad. Groups, as we know them, do not exist in some countries and it is often better to link Leaders as a starting point and then develop this to a Group or Section Link. It is helpful therefore to know the approximate age of the Leader who will be supervising the link.

It is often harder to link a Group than an individual, however many Groups have successfully established links. For example not many countries have an equivalent to Beaver Scouts, so there are therefore less Beaver age Scouts to link with.

## Operation Communication.....

Corresponding with a Scout or Group abroad is not just about writing letters or emails! There are many different methods of communication and exchange that may be employed to establish a varied and exciting Link.

For example, you could exchange:

- Scout magazines, newsletters, bulletins.
- Scrapbooks, postcards, badges, posters, tourist literature, maps.
- Photographs, videos or audio.
- Cards on birthdays, and at Christmas and other festivals.

Ideas for joint activities:

- Hold an international evening devoted to the other half of your Link with films, slides, videos, recorded messages, national dishes from your Link Group's country. Involve parents, committee members and friends.
- Attempt radio contact during Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA) or make contact during the Join in Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) each October.
- Undertake each other's award schemes and badges.
- Do the International Friendship Group Award or the Global Challenge. Your partner may also be tackling a similar award in their country.

## The Scout Information Centre

Gilwell Park Chingford London E4 7QW Tel + 44 (0)20 8433 7100 Fax + 44 (0)20 8433 7103 email [info.centre@scout.org.uk](mailto:info.centre@scout.org.uk) [www.scoutbase.org.uk](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk)

### **How Do I Make A Link?**

- Fill in the appropriate application form and forward it to the Postbox Secretary. An acknowledgement will be sent.

Application forms are available from your Assistant County/Area Commissioner (International), the Information Centre or from the Postbox Secretaries. Online forms are also available online at [www.scouts.org.uk/intlinks](http://www.scouts.org.uk/intlinks) .

- Think carefully when you fill in your choice of countries. You will need to take language and culture into consideration. If you have no preference for country, leave this section blank and you will be linked with the first available individual/group. Alternatively, on the website (see above link) there is a list of individuals and groups from other countries who are looking to link with someone in the UK, you could choose one of those to link with directly using the reference number provided.

This form should then be forwarded to the Postbox Secretary, whose address is given below. If you fill the form in online it will be sent to them directly. They are in contact with many other Postbox Secretaries abroad, and they will do their best to make a suitable link as quickly as possible. Some requests may be difficult to match, so please ensure that several choices of country are given on your form.

Please note that the INTERNATIONAL LINKS SCHEME should not be used as a means of making local contacts in order to obtain campsite information or to arrange an expedition abroad. These requests should be made through your ACC/AAC (I) who will contact the appropriate headquarters on your behalf.

#### **Postbox Secretary:**

**Peter Ford**  
75 Kings Road  
Chingford  
E4 7HP

**Email:** [international.links@scouts.org.uk](mailto:international.links@scouts.org.uk)



## The International Links Scheme

**Peter Ford**

75 Kings Road  
Chingford  
E4 7HP  
United Kingdom

E-mail: [international.links@scouts.org.uk](mailto:international.links@scouts.org.uk)

Name of Scout Group

District

County

Your Name

Address

Telephone no.

Email

Do you speak any foreign languages? If so please say what language and to what proficiency:

Would you like to link with an (please cross as appropriate):

Individual  Please go to point 1

Section  Please go to point 2

Group  Please go to point 2

Please turn over to continue form.

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1:

How old are you?

What are your interest/hobbies (please explain a few briefly, to help us match you with a suitable link)

2:

Which Section/Group would you like to link with (please cross as appropriate):

- Beavers  - Please be aware not all countries have equivalents to the Beaver age Section.  
Cubs   
Scouts   
Explorer Scouts   
Scout Network   
Group

Would you be happy to link with a single sex Section/Group:

Yes  No

Please cross this box if this application is in connection with the International Group Award

Form to be sent with **stamped addressed envelope** to Postbox Secretary at the above address; or emailed to the above address.