

A Day in the Life

In every issue we interview a member of the local community to find out more about what they do. This edition it's the turn of Cameron Kirby, an Explorer Scout, who tells about his unforgettable experiences at the Centenary of Scouting.

2007 marks the Centenary of Scouting, so what better time to take a look at why so many young people choose to join the World's biggest youth organisation, which has more than 28 million members in over 158 countries.

Cameron Kirby, 15, is an Explorer Scout from East Kilbride and he has just returned from the World Scout Jamboree.

"A World Scout Jamboree is a massive party for Scouts from across the World," said Cameron, "I was so excited when I found out that I had been selected to take part, as I had been selected from hundreds of others to be part of the Scottish contingent and I had heard so much about it; it sounded amazing.

"Arriving at the Jamboree took me by surprise" continued Cameron, "I had been reading about a Jamboree but I didn't actually know what to expect and I couldn't believe how big it was; when I saw our campsite, it just went on and on. Over the next day I met people from Saudi Arabia, Norway, Portugal, USA, Japan, Belgium, Singapore, France, Russia and so many different places. We invited them all to join us to eat and all of a sudden we were all friends and a day hadn't even passed - what a laugh it was!

A lot of the time was spent on activities but there was more than that to it. "If you were on duty, you had to get up and collect the food for the day from the sub-Camp hub at 0630hrs

and some mornings we had to be ready to go for 0730hrs," Cameron explains, "many of the activities, we went to en-mass with our whole sub-Camp which had 4,500 people in it, going in procession. It was great fun listening to all of the different languages and hearing the chants from Scouts from different countries as rivers of people moved around the site." Where else would you hear and see so many young people enjoying the adventures that life offers, in unity and without worry?

"the Jamboree has helped me to understand the World better and to be more tolerant of others around me..."

"Lunch was always somewhere different, with different people and I lost count of how many folk I met" Cameron said enthusiastically, "first of all we had a high-five craze, then it was people wanting to take pictures of us wearing our kilts and we just kept meeting loads of people. The Belgians were probably the friendliest.

"Contrary to popular belief, we're not all lazy bums," explains Cameron, talking about one of the activities known as Starburst; "every participant at the Jamboree, spent a day contributing to a community service project to ensure that Scouting put



something back into the community" Cameron said "we cleared a field at a local campsite that was filled with nettles and old wood so that it could be used for camping and activities. Everyone just got stuck in and we were pleased with the end result. It was nice to know that we'd helped the local area and you should have seen how happy the guy in charge of the campsite was."

Reflecting on the Jamboree, Cameron spoke confidently saying, "the Jamboree has helped me to understand the World better and to be more tolerant of others around me; everywhere I went, there was just this One World atmosphere and I reckon that with this spirit of happiness, anything can be achieved."

For more information about Scouting, visit www.scouts.org.uk or call 0845 300 1818.

