

JULY: THINK JAMBOREE DOOR IS CLOSED? HERE'S HOW TO OPEN IT

MUSIC FULL THEN UNDER

BRYAN: Welcome to the July ScoutCast, listeners. I am *Bryan on Scouting* blogger Bryan Wendell.

LEE: And I'm Lee Shaw, Team Lead of National Alliances. The National Jamboree is only a year away, but many Scouts have yet to sign up. Maybe you think the door has been closed.

BRYAN: Alexander Graham Bell once said, "When one door closes, another one opens." But, you know what I say? If one doors closes, just go ahead and open that door back up. I mean, it's a door. (Chuckles)

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BRYAN: Anyway here to help us open that door to the jamboree is Owen McCulloch. Owen is Corporate Partnerships Manager at the National Service Center. Welcome to ScoutCast, Owen.

OWEN: Thanks, Bryan. Thanks, Lee.

BRYAN: All right, so this may seem simple but, I (got to) ask this one first. What is a jamboree?

OWEN: Great question. Jamboree is really a gathering of tens of thousands of Scouting youth and adult volunteers. It's a show, a display of our organization and a celebration of Scouting.

LEE: So, Owen, what's the difference between the Summit High Adventure Base and the Jamboree at the Summit?

OWEN: Jamboree is like being part of an Olympics Opening Ceremonies, being part of a large-scale event with tens of thousands of other people. The Summit is a location that can host an event like a National or a World Jamboree. Jamboree and other activities at the Summit are really two different things. If you were, say, planning on attending an Appalachian Adventure or Senior Scout Camp or a High Adventure program at the Summit, you're not getting that jamboree experience, and vice versa. If going to the jamboree is like going to the Olympics, then going to the Summit programs is like learning to compete in an Olympic event. Both are amazing experiences but in different ways.

BRYAN: I like that, the Olympics. That's a great way to look at the difference between those two. Now, some people that I've heard from think that the door to going to the jamboree has been closed even though we're a year out, so why aren't they signing up and is that door actually closed, Owen?

OWEN: Not at all, Bryan. Jamboree is still seen as an event that people don't know that they can go to. It's too big, it's too expensive, too far away, or they just don't know about it. Some people maybe don't think that it's something for them because it might not be accessible, whether that's

physically or through finances. Disability-wise, the Summit is probably one of the most accessible facilities ever built in the Boy Scouts of America. It was taken into account at every stage of development and construction and is a phenomenal facility for folks with all ability levels. In actuality, the Summit was built to be an exciting venue for tens of thousands of jamboree participants. It's the largest National Jamboree of any Scouting country in the world and it's fun to be part of something like this.

LEE: Owen, lots of kids go to Philmont or they go to the Sea Base every year. Now, the jamborees, they're only what, every four years, yet in previous years jamborees have had higher attendance. Can you tell me why that's the case?

OWEN: You're right. Lots of kids do go to the other High Adventure Bases every year, and actually our last Jamboree was right in the numbers. When you look at our averages of jamboree attendance since 1937, the average is right around 40,000 to 41,000 youth, and we hit that number this last jamboree. I think the last jamboree also had a challenge of being so quickly after our 2010 100th Anniversary Celebration Jamboree. It's been four years, it's a new opportunity for folks to go, and jamboree offers a unique experience not found in any of our Council or National High Adventure programs.

BRYAN: That 2013 Jamboree, that was crazy. It was just so awesome, and I know the 2017 one is going to be even better. But some people look at that price tag and they think it's too expensive to get there, so is it true that there's other ways for them to make it to the jamboree?

OWEN: Absolutely, and even the cost itself, it's \$975 for a youth or for an adult, or if you're an adult under the age of 26, it's a half-price deal. So, it's less than \$100 per day for Summit fees to attend the Jamboree. Most units are planning fundraisers and there's even a Campership Fund available through the Summit.org website. Applications are due by September 1st.

LEE: Well, Owen, I know some - even with the information you just provided - think it's for a privileged few. How do we let them know it's open to all of them?

OWEN: Oh, that's what jamboree is all about. The more, the merrier, and the more folks that are able to attend from different kinds of backgrounds, that's what truly makes a jamboree. Every Scout is welcome to attend jamboree. And when I say Scouts, it's not just Boy Scouts and Varsity Scouts, but this year Venturing is a part of it too. So, boys and girls are welcome to attend jamboree.

BRYAN: Now, I've heard from some parents who wanted to send their 12-year-old to the jamboree and they're worried that the door is closed to them. Is that the case?

OWEN: Not at all. In fact, other than being a First Class Scout they've got to be 12 years of age by the first day of jamboree or they can be an 11-year-old that has graduated the sixth grade. They just can't be older than 18 years old by the last day of jamboree.

LEE: Well, Owen, like any first-time event, I know there were some challenges at the 2013 Jamboree. Can you tell me what changes have occurred to kind of overcome those challenges?

OWEN: Oh, you bet. 2013 Jamboree was a great opportunity for us to learn about how that facility worked and how the flow of people affected our program areas. We've been able to make upgrades and changes to our infrastructure including food service, transportation, and even the addition of new programs that will be available just for jamboree.

BRYAN: We have some listeners out there who have told us they want to spread the word about the jamboree in their troops and crews. Are there resources that they can use to help make that Jamboree dream a reality?

OWEN: On the Summit.org site there is a [specific package](#) available to help councils and to help units promote their jamboree attendance for the 2017 jamboree.

LEE: Owen, we covered a lot of information here today and I feel much better knowing what I do now as opposed to what I did just a little bit ago. But, what have we not discussed regarding opening the jamboree door that should be shared with all of our listeners?

OWEN: It's important to know that it really is an activity for everybody, but it doesn't happen very often. This can be a really crowning achievement for any Scout youth or adult to be able to attend a National Jamboree. There is nothing else like it.

I had the opportunity to attend as a youth the 1981 Jamboree, and it sticks in my memory as one of my finest Scouting memories of being able to see that many people, that many Scouts, that many Scouters all in uniform, all there for the same kinds of reasons. And it was just an amazing experience that I wish every Scout, every Scouter could have.

BRYAN: It really helps you appreciate that the Boy Scouts of America is "of America." You see Scouts from all over the country. I remember going as a youth in '97 and 2001 and thinking the same thing. I'm trading patches with people from states I've never even visited. It's just really great.

Now, Owen, I want to thank you so much for joining us on this ScoutCast. We know that that jamboree door is open, that the, the door to that Olympics of Scouting, as you so greatly said, is open. There's lots of ways to go through it, so thank you so much for being here.

OWEN: My pleasure.

LEE: Now, let's take a short break and tune in next door to ExploringCast. Then we'll be back with Reminders and Tips.

(July ExploringCast – How to Use the Career Interest Survey)

LEE: Okay, listeners, it's time for July Reminders and Tips.

BRYAN: It's that time of year when you want to get your charter organization representative, known in Scoutspeak as the COR, involved in your annual program planning.

LEE: This allows the COR to actually see what activities the unit is planning for the year and how it can relate to the yearly plan and objectives that the chartered organization may have.

BRYAN: Now, this is usually the time when we plug something for *Scouting* magazine, but as you know, there's no *Scouting* magazine in July or August. But, the *Scouting* magazine excitement doesn't stop for the summer, so be sure to check out Scoutingmagazine.org where we have gear reviews, BSA news, and plenty of summer content for your pack, troop, or crew.

LEE In honor of the Fourth of July, this month's *Boys' Life* magazine takes a look at the Nathan's hotdog-eating contest – and who doesn't like hotdogs? – and other really cool eating competitions.

Begin Music Under

LEE: Which reminds me, I haven't had lunch yet, so we're going to end our July ScoutCast with special thanks to our guest Owen McCulloch.

BRYAN: Now, Lee, I bet I can eat more hotdogs than you, so let's go find out. But first let's thank everybody listening. Be sure to tune in next month as we get a closer look at the Kodiak Challenge. And, spoiler alert, it's not just for Venturers.

LEE: That was a suggestion that came to us from the ScoutCast mailbox, wasn't it?

BRYAN: That's right, and if you want your idea to make a future ScoutCast episode, just send it to us in an email - Scoutcast@scouting.org - or you can find us on Twitter. We're @BSA ScoutCast. And with that, I'm Bryan Wendell.

LEE: And I'm Lee Shaw. Now go sign up for the 2017 Jamboree! You have no reason not to.

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