

MAY – THE 2021 NATIONAL JAMBOREE AND HOW TO GET THERE

Music Full then Under

ANISSA: Welcome everyone to *Scouting Magazine's* July ScoutCast. I'm Anissa Hicks along with the lovely Owen McCulloch.

OWEN: Awww. You got me blushing, Anissa. *(Clears throat dramatically)* Anyway, the next National Jamboree is only a year away, but many Scouts have yet to sign up. Maybe you think that door has been closed.

ANISSA: You know, Alexander Graham Bell once said, "When one door closes, another one opens." But you know what? It's a door! If it's closed, just open it!

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ANISSA: And here to help us open that door is the Director of the National Scout Jamboree at Boy Scouts of America, Dan Busby. Dan has served the Boy Scouts of America for over 25 years and has served professionally in a multitude of positions in several different councils. He currently volunteers in his son's troop in Fort Worth, Texas. Welcome to ScoutCast, Dan.

DAN: Thanks, Anissa. Glad to be here.

ANISSA: Okay, Dan. What is the Jamboree?

DAN: The National Jamboree is a celebration of all things Scouting. It's the largest camping event that the Boy Scouts of America hosts, and from July 21st to the 30th of 2021, we will hold the 21st Jamboree at the Summit Bechtel Reserve, and in a matter of days build up that site be one of the West Virginia's largest, full-service cities.

OWEN: So, Dan, last month on ScoutCast we talked about the High Adventure Bases, including the Summit. So, what's the difference between the Summit's High Adventure Base and Jamboree at the Summit?

DAN: Well, first off, each of our High Adventure Bases represent exceptional programmatic and unique adventures for our members. What's unique about a Jamboree is the opportunity to meet Scouts from around the nation and world, attend incredibly large celebrations at our opening and closing shows, and actively engage in an infinite number of athletic, educational, and experiential exhibits – most of which a Scout wouldn't be able to find elsewhere.

ANISSA: Dan, why would people think the door to them going to the Jamboree is closed? Why aren't they signing up?

DAN: Anissa, the opportunity to attend the 2021 National Scout Jamboree is available and open now. Sign up to be a Jamboree service team member or a participant; you just need to go to [Jamboree.scouting.org](https://jamboree.scouting.org). Also, you can go to your local council website and apply as a contingent member to a troop, crew, post, or ship, whatever your membership is in Scouting.

Scouts 12 and up are welcome. If you're not 12 by the start of the Jamboree, families can even travel to the Jamboree site and buy visitor passes for select dates to come to the event as a guest.

OWEN: So, Dan, lots of kids have a High Adventure experience at Philmont or Sea Base, Northern Tier, even at the Summit every year. Jamborees are an event - they're once every four years - yet in previous years Jamborees have had higher attendance. Why do you think that is?

DAN: Well, while you're correct, Owen, that participation, went from 29,000 participants in 2013 to 23,000 in 2017, our current commitments exceed over 21,000 participants for the Jamboree and we're still 17 months out from the event. With the World Scout Jamboree last summer hosting over 40,000 Scouts, I suspect that we'll see a significant increase in 2021's attendance.

ANISSA: Okay, listeners: we'll discuss more ways to get to the National Jamboree right after this.

Commercial – Stop the Bleed

ANISSA: So, if they think going to the Jamboree is too expensive, how can that door open for them?

DAN: I'd contend that if a Scout wants to achieve anything, there's a path to get to it. Not all Scouts get to Eagle but I've never met a Scout that said they

tried everything and just didn't get there. National scholarships are available and also there's opportunities within local councils, local service clubs, civic clubs, the youths' chartering organization, or even self-fundraising, to pay the fees associated with the Jamboree.

In my own personal experience as a youth and a Scout, I was in a patrol in a troop contingent at the '85 Jamboree where a Scout from a single parent family ran car washes and earned every single dollar to pay for his way to the Jamboree.

OWEN: I had the opportunity to go to Jamboree in '81 as a kid, and I mowed a lot of lawns during that summer leading up to it. 'Cause, I think people think it's for the privileged few. How do we let them know that it's really open to all of them?

DAN: In my experience, you see Scouts from all ranges of not just the nation and geographic territory but socioeconomic status and ethnicity and religious backgrounds. It's a really cool place to see how widespread the Scouting movement really is.

ANISSA: Dan, what resources are available for leaders and parents to share with the kids to let them know going to the Jamboree can actually be a reality?

DAN: Reaching out and utilizing the website of Jamboree.scouting.org and applying to participate, under a scholarship condition or utilizing the local community resources such as service clubs, council, scholarship funds, and the like, can help a Scout earn their way.

OWEN: The big concerts, the evening events, the mixing with Scouts from around the country, and internationally are all parts of it. For me the travel just to and from and getting to see Washington DC as a youth and traveling with a group like that were so unique. What have we not discussed regarding the Jamboree door that should be shared with our listeners?

DAN: So, if anyone is unfamiliar with the Jamboree, there are some super cool videos and testimonials at Jamboree.scouting.org. You can also review the guidebooks for the various levels of Scout programming that occurs, whether it's at the council level or the unit level, on the website to help feel more comfortable about the entire experience.

ANISSA: So, the door to the Jamboree is now open and there's lots of ways to go through it. Thanks for joining us on ScoutCast, Dan.

DAN: My pleasure. Thanks for having me, Anissa and Owen.

OWEN: Now let's check out our May Safety Moment. Then we'll be back with Reminders and Tips.

(May Safety Moment –ATVs)

OWEN: And now for the timely Reminders and Tips. This is a busy time of year for planning summer outings, so be sure your unit has adopted the Risk Assessment Strategy. Check out the BSA Health and Safety web pages on Scouting.org for all the tools you need to assess risk.

ANISSA: Also, you should be recruiting your Popcorn Kernel or other fundraising coordinator right about now. The committee chair is the person responsible for appointing someone. But if you know someone who would make a good candidate, go ahead and pass the suggestion along to the committee chair.

OWEN: And in the May-June issue of *Scouting Magazine*, get ready for summer by checking out the overview of the BSA's approved Water Sports Guidelines for Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA-aged youth.

ANISSA: In the May issue of *Boys' Life*, there is a very informative feature on how to avoid and treat tick bites.

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ANISSA: But now, this ScoutCast has come to an end. Thanks to our guest, Dan Busby, for joining us, and thanks to you for listening, but don't keep all this ScoutCast fun to yourself. Be sure your fellow leaders are tuning in as well.

OWEN: And you all can tune in next month as we discuss Scoutmaster mentoring. Have you got a topic for discussion? Just send us an email to Scoutcast@scouting.org, or a tweet to BSA ScoutCast. So, with that, I'm Owen McCulloch.

ANISSA: And I'm Anissa Hicks. Now go sign up for the 2021 Jamboree! You have no reason not to.

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