



Communication Technology Camp – Greater Manchester East

The Results

To support the international event JOTA/JOTI, and to help Scouts develop and use technology and communication skills, a camp was organised for Scouts over the JOTA/JOTI weekend (17-19 October 2003).



Scouts have a go at radio orienteering

During the weekend the following resources and activities were on offer:

Radio Orienteering – this involves locating a hidden transmitter “a fox” using a directional aerial and a receiver. The Scouts also need to be able to take a bearing, using a compass and use a map. Like orienteering this is a time-limited exercise.

3 *Radio stations* – enabled Scouts to make 240 contacts in 29 countries, including Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Paraguay, Russia, South Africa and the USA.

Coaching and testing for the Radio Communicators Badge – which requires Scouts to:-

- visit an amateur station and use a radio;
- know the commonly used HF and VHF frequencies;
- understand the regulations governing the use of amateur radio

- and recognise call signs from the UK and near continent.

Electronic Construction project - this involved making a gadget, which indicated where guy ropes were around the campsite. The gadget constructed detected when it was dark, and turned on automatically, setting off LEDs (super bright lights) which flashed to warn people of the location of guy ropes, thus avoiding accidents. In total 139 projects were constructed. The project also had a game mode. When in this mode the LEDs only flashed when a torch was shone on the unit, which made it good for wide games.

IT badge teaching and testing – Scouts were testing on different stages of the Information Technology (IT) badge and over the camp 102 Scouts passed stages 1-3.



Handling electronic components and working on electric circuits is part of the Electronics Badge

Internet Chat room – over the weekend 45 Scouts chatted to Scouts in Romania, Brazil, France, Spain, Italy, Australia and New Zealand.

Web design – Scouts were taught how to produce their own web-pages which can be viewed on the event web-site.



Strategic Priority 7

Scouting's Profile – strengthening communications, partnerships and resources



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Film production – Although pre-camp preparation by the Scouts was required for this project, none was undertaken so all the work was completed at the camp. Scouts worked as a team to set out the story, taking on different roles to shoot and edit a short film, adding sounds, music and effects. The best of the 24 short films made were shown to others.

Digital photography – the Scouts learned how to take good shots, download them onto a computer and then work on various aspects of the image to improve them. Over the weekend over 420 photographs were taken.

Music/sound studio – Scouts were helped to compose and record some musical compositions.

In addition at least 18 works of graphic art were produced, and by the end of the w/e 19 radio communicator badges, 54 IT1, 45 IT2, 2 IT3 and 4 electronics scout badges had been gained. They had constructed 139 electronic projects.

20 teams tried to find the "fox" but only one team managed to find the "fox" without help with compass bearings. 24 short film were made and 450 digital photos taken. 148 Scouts, 42 leaders from 14 Scout Groups, located all over the north-west of England attended. They were taught and tested by a staff of 35.

The Reasons

In the past when camps focussed only on the JOTA event the turnout was disappointing. It was decided that we needed to broaden the range of activities on offer over the weekend but we wanted to keep to activities related to technology.

The Methods

Last year was our first attempt and it turned out to be a great success. However, most of the events were in tents as the

indoor accommodation was already booked by the time we decided to stage the event.



Via the radio and internet, Scouts communicate world-wide with other Scouts

An established team of radio amateurs, who ran a station in Cheshire agreed to be the main stay of the event. We then looked for IT help incorporating different topics. Another leader then offered to put on a media skills base, so that was also incorporated into the programme for the weekend.

We held numerous planning meetings before the event.

The radio stations were engineered with filters so that they didn't interfere with each other. All the computers were networked together and a dedicated line was provided for access to the internet.

Our Learning

- The planning before the event is very important.
- Although some events requested pre-event planning by the Scouts, this was not done and all the work for the projects was completed at the camp.
- The number of helpers (staff) needed to run the event is enormous to maintain all activities.

- The more activities that can be provided the more interesting the Scouts find the event. The first year we included some conventional site activities but these were hardly used so this year none were included.

Our Future Plans

The same team will be putting on an even better event next year. We are holding a de-briefing meeting at the end of November and will start planning meetings around June. A full explanation and photographs can be seen on our web-site. <http://www.jota.org.uk/2003/2003.htm>

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