



Workshop

Co-operation with the scouts

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Workshop – co-operation with the scouts

Group 1

Peter Arnkil, Finland

Grete Björgum, Norway

Hanne Borgström, Denmark

Greg Davies, Australia

Gunilla Engvall, Sweden

Geir Fredhjem, Norway

Fjóla Hermannsdóttir, Iceland

Leif Klargaard, Denmark

Harald Rygg Norway

Lena Claesson, Sweden (former national president, NSGF Sweden, active within the education system of the Swedish Scout Association, moderator)

Experiences of co-operation

Document from Olaf Balle, Norway

- Much local co-operation.
- Agreement between the NSGF and the scout associations

- Best results on the local level.
- Some economic support.
- Some practical support (scouting activities).
- Fundraising activities – economic support to individual scouts and scout groups.
- Some joint activities.
- Create a track for the scouts.
- The HOTENT idea.
- Maintain scout cabins.
- Handle practical tasks at a scout camp, e.g. kiosks or similar tasks.
- Participate in wildlife exhibitions together with scout associations.
- The Peacelight of Bethlehem.

The future

- The Peacelight of Bethlehem – development (always burns in Roskilde and Århus, Denmark).
- Fundraising.
- Develop the co-operation with the scouts.
- Guild hikes where local scout leaders are invited to join in.
- A local fellowship supporting a scout group – taking care of the scout leaders.
- Recruiting
 - What does the local fellowship have to offer?
 - Are we visible?
 - Ask!
 - How will the candidates benefit from a membership?

Group 2

Jorunn Braseth, Norway

Roselyne Daenens, Belgium

Heinz Frohm, Sweden

Sidsel Gotaas, Norway

Anne Haastrup-Nielsen, Denmark

Anne Marie Hansen, Denmark

Benita Kauppinen, Finland

George Lauridsen, Denmark

Harriet Meinander, Finland



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Pétur Torfason, Iceland

Sven Melkersson, Sweden (scout leader, Färgelanda Scout Group, Västbodals Scout District, moderator)

1	Hotent	Accommodation for visitors to national and regional scout camps, usually fully booked. Serving waffles “on prescription” to scout leaders.
2	Camp Wilderness	Outdoor living – different fairs (hunting, fishing, camping). 25,000 visitors. The scouts run an indoor camp where children may try out scouting activities (knots, lifeline, first aid etc.). The local fellowships provide food for the scouts and “parent care” (parent parking) for adults, with coffee and information about scouting. “We couldn’t have done this without help from the local fellowships!”
3	Age limit	The scout associations have an upper age limit of 25 years for the membership. We should encourage these (the “overaged”) to join the fellowship movement. Offer of halved membership contributions to active scout leaders who want to join.
4	Peacelight of Bethlehem	The national and local fellowships distribute it, and the scout groups use it at various events, e.g. at Advent Sunday.
5	Meeting hours	Lunch meetings – morning meetings – in Oslo, Norway. 40 – 50 participated. These were originally aimed at dissolved local fellowships.
6	Fellowship offices	The Norwegian fellowship office is located with the offices of the Norwegian Scout Association. This provides regular and close contacts.
7	Practical support to the scouts	Many local fellowships maintain scout cabins, organize competitions for the scouts and organize scout camps.
8	Rover scouts	Rover scout groups who have maintained national scout camp sites until they have been sold have now become local fellowships.

Group 3

Brigitte Ahlert, Germany

Håkan Carlsson, Sweden

Ivan Chetwynd, Norway

Pierre Decoene, Belgium

Ritta Farum, Denmark

Ingar Haagaas, Norway

Berit Henriksen, Denmark

Marjatta Markkanen, Finland

Ingrid Danstrup Matthiessen, Denmark

Jane Wardropper, United Kingdom

Mikael Broberg, Sweden (scout leader, Lilla Edet Scout Group, Västbodals Scout District, moderator)

- Not much co-operation in Skåne (in the south of Sweden), except for scout camps.
- The same goes for Västerås, Sweden, during 2018.
- The Swedish NSGF tried to organize HOTENT at the 2017 national jamboree, but was prevented from doing it due to administrative problems.
- Norway has been running HOTENT, tents with simple beds for guests, usually fully booked, many want to visit overnight. They have served food, “leader waffles”, “on prescription”.
- Germany has problems with that not all scout groups want to co-operate with the fellowships. They have tried repairing bikes and tents – today, the old items are discarded and new items are bought to replace them. The scouts themselves are rarely the problem, the problems seem to be rooted in the organization managements.
- In the United Kingdom, four fellowships talked to the small scouts about what they did when they were kids, helped them with knots. The little ones showed the adults what can be done together.
- Leader care in Skåne – washing tents, feet, organizing saunas, car wash and carried firewood for the sauna.
- The seniors do have technical problems – the young ones may show them how to do things.



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- Mutual meeting attendance.
- A local scout group organized a “camp” within a wilderness fair in Oslo. The fellowships organized “parental parking” and coffee. Appreciated both by the area and the shop organizing the fair, the organizers want to provide more space each consecutive year.
- A close mutual contact. The fellowship should be a part of the scouts. Sharing national offices such as the Norwegians do.
- A scout until the age of 25, then a fellowship member. Norway does not have experiences with the scouts – they say “no, we don’t want you”.
- Co-operation with competitions for various age groups. Local fellowships have donated challenge trophies – very popular.
- Denmark has organized “sailing camps” where the older ones have sailed with the younger ones, but the interest is decreasing.

Group 4

Liv Aure Olli, Finland
 Inger Carlsson, Sweden
 Eva Holmby, Norway
 Björnar Johnsen, Sweden
 Knut Jorde, Norway
 Jesper Matthiessen, Denmark
 Inger Elisabeth Merli, Norway
 Elin Richards, Iceland
 Regitze Waida Krenchel, Sweden
 Birthe Ömark, Denmark
 Krister Björkman, Sweden (member of the district committee, Västbodals Scout District, moderator)

Norway	<p>Open activities.</p> <p>Buzzwords:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scouting ideas for adults. • Supporting the scouts. <p>HOTENT – overnight accommodation for guests.</p> <p>Blue on camp</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spread social happiness, coffee, waffles. • Provide volunteers when needed. <p>Peacelight of Bethlehem.</p>
Sweden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big leader activity (“The Mastodont”, Northern region). • Training for scout leaders, leader training / practical training / handicraft. • Babysitting / day care for the leaders. • Better contact with scouts. • A few active scout leaders. • Metter information material. • Grants from the Peacelight Fund (although there aren’t very much money in it). • The Stamp Bank Manager sells for around 15,000 – 17,000 SEK per year, but it gets more difficult all the time. • Scout history. • Help at camps. • Some fellowship members sell Mayflowers. • Some local fellowships are active at scout camps, mainly district/regional camps. Food deliveries and program contributions. • Celebrating St George’s Day. • Scout leader get-togethers with competitions.



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Iceland	<p>Help at camps.</p>
Denmark	<p>Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants, up to 20 000 DKK after applications. <p>Locally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scout competitions. • Insect hotels. • Market day. <p>Nationally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HOTENT – overnight accommodation for camp staff and assistants. • Spa for the HOTENT guests. <p>3 local fellowships with local scout contacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain scout cabins. • Bought tents for HOTENT. • Scout competitions. <p>Some of the local fellowships have good finances. New forms for local co-operation between local scouts and fellowships.</p>
Finland	<p>Recreation for tired leaders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spa – relaxing. • Hammocks. • Sauna. • Massage. • Hairwash. • Information tent about the fellowship activities. • Leader café. <p>The Stamp Bank</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has distributed collection boxes to the scout districts. <p>Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants for young leaders wanting to undertake Woodbadge Training (Gilwell). <p>Locally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A few local fellowships maintain a very good co-operation with the local scout groups. • Maintenance of scout cabins and campsites. <p>Nationally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NSGF national committee meets the national committee of the scouts twice a year.
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scout coach – scouts. • Updated activity calendar in relation to the calendars of the scout districts. • Open morning get-togethers. • Central activities. • Scout café. • Invite active scout leaders. • Humility – daring to ask “what do we want?”. • Skills database (must be accepted by those supposed to be entered into the database!). • Participate in district gatherings where the scouts are. • Use each other mutually.
Summary	<p>Visualization</p>



- We must be visible.
- Lift journey – explaining what scouting is about during a lift journey.
- We must know “what we are” ourselves.
- We must be active where we are a positive contribution.
- Correct use of text and pictures.
- Important how we convey information.

Group 5

Svein Holmby, Norway

Lise H. Jorde, Norway

Anna-Brita Lundahl, Sweden

Roar Ramstad, Norway

Thorvald Sigmarsson, Iceland

Vivi-Anne Skyman, Sweden

Doris Stockmann, Finland

Else Sudergaard, Denmark

Britta Södervall, Sweden

Rolf Waida, Sweden

Anne Karin Höglund, Sweden (scout leader, Vänersborg Scout Group, Västbodals Scout District, moderator)

What do we do today?

Iceland

Has participated for 2 years in the planning of a jamboree on four different locations.

Provided food and service tents. Collects money to support the scout movement.

The scout leaders follow the children and the fellowship members uphold the traditions.

Difficult to get them into the fellowships when they stop being scout leaders.

Denmark

High average age in the local fellowships. Has difficulties understanding today's scout methods. Can consequently only make program for the youngest scouts.

Helps at larger activities, with both program and services. Are, however, not involved in the planning and preparations of the activities.

Norway

Good contacts with the scouts. Hotent on camps. Responsible for the staff food on regional camps.

Participates each autumn in the “Autumn Hike”, where local fellowships are responsible for tracks and program activities.

Participates in the “Camp Wilderness” event, which is a big fair. Responsible for a section with coffee and simple nourishments, sampling scouting activities and a lot of information.

Active in the restoration and maintenance of scout cabins.

Norway, Oslo

Are both fellowship members and active scout leaders.

The fellowships manage Hotent, scout camps and scout cabin management.

Maintains a popular Guild Tournament for more than 40 years, gathering local fellowship members.

Northern Sweden

3 local fellowships with approximately 30 members. Very long distances between the fellowships. High average age.

Willing to help at scout camps, but are not always invited.

The scouts are “too busy” to meet the fellowship members. It is difficult to get “new scouts” to attend gatherings with old traditions and ceremonies.

Sweden, Västerås

No age limits for active scout leaders – all are needed. If you are older, you may take care of family scouting and/or beaver scouts.



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Finland

The fellowship members are B-members in the scouts, with rights to participate and speak, but not to vote. Staff service at jamborees and scout camps. Showers, sauna, etc., and information about the fellowships.

Group travels to major camps.

Nationally: common year planning with the scouts.

Locally: Builds and maintains scout cabins.

The Peacelight of Bethlehem with the scouts – visible in the newspapers. Good PR for both the scouts and the fellowships.

The older scout leaders do not join the fellowships, they stay in their scout groups.

The scouts leave the smaller communities for studies. There is consequently a lack of younger scout leaders.

Difficult to get the “informal groups” of (former) scout leaders into the fellowship movement.

Improvements for the future

Iceland

Recruitment all over the country.

New groups for “younger fellowship members”.

Important with a dialogue between the scouts and the fellowships.

Split the local fellowships into age groups in order to increase the attractiveness for the younger members – and for the older ones.

Becoming better at information – sell in that it is fun!

Finland

Start new fellowships for the younger rather than having them join existing fellowships. Age differentiation according to the model used by the scouts. A national, common committee for all age groups. Important not to be an “expert”, instead to offer knowledge about different ways to work and provide solutions.

Many older/former scout leaders attend different scout jubilees. This also goes for staff at larger activities. A good opportunity to inform and to recruit new fellowship members.

Northern Sweden

Write articles for the newspapers and take photos at joint activities – but not “dressup” gatherings.

Concentrating on “The Mastodont”.

Create co-operation across borders – closer to Finnish and Norwegian local fellowships than the closest Swedish ones.

Don't give up – try new ways. Have a “red thread” in the work.

Maintain the contacts with the scouts even for smaller activities – personal contacts are important.

Take your own initiatives and invite yourselves.

Joint gatherings for several local fellowships – create a greater variation due to different possibilities to participate (interests, physical possibilities, time).

Sweden, Stockholm

The NSGF should sent information to all Swedish scout leaders.

The NSGF magazine should be published more than twice a year.

Sweden, Bromma (Stockholm)

The fellowship members are growing older, and no new members are joining. The NSGF must recruit new members – the old ones cannot do it. The local fellowship feels that the scouts do not want to have anything to do with them because they “steal” their leaders. The fellowship is of the opinion that scout leaders should stop being leaders at the age of 35.

Sweden, Västerås

Advertising ISGF at scout camps. Prove that it is fun to be a fellowship member. The Fellowship members are always welcome to be staff members at the Kopparbo campsite.

Activities for children of the scout leaders are popular at scout camps.

May inspire and educate.

Participate at the annual general assemblies of the scout districts.

Co-operation with the Peacelight of Bethlehem. It is used in the cathedral and is a very good promotion for both the scouts and the fellowship.

Participate everywhere, thus demonstrating that we are a natural alternative.



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Difficult with meeting times, because some prefer participating during working hours and others are still working. It is important that there are alternatives for all members. Even at excursions. Variation is important.

Norway

It is important to maintain a contact as a rover scout during family establishment times – before having own children starting to be scouts.

Younger members are patrol leaders – older members serve as staff. The fellowship relieves, giving the active leaders time for their own scouting activities, e.g. a rover scout evening (where they may still be young).

It is important to maintain the contacts with one's own scout group, thus enabling inspiration and information.

Show that we have fun together.

Demonstrate that we are there, e.g. at Hotent etc.

Create "youth fellowships".

Norway, Oslo

It is important to support the new fellowships in the first period with sponsors/mentors.

Common activities for a greater area, even for members without a fellowship of their own. Scout leaders may also be invited.

- If you aren't visible, you aren't there.

Denmark

Look positively upon your own fellowship, starting with making yourself happy. Not so many social activities that your own scouting fellowship gets lost.

Common, well known goals is good PR.

Other suggestions

Enter stories about fun activities in the scouting magazines and in the local newspapers.

Submit your own stories with photos – easy to have them published, especially during the summer, with a slow supply of other news.

The fellowship members may be responsible for a "scout free" leader village at the camp, where they may have a shower, wash their hair, have a massage, a sauna bath – and a cup of coffee/tea (with information) in peace and quiet.

Easily accessible information about how to start a new fellowship yourself – with links both to the National Fellowship and the websites of the various scout groups.

A dedicated page in the leader magazine with information about the fellowship and its activities.

Stamp collection.

Information about and invitation to the international activities.

"Cross co-operation" between the countries.

Group 6

Anna Bensow, Sweden

Angela Dernbach, Germany

Leny Doelman, The Netherlands

Jan-Henrik Kihlgren, Norway

Viveca Mattsson, Sweden

Kaarina Sumanen, Finland

Torhild Sverdrup Røthe, Norway

Helena Terho, Sweden

Jenny Hermansson, Sweden (District Commissioner, Västbodals Scout District, moderator)

• Part 1: Sharing experiences. Positive and negative experiences.

• Germany

Local experiences are good.

The Peacelight of Bethlehem works well.

Other activities between the scouts and the fellowships function in small steps, because it is difficult to get together.

The German national fellowship was incorporated in 1967, and is still not accepted at the national level by the scouts, which means that they have difficulties spreading their information.



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• Norway

The co-operation between them works well, even exceptionally well!

The scouts ask the fellowship members for help at various activities, and help is given.

“Hotent” consists of 21 tents, visited by parents and other camp visitors. The visitors rent a bed in a tent, and are then given a “Blue ticket” for coffee and a waffle/pancake, with an opportunity to talk about ISGF and being a fellowship member.

The negative side is that it takes quite a lot of work.

• Sweden, Borlänge

Good contacts with the scout group. The fellowship members always turn out to help. This depends to a large extent that the fellowship members are former leaders from the scout group. Locally, the fellowship members feel that it is very important to take care of the youths, and the happiness in this makes it possible to continue.

• Sweden, Bromma (Stockholm)

Have been active for 40 years, and it has worked just fine earlier. Now, the members have grown too old and cannot cope as much as before, and the new leaders do not know the fellowship members. There has been a communication gap between the generations, which is the root of today’s situation.

Problems with the planning of the activities has also been considered a cause. E.g. the guides had asked about a special activity to be held in a church. The fellowship members planned, but nobody showed up. The cause given was that they didn’t want to go to “that” particular church, but they would come if minor adjustments to the planning of the activity was made. The requested planning changes were made, and the venue was changed, but still nobody showed up. This made the fellowship members lost interest in creating activities.

Nevertheless, they were active in workshops at the 2017 national scout camp Jiingijamborii.

Within their own fellowship, they also have problems organizing their meetings, because they are mostly held during working hours, when still working members have difficulties to attend. This, in turn, leads to losing some members with a commitment to organize various activities.

• Finland

In some communities, the co-operation works just fine.

The members of the national committee visit all scout camps they can to make an appearance and to inform about the fellowship activities. They have problems getting the scouts to join the fellowship movement, this may possible be caused by them not being sufficiently visible.

Self knowledge: *“One should be active all the time. Works too little to attract new members.”*

There is no organizational connection between the national fellowship and the national scouting. This means that they won’t/can’t do whatever they want in order not to get into conflict with the constitution.

Question: *“What is the benefit of being a fellowship member!”*

They have many activities, e.g. with reflections over not repeating earlier mistakes. Once, e.g., they had a lecture with an invited guest over “The events in Tampere 1918”. (*A decisive battle in the Finnish Civil War.*)

• The Netherlands

When you leave the scout, you may become a fellowship member.

You can be both an active scout and a fellowship member, something they have difficulties understanding that it is possible in other countries.

According to the constitution, you stop being an active scout at a certain age, but it doesn’t always work that way in real life.

According to ISGF, the fellowships are supposed to support by the scouts, but that doesn’t always happen, they aren’t even contacted by the scouts.

In 2003, the national fellowship became a section within the national scout association. The fellowship was allocated funds, a website, a newsletter, etc. But as time passed by, one support function after the other was withdrawn, until ISGF told them that they were no longer following the ISGF Constitution, and the National Scout/Guide organization decided to withdraw their membership of the ISGF. The Dutch fellowship lost 4,500 members. Now, 96 fellowship members try starting a new national fellowship. However, they haven’t yet been nationally recognized by the scouts, which to a large extent depends upon that the current national fellowship committee doesn’t want to work with a constitution. *“We’ll have to see what the future holds!?”*

The co-operation worked pretty well when they had many members, but not so any more.

Lesson: *“Never become a part of national scouting!”*

• Part 2: What can we do better in the future?



- **Sweden**

In order to recruit new members, one should, at national level, define the common problems for all local fellowships, and then create an attractive program which includes recruiting.

Creating a subsection to existing local fellowships may be an idea. Allow new members to join the subsection and to learn what fellowship work is all about, only being a fellowship member. Today, we all too often ask the new members to assume various posts in the committee. This often deters the new members, who then quits. One should allow them to take it all in in their own pace and, when they are ready, “transfer” them to the mother fellowship. A kind of a trainee program.

- **Norway**

Question: *“How do you attract new members?”*

They succeed in attracting younger members, but they are often deterred by the old, existing members.

Comment: *Norway has no age limit to becoming a fellowship member.*

- **The Netherlands**

Improve the visibility.

Improve distribution of flyers.

They have an idea booklet which helps them create activities.

- **Germany**

The older fellowship members are very including in their activities, but new members must take their time getting acquainted with the organization and to see their program in full.

“The new members must be allowed to see how the fellowship works.”

A local fellowship opted to visit a local shopping mall to sing and inform interested individuals about their activities.

From all

Find a program which attracts members over a greater age span. May be an activity suiting all age groups with different levels, alternatively once each adapted to the different prerequisites of the fellowship in question. Example: GPS orienteering in the woods, adapted to different physical conditions.

An attractive website may make it interesting to become a fellowship member.

It may be mentioned that the ISGF Fellowship Day (which was established 1953) has created an activity Oct. 25, which serves as a fundraising day. They have decided to leave the classical marketing channels such as newspaper etc., and instead opted for marketing on their own website and other typically modern solutions. It is impossible today to ascertain if this has been successful – that remains to be seen.

In Sweden, the Scout Association has an activity bank on their website. These activities may be adapted to time, different age groups, outside/inside etc. The other group members considered this to be a very good help.

The fellowship members must be visible in all connections and all the time. Use your network to get out.

Common for all to be fully successful is that the scout policies towards the fellowships must cease, and that the national scout associations recognize them, otherwise it is like spitting into the wind. This is not a strictly European problem, it is a problem all over the world.

Central Branch consists globally of approximately 1,000 members. They are not organized in national organizations but are working to be so. But this is tiresome. In some countries, there is a “competition” to have the fellowships obtaining national recognition. The reason that national scout associations refuse this is that they do not want a parallel organization, which Central Branch finds deplorable. One example of this is the fellowship in Argentina.

In order to attract new members, it should be allowed both to remain being an active scout and to be a fellowship member. Some may possibly be deterred by not being allowed to be an active scout and a part of the old and familiar, where you feel that you still may have something to offer. One may not exclude the other...



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Supplement

Question: What is the membership subscription in the various countries? Are the subscriptions high enough to make it difficult to attract new members?

(The subscriptions are estimates and may differ somewhat depending upon the subscriptions in the local fellowship.)

The Netherlands	7.7 Euro	(national subscription)
Sweden	250 SEK	(national subscription, family members 200 SEK)
Germany	50 Euro	
Finland	26 Euro	For family member 2 the subscription is 16 Euro.
Norway	400 NOK	

Conclusion: The subscriptions are not very high, they are within a normal span for what may be considered reasonable. Consequently, the subscription amount cannot be a major cause for abstaining a membership.

Summary

Generally, the activities of the fellowships seem to be working just fine on the local level.. So also concerning the Peacelight of Bethlehem.

There is more to be done to become more visible.

The organizations should improve their communications and become more modern.

Increase the flexibility concerning programs and meetings.

In order to achieve better functioning local fellowships, the scout policies should be solved, so that the energy and efforts may be used for the activities rather than – as today – just to stay alive.

Without the above, it cannot be expected from the scouts and the scout groups that the co-operation with them should work smoothly. There is a potential for improvement!

The Scout's Folk High School The Mastodon 2018 in Löfvånger

The course runs over a weekend.

Activities and courses:

- Leading Scouting
- Ready for Nature
- Safe Meetings
- Handicraft: Needle Binding
- Handicraft: Viking Handicraft
- Workshop: Ceremonies and Traditions
- Lecture: In a Canoe on the Yukon River
- Workshop: Democracy Jamboree, Democratic Forms
- Knight's Wake in the church
- Information about ISGF
- Campfire
- Baking in the Baker's Hut

The fellowship members helping out and contributing with experiences come from the local fellowships Malören (Luleå), Guldgrävorna (Skellefteå) and Tre Renar (Umeå).

The expression "Knight's Wake" refers to the wake the knights to be had to subject themselves to during the night before they were knighted.

A "democracy jamboree" is the general assembly of the Swedish Scout Association.



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HOTENT

The following photos were shot at the 2014 National Camp for the Norwegian YWCA/YMCA scouts in Vetre, just outside of Oslo, Norway.

Photos: Yvonne and Gjermund Austvik.



General view of the tents



Interior with beds



Water bucket and washpan



Please enter!