



... press release

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Scout friendships to be “Made in Taiwan”

17 young people from West Lancashire's Scout Network are preparing join over 6,000 Scouts and Guides from all over the world as they get ready for the 12th World Scout Moot in Taiwan at the end of July.

Held every 4 years, 'The Moot' is an international gathering of Scouts and Guides aged between 18 and 25. The UK contingent will begin their trip with a tour of the capital, Taipei, during which they will climb Tower 101, the tallest building in the world.

The Moot itself begins with an opening ceremony in Linkou on the outskirts of Taipei following which participants will split into international teams of ten to undertake expeditions lasting 4 days. Starting locations are spread across the island including Taipei, Hsinchu, Taichung, Chiayi, Changhua and Kaohsiung.

During the event, participants will live alongside Taiwanese people and experience a variety of modern, ancient, cultural and adventurous activities. Teams can expect to be hiking, scuba diving, parascending and cooking traditional dishes as well as climbing the 3,952m Jade Mountain and visiting the site of the 1999 earthquake. There will also be community project days where teams will help maintain areas of forest or help out at a local orphanage.

Once the expeditions have finished, all 6,000 participants will reunite at the main Moot site in Hualien where they will take part in Global Development workshops. There, thrill seekers can try their hand at white water rafting and kung fu whilst others can relax, taking in the sunrise at the beginning of a beautiful day or the rainbow colours of sundown.

Each night, Scouts and Guides from different countries will be asked to entertain an international audience with traditional stories, songs and activities from their country.

Local Scout Networkers Graham Cooper and Sophie Cairns can't wait to get started on their opportunity of a lifetime:

“It's a big undertaking and at first I did wonder should I stay or should I go, but this is too good an opportunity to be miss. After a year of anticipation I'm sure I wannabe a member of the UK contingent although I'm trying not to think about all the small things that could creep into my tent. When I get home I will be able to say I've been around the world, hopefully without trouble or getting too dirty but I am assured there will be plenty of washing facilities! With only a week to go I'm feverishly packing which really gets you in the mood but I know my summer holiday will come and go in a flash, so bring it on!”

After the Moot many of the Scouts and Guides from the UK plan to take advantage of the countless opportunities that the East offers. Some will be orang-utan spotting in Borneo while others are helping to renovate a Scout campsite in downtown Taipei. Several have elected to go straight home – on the trans-Siberian express of course!

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Editor's Notes:

- Scouting is the largest co-educational youth movement in the UK with a total of 476,992 members (March 2002 figures)
- Worldwide, there are well over 28 million members in over 216 Countries. Two thirds of the membership lives in developing Countries.
- The Aim of the Association is "To promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.
- Scouting in West Lancashire has a membership of just under 10,000 members in the following 8 Districts: Chorley, Blackpool, Preston, Ormskirk, South Ribble, Fylde, Wyre and Lonsdale.
- The UK Contingent going to the 12th World Scout Moot is being led by Carl Hankinson (31) from Preston, Lancashire. Carl is currently the West Lancashire County Scout Network Commissioner
- The UK Contingent have a web site at www.moot2004.org.uk with full details of the whole event and the participants.
- The West Lancashire Contingent have their own web site at <http://moot.westlancashirescouts.org.uk/> with full details of the people taking part from West Lancashire including photographs.

For further information, please contact the County Scout Office below:

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