

## DESMOS AT THE 21<sup>ST</sup> WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE IN UK

(photos available at [www.desmos.info](http://www.desmos.info) - Photo Galery).

During the 21<sup>st</sup> World Scout Jamboree, held in Hylands Park, Essex, England, United Kingdom, end of July - beginning of August 2007, DESMOS had an important role and significant participation in the Jamboree programme, in Faith & Beliefs Zone, with the Workshop organized with the idea to enable young people find out more about Orthodoxy and about the International Link of Orthodox Christian Scouts.

The Faith & Beliefs Zone had centrally situated location on the Jamboree site, with specially reserved space for all main faiths and religions.



DESMOS prepared in its tent the exhibition - display of icons, and the workshop of Orthodox iconography. The outside of the tent was decorated with a representation of a Byzantine church in the façade and inside the tent there was the exhibition of "Dodekaorton", twelve main celebrations of the Church giving information on our faith in four languages.

The participants of the Workshop could choose to paint with acrylic colors St. George (the Patron of Scouting), Virgin Mary or the Holy Cross, on wooden plates containing the outline design. The workshop was open from 9:00 to 17:00 with a midday break. There were eight DESMOS members from Greece, Serbia, Lebanon and Palestine, that helped organizing and smooth running of the workshop. We could facilitate 70 persons at the same time (scouts, adult leaders, IST members, day visitors). The Workshop visitors were not only Christians but people of different religions from all over the world. They could spend some time in the Desmos tent, paint their icon, which they could take with them as the souvenir, and take information concerning Orthodoxy, as well as Desmos info leaflet. During rush hours, due to increased interest for participation in the Workshop, there were even people painting outside of the tent or waiting for a free table and chair. The total number of Scouts passed through the Workshop is estimated to over 3000.

The total expenditures of Desmos participation at the World Scout Jamboree were 4.500,- EUR.

DESMOS also organized two Holy Liturgies during the Jamboree. The first one took place in DESMOS tent, on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> of July, with Fr. Kyrillos, Archimandrite in the nearby Monastery of St. John the Baptist, in Essex, and a chorus of Nuns. The second one was on the Sunrise Day (1<sup>st</sup> of August) with HE Gregory the Archbishop of Thyatira and Great Britain. More than 650 Scouts from 21 different countries attended the Holy Liturgy. At the end, the President of DESMOS read the message from HAH the Patriarch of Constantinople Bartholomeos addressed to the participants of the Jamboree. Archbishop was offered a commemorative present from DESMOS and a silkscreen reproduction of "Scout" painting of I. Tsarouhis (famous Greek painter) on behalf of SHP.

Part of the celebrations on the Scouting Sunrise, on 1<sup>st</sup> of August in the main arena, included wishes and prayers from different faiths and beliefs. Ten Serbian Orthodox Scouts, representing DESMOS focused their wishes on peace and environment preservation.

DESMOS promoted not only Scouting but also Christian Orthodox Faith with the leaflets, pins, stickers, and calendars. The Workshop facilitators gave interviews to the Jamboree Radio and various mass media.

Among the distinguished personalities that visited DESMOS tent were: HM The King of Sweden & Honorable President of The World Scout Foundation, Carl XVI Gustaf, HE Gregory the Archbishop of Thyatira and Great Britain, the Bishop of Sinope Athenagoras (Belgium), Secretary General of WOSM Dr. Eduardo Missoni, World Scout Committee Members, European Scout Committee Members, Heads of Contingents of many countries.



Many thanks to DESMOS members and IST members who helped running of the Workshop, namely: Jamboree IST members: Tom Peachey (United Kingdom) and Vladislav Tesarik 'Brouk' (Czech Republic) and DESMOS members: Vida Qamar (Palestine), Fouad Abboud (Lebanon), Zoran Petrovic and Marko Petrovic (Serbia), Theodore Katrougalos, Vassilis Birtsas, Maria Papageorgiou and Christos Papageorgiou (Greece). Many thanks, as well, to the 'Friends of DESMOS' in Athens, Scouts of Greece (SHP) and above all to The Ecumenical Patriarchate for the constant support.