

EuroJam Faith and Beliefs On-Site Programme

1. Introduction

The specific presence of Faith and Beliefs as part of the On-Site programme for EuroJam expresses the intention of the programme team to ensure that participants are given the opportunity to develop spiritually as well as physically, intellectually and socially through their participation in EuroJam.



Programme for the spiritual development of scouts from the European Region will need to take account of the specific spiritual development needs of adolescents, the rich diversity of faith communities represented and emerging multi-culturalism in Europe, a renewed interest in spirituality, increasing ambivalence towards religious adherence and observance, and concerns about respecting the freedom of individuals.

1.1. Aims and Objectives

The Faith and Beliefs On-Site Programme (FABP) aims to help EuroJam participants to develop Spiritually as well as physically and socially through their participation in the Jamboree. What this means is drawn from the Personal Development Areas articulated by the UK Scout Association in *What, Why, How*.

FABP aims to help EuroJam participants to:

- a) identify ways in which they can develop their relationship with God;
- b) develop their relationship with God;
- c) recognise the benefit of having a personal faith through a relationship with God;
- d) state scouting values, demonstrate their commitment to them and accept them as a code of conduct for life;
- e) discover how faith and beliefs impact on individual lives;
- f) articulate their own faith and belief; and
- g) respect the faith and beliefs of others.

Participants will:

- a) have had the opportunity for reflection on their Jamboree experiences and to express that reflection; (Daily Material, Chill Out areas)
- b) have been enabled to maintain their own religious observance during EuroJam; (Faith Activities, especially CED)
- c) have had the opportunity to experience some of the cultural heritage represented by faith traditions and human creativity; (Faith Zone)
- d) be more aware of the Scout Law and Promise as a rule of life; (Camp Life) and
- e) demonstrate a deeper understanding and respect of their own and other religious traditions (Faith Zone/Camp Life).

1.2. Method

The Scout method suggests that FABP will be enjoyable, active, involve making choices and taking responsibility. FABP will also involve, but not be confined to sharing in reflection, prayer and worship. It will also take into account the variety of ages, dispositions and faith experience of the participants in such a way as to provide a range of activities accessible and stimulating for all.

1.3. Principles

The understanding of Faith and Beliefs which underpins FABP is set out in *Explorers of the Invisible* (TB014) and *Scouting and Spiritual Development*.

Spiritual Development can be defined as:

Acquiring a deeper knowledge and understanding of the spiritual heritage of one's own community, discovering the Spiritual Reality which gives meaning to life and drawing conclusions for one's daily life, whilst respecting the spiritual choices of others.

To this end, FABP aims to use the Scout method to give participants the opportunity to access spiritual heritage and to find meaning in their experiences.

1.4. Spiritual and moral development needs of participants

Scouts (10-14). Young adolescents begin to discover independent thinking and to establish their own identity, drawing often from their own peer group. God may be understood as a friend, as one of the peer group. Sometimes a split may occur between the world (as adult culture) and religion (as childish culture).

Leaders could help scouts to take *personal* responsibility for their own religious practice and to find a religious identity that is not simply passively received – for it to become part of their own life. While story and tradition are still important, care should be taken not to present them in a childish way.

Explorer Scouts (14-18). These adolescents use their new found capacity for abstract thought in the search for meaning in the parts of life that are encountered. Promise, commitment, and relationship with God become more personal (rather than social) as the feelings and needs of others are properly appreciated. God is, on the one hand, encountered as a friend, but on the other hand not easy to see in the answers formed in response to the problems of life.

Leaders could help Explorer Scouts by offering opportunities for debate and discussion. If childhood is characterised by myth, youth is characterised by questioning. Leaders will need to be able to direct young people to accurate answers about questions of faith. Young people will look to the leader as a companion in the search for meaning more than as a source of authority.

1.5. Code of Practice

In order to allow participants to take make free choices and to take responsibility for their own Spiritual and Religious Development, FABP will operate under the code of practice, *Building Good Relations with People of Different Faiths and Beliefs*, first developed by the Inter Faith Network in 1983. (Appendix 1) FABP providers will be asked to agree to work within these guidelines.

2. Programme

Even though spiritual development is an integral part of the programme and is present in all true scouting, the present post-religious culture suggests that FABP should have a clear and specific identify. The delivery of FABP will therefore focus on 5 areas.

2.1. Faith and Beliefs Zone

The Faith and Beliefs Zone, a significant part of the site identified by a lighthouse, will offer dedicated space for prayer and worship within specific religious traditions and a safe place where participants can explore and learn about different religious traditions. The zone will contain 8 large tents and will be staffed by faith based organisations belonging to the IST.

The following will be represented: Buddhism, Christianity (RC, Orthodox, Protestant), Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, Won Buddhism. Provision will be made for other religious groups, who have representation either with the World Scout Bureau or the Inter Faith Network and who express an interest, to be represented.

The programme in the Faith and Beliefs Zone should enable participants to come to a better understanding of what it is to live in a particular faith tradition. This might include:

- The impact that believing in a faith has upon the lives of those who follow it, for example, food and dietary laws, shopping (!), tourism, money, careers, lifestyle, rituals and prayers.
- How the world and life are seen from a Faith perspective.
- The story of someone whose faith has impacted significantly upon their life.
- Sacred text and teaching, festivals, Prophets, leaders and founders.
- Sacred space and sacred time: gathering, teaching, prayer and worship.
- Times of transition: adolescence. (Confirmation, Bar Mitzvah,.....)

Activities might include craft, music making, games, dancing, drama, story-telling, meditation & prayer workshops, explanations of the prayer space, collage. They should keep a focus on Faith and Beliefs. The FAB Team will ensure that there is not undue duplication with activities in other programme areas. Some activities might only run on a few days.

Activity providers should remember that many participants will speak neither French nor English. Polyglot and non-verbal elements are therefore encouraged.

We expect between 500 and 1,000 people per session. To cope with this number we would like up to **8 activities** (and some displays) for each tent. As a minimum we would like at least a good display and two activities for up to 15 participants. The EuroJam programme aims to **excite, challenge and motivate**. It might be better therefore to give preference to one or two “large impact” activities over several smaller ones.

Faith communities present may wish to collaborate in preparing occasional opportunities for joint times of prayer and reflection on the stage in the Zone.

Details. For each activity we will need the following title, description, time (length of activity), number of participants (max/min), list of materials (provided and those to be provided), (aims or rationale, if possible!). A member of the Team will do Risk Assessment on basis of information provided.

Timescale

Provisional list of activities by end Feb 05.

Mid March - Full text for follow up card.

End March – detailed list of activities, and costings.

End May – timings for daily and occasional prayer in FAB Zone.

Budget

There is a limited budget for activity costs. If activity providers are able to provide material for activities, it would be much appreciated. If need materials providing, please report a complete list of materials to FAB team to check with budget. Keep in mind “ecological issues”.

While FABP aims to help participants to deepen their own religious response and understanding as part of their overall development within Scouting, there is no place for **proselytisation**. Indeed, given wide suspicion about religious activities in a post 9/11 world, it is critically important that the freedom and autonomy of the participant is given priority over their religious development in the Scouting context. To this end, participation in the activities in the Faith and Beliefs Zone should not be coerced.

Follow up cards

Postcard for contact details with text (reflection, scripture) and/or picture. By end March.

In the interest of giving participants new opportunities to further their spiritual and religious development after the Jamboree, organisations offering programme in the Faith and Beliefs Zone are invited to submit **artwork and text by the end of March** which will be produced in a postcard format for all EuroJam participants. This might include scouting or religious images, a prayer or reflection, a greeting, and web or contact details for further enquiries. We anticipate that many will wish to offer refreshments, after the example of Abraham and other religious figures through history. Other take home material however should not be provided.

Additionally, there will be a Faith and Beliefs presence on the **Globus**. This will seek to demonstrate how a lively religious faith also stimulates people to work for Global Development. This might take the form of reporting on specific projects supported by faith communities, such as the Methodist Association of youth Clubs. This will take place in liaison with other elements of OSP. This is managed by the Global Development Programme Team.

The Faith and Belief Zone will also contain an office for FABP.

Times and Dates.

There will be two sessions each day, as part of “Choice Time” for participants:

Morning 09.30 – 12.30

Afternoon 14.00 – 17.00

Choice Time will be available on 31 July, 1, 2, 4-8 August.

Groups may wish to offer prayers and services in the Faith and Beliefs Zone outside of these times and dates but should bear in mind that these other times will also be covered by sub-camp and whole camp programme.

It is hoped that communities involved with the Faith and Beliefs Zone will also co-ordinate their celebration on Celebrate Europe Day.

2.2. Resource Material for Reflection

Resource material for troops and individuals to use in preparation for, during and after EuroJam will be prepared and include thoughts, stories, reading, prayers, activities and pictures.

During EuroJam, participants will use the material themed for that day's programme. (Appendix 2) Material for use during EuroJam is likely to include a card for each individual, and notes/activity for troop leaders. A few participants will be asked to use digital cameras to provide images around the day's theme that can be used to provide a pictorial focus to consolidate the theme at the end of the day and through the camp.

Resource material for use during camp will link in with the Sub-Camp programme.

All material will be posted to EuroJamLIVE! And available to subcamp teams.

"Bog Sheets" will also be provided to encourage the IST to reflect on and appropriate their experience.

2.3. Faith Gatherings on Celebrate Europe Day

The morning of Celebrate Europe Day has been ring-fenced to provide an opportunity for Faith Communities present at EuroJam to gather together. To encourage participation there will be no other significant programme on offer during this period. A theme will be proposed, which faith communities are invited to use as a focus for their celebrations. These should be planned and resources prior to the event.

(Note that there is no budget provision for resourcing these celebrations beyond use of existing facilities in the Faith and Beliefs Zone and other parts of the site.)

Provision for religious observance on other days of the camp will be made according to troop needs at Sub-camp level to allow participants best access to the rest of the programme. FABP team will seek to facilitate planning of this as far as possible in advance of the camp. *Contact ahead of camp.*

Faith and Beliefs Programme team will seek to offer support to teams working on CED and other main events to ensure that participants are given to opportunity to realise the meaning giving potential of these significant gatherings.

Faith communities are asked to:

- Encourage participation and hospitality;
- Remember that there may be people there who are not used to prayer or worship in that tradition;
- Remember the multi-lingual nature of EuroJam;
- Adopt a peace theme for the celebration

Stages will be allocated in the probably around April once numbers from the Associations are known. The Hub stages have a capacity of 4,000.

2.4. Chill-out areas

Three "Chill-out" areas will be provided, one at each hub and one for IST. These will be quiet areas, with adult supervision and facilitation. They aim to provide participants with:

- An opportunity for quiet reflection;
- An environment and tools to deepen their ability to reflect;
- A safe place to be alone and think;
- A place to find someone with whom to share things of concern about themselves or others.

The areas should be designed to provide both privacy and an appropriate level of adult supervision. They should be reasonably weatherproof. A good design is likely to include a visual focus including candles and/or water and to pay attention to the quality of light and space. Consideration will be given to the provision of writing and other creative materials. Similar provision at Roverway and by the Pluralist Scouts of Belgium has been identified as examples of good practice.

Suggestions for things to do while being quiet will also be provided.

It is anticipated that the staffing and possibly design of these areas will be achieved in partnership with Health and Welfare provision for EuroJam.

Additional reflection and relaxation space is being provided by “Energise”. This will provide access to this activity for many who would not approach the more explicit elements of FABP.

2.5. Spiritual and Pastoral Support

Religious leaders and scout leaders with particular religious responsibilities within their communities represent a valuable resource for the spiritual and pastoral support of EuroJam participants and staff. They often exercise a key place in such provision within their own scout associations. To enhance access to such provision during EuroJam the FABP team would ask religious leaders participating in the Jamboree as contingent members or IST to register their availability for this particular service. FABP team will seek to ensure that this provision is integrated with the Health and Welfare provision and that sympathetic spiritual support from within their own faith tradition is available for both participants and staff.

Those providing spiritual and pastoral support will work within the code of practice, *Building Good Relations with People of Different Faiths and Beliefs* and will follow referral guidelines in use within the Health and Welfare team.

Opportunities will be provided for Chaplains and other Religious advisors to come together during the Jamboree to build mutual support and to develop ways of enhancing FABP in Jamboree setting.

A note will be sought in the mailing to NSAs and contingents to find out who is coming.

3. Staffing and support

A Faith and Beliefs Coordinator has been appointed to oversee the delivery of FABP as part of the On-Site Programme Team. The Co-ordinator will be supported by a team of 3 others who will include representation from a non-Christian faith tradition and from a Scout association outside of the UK.

It is hoped that the team will be able to draw on staff from Gilwell Park in the design of materials which will provide a valuable resource in Scouting outside of the EuroJam context.

4. Key Reference Documents

The Scout Association *What, Why, How*. 2000.

World Scout Bureau *Scouting and Spiritual Development*. 2001.

World Scout Bureau (Education and Development) *Explorers of the Invisible* (Tool Box 014)

Inter Faith Network *Building Good Relations with People of Different Faiths and Beliefs*, 1983. www.interfaith.co.uk

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Appendix 1: Building Good Relations with People of Different Faiths and Beliefs

As members of the human family, we should show each other respect and courtesy. In our dealings with people of other faiths and beliefs this means exercising good will and:

- Respecting other people's freedom within the law to express their beliefs and convictions;
- Learning to understand what others actually believe and value, and letting them express this in their own terms;
- Respecting the convictions of others about food, dress and social etiquette and not behaving in ways which cause needless offence;
- Recognising that all of us at times fall short of the ideals of our own traditions and never comparing our own *ideals* with other people's *practices*;
- Working to prevent disagreement from leading to conflict; and
- Always seeking to avoid violence in our relationships.

When we talk about matters of faith with one another, we need to do so with sensitivity, honesty and straightforwardness. This means:

- Recognising that listening as well as speaking is necessary for a genuine conversation;
- Being honest about our beliefs and religious allegiances;
- Not misrepresenting or disparaging other people's beliefs and practices;
- Correcting misunderstanding or misrepresentations not only of our own but also of other faiths whenever we come across them;
- Being straightforward about our intentions; and
- Accepting that in formal inter faith meetings there is a particular responsibility to ensure that the religious commitment of all those who are present will be respected.

All of us want others to understand and respect our views. Some people will also want to persuade others to join their faith. In a multi faith society where this is permitted, the attempt should always be characterised by self-restraint and a concern for the other's freedom and dignity. This means:

- Respecting another person's expressed wish to be left alone;
- Avoiding imposing ourselves and our views on individuals or communities who are in vulnerable situations in ways which exploit these;
- Being sensitive and courteous;
- Avoiding violent action or language, threats, manipulation, improper inducements, or the misuse of any kind of power; and
- Respecting the right of others to disagree with us.

Living and working together is not always easy. Religion harnesses deep emotions which can sometimes take destructive forms. Where this happens, we must draw on our faith to bring about reconciliation and understanding. The truest fruits of religion are healing and positive. We have a great deal to learn from one another which can enrich us without undermining our own identities. Together, listening and responding with openness and respect, we can move forward to work in ways that acknowledge genuine differences but build on shared hopes and values.

(Inter Faith Network)

Appendix 2: Daily Themes.

Activity	Theme
Opening Ceremony	Opportunities / New Beginnings
Euro 1 / Choice	Choices / Getting the Most Out of Life
Euro 2 / GDV	Discovery
Euro 3 / Choice	Light
Euro 4 / 5	Seeing the Whole Picture
Euro 6 / Choice	Preconceptions
Gilwell Adventure	Challenge
Starburst	Communities
Celebrate Europe Day	Friends / Neighbours
Splash	Water
Closing Ceremony	New Beginnings