

8th World Scout Jamboree

The **8th World Scout Jamboree** was held in August 1955, it was hosted by Canada at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. The Jamboree saw the introduction of the World Membership Badge which is still worn on the uniforms of Scouts worldwide.^[1]

This was the first World Jamboree to be held in the Western Hemisphere, and the first outside of Europe.



The Jamboree was heralded by a commemorative stamp issued in 1955.

The setting was a rolling parkland on the Commons of Fort George National Historic Site. More than 11,000 Scouts from 71 countries and colonies attended this gathering, which was notable for the number of Scout contingents that crossed the Atlantic by air to attend—1,000 from Great Britain alone.

There are some incredible tales of the efforts made by Scouts to attend the Jamboree, with the New Zealand contingent leaving four months ahead of the event and traveling over 30,000 miles on the way. There were also three Brazilian Scouts who arrived after traveling by jeep from their hometown.^[2]

Three days before the Jamboree was due to open, a vicious storm of hurricane strength (the tail end of Hurricane Connie) blew over the camp for nearly 24 hours, flattening much of the work that the volunteers and professionals spent six weeks preparing. A call went out to all district council members, communities and companies for volunteers to

8th World Scout Jamboree



Location Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario

Country Canada

Date August 1955

Attendance 11,000 Scouts

Previous	Next
<u>7th World Scout Jamboree</u>	<u>9th World Scout Jamboree</u>

Website
<http://wj55.org/>

put the camp back in shape. The Coca-Cola Company closed all its plants and sent its employees to assist in the reconstruction. The camp was almost back to its original state in three days, ready for the opening.^[3]

Jackson Dodds, the Jamboree Camp Chief, Vincent Massey, Governor-General and Chief Scout for Canada, Lady Baden Powell and Lord Rowallan, Chief Scout of the British Commonwealth and Empire attended the opening ceremonies.^[4]

The 50th Anniversary of the Jamboree was celebrated in September 2005 at which time a plaque^[5] commemorating the event was unveiled. The Niagara Parks Commission also planted a memorial oak tree.

See also

- World Scout Jamboree
- Scouting in Ontario

References

1. Walton, Mike (1999). "The World Crest Badge...(and why do we *all* wear it?)" (<http://web.archive.org/web/20070203102303/http://www.mninter.net/~blkeagle/crest.htm>). Archived from the original (<http://www.mninter.net/~blkeagle/crest.htm>) on 3 February 2007. Retrieved 21 December 2006.
2. Scouter Israel Valderrama bicycled from Columbia to attend. This exceptional accomplishment took him almost 16-months. He has written a book about his adventures and the kindness of people along the way.Jamborees History / World Jamboree / World Events / Events / Information & Events / Home - World Organization of the Scout Movement (https://www.scout.org/en/information_events/events/world_events/world_jamboree/jamborees_history) Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20070525000000/http://www.scout.org/en/information_events/events/world_events/world_jamboree/jamborees_history) May 25, 2007, at the Wayback Machine
3. Celebrating 90 Years of Scouting in Ontario, 2000, p.61
4. Jamboree Journal, August 20, 1955 Edition
5. "8th World Jamboree Mondal" (<http://wj55.org/graphics/wj55-plaque.jpeg>). Retrieved July 7, 2022.

External links

- 8th World Scout Jamboree 1955 Website (<http://wj55.org/>)
 - Jamboree Histories at Scout.org (https://web.archive.org/web/20070525110938/http://www.scout.org/en/information_events/events/world_events/world_jamboree/jamborees_history)
-

