



**Scouts**  
AUSTRALIA

# MEDIA RELEASE

## **Biggest ever Aussie contingent gearing up for once-in-a-lifetime trip to US for World Scout Jamboree 2019**

**692 Scouts from around Australia will take up almost three entire planes next week as they cross the Pacific Ocean for “most exciting event of the year”**

On 17 July, 692 members of Scouts Australia, including 527 Scouts aged 14 to 18, will be checking in at Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane airports ahead of a once in a lifetime trip to the US for the 47,000 strong World Scout Jamboree 2019.

To reach the biggest Scout gathering in the world, the Australian Scouts will be racking up a total of 28,200 flight hours between them, taking up almost the entire economy cabins of three Qantas planes on long-haul journeys to Washington DC via Los Angeles, New York and Dallas.

VIC and NSW will boast the biggest contingent with 240 and 233 respectively, as 119 members make the trip from QLD. SA is well-represented with 42 participants and 24 will travel from WA, with ACT, TAS and NT sending 19, 11 and 4 lucky members respectively.

Once Stateside, the biggest ever Australian contingent at a World Scout Jamboree will join up with around 47,000 other Scouts from 170 different countries around the world.

The Jamboree, running in West Virginia, US, from 22 July – 2 August, is an entirely youth-led, adult-supported event. Scouts will surround themselves in diverse international cultures by joining new friends from around the globe for 12 unforgettable days.

Phil Harrison, Chief Commissioner Scouts Australia explained: *“The World Scout Jamboree is one of the most exciting events in the calendar for any Scout.”*

*“This year’s theme ‘Unlock a New World’ is so fitting because our youths are getting the opportunity to literally unlock a world of possibilities.”*

*“Scouts will be presented with a range of age-appropriate challenges which they will need to work together to solve, developing real leadership and teamwork skills in the process while having a great time with friends new and old.”*

*“For our 692 members making the trip to the US, it’s a once in a lifetime opportunity for many to experience living away from home with different personalities for the first time.”*

Scouts Australia International Commissioner Aaron Wardle praised members for going to extreme lengths to make sure they didn’t miss out on the “international experience.”

Aaron said: *"It's an amazing opportunity for thousands of young people to mix with peers from up to 170 different countries to explore and learn important life skills and build confidence and resilience.*

*"Not every teenager in Australia gets to travel across the world with friends for 12 days of fun, so no one will be taking this for granted.*

*"It will be an amazing experience for all involved and credit goes to participants for working hard to make it happen, many of whom raised the money needed to make the dream a reality."*

Deputy Contingent Leader and Scouts NSW International Commissioner Lloyd Nurthen said the skills and life lessons that participants will develop at the World Scout Jamboree will be invaluable.

He added: *"Scouting taught me the foundations to life. It has given me the ability to think clearly and practically when approaching any situation as well as the ability to be organised.*

*"These skills are nurtured at events such as the World Scout Jamboree and they matter to our youth members. What they learn will help them become responsible citizens as members of their local, national and international communities."*

**--Ends--**

### **About World Scout Jamboree 2019**

This year marks the 24th World Scout Jamboree and will take place in West Virginia, US, from 22 July – 2 August. The jamboree experience extends beyond the home - and beyond the boundaries of our countries - to create a global adventure that will last a lifetime.

This year's theme, 'Unlock a New World', invites participants to unlock new adventures, new cultures, and new friendships. The theme was originally designed by youth representatives from the three host countries, the USA, Canada and Mexico.

Holding fast to the age-old traditions of conservation and outdoorsmanship, the Jamboree will embrace the growing trend of leadership development and global citizenship that the Movement has cultivated.

For more information visit <https://www.2019wsj.org/>

### **WSJ2019 in numbers**

692 – The number of Aussie participants – enough to fill more than 10 public buses.

Australian Scouts will make up a total of 28,200 flight hours – the equivalent of flying from Sydney to Perth 5,640 times.

47,000 people are expected at the World Scout Jamboree – enough to fill the Sydney Cricket Ground.

41 – The number of birthdays Australian members will celebrate while at the World Scout Jamboree.

363 - The number of different Scout Groups from Australia that will be represented.

The 2019 World Scout Jamboree is the first ever to be jointly hosted by three countries - Canada, USA and Mexico - and will be held at "The Summit" in West Virginia.

**Media:** For high resolution images or to organise an interview, please contact Ruairi Cotter on 0412687582