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Scouting the World Group (SWG)

Sunday, 3/7/2004

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Preliminaries

Sam Voight welcomed everyone and shared materials that he had received from the German consulate.

Everyone going to Germany will need to submit the following to Sam:

- A digital photo of themselves (you can put it on your resume)
- A resume/short letter of introduction of yourself (include: age, hobbies, language skills, likes, things you might like to do in Germany, the more the better!)

Group introduced themselves and updated their addresses, e-mails, etc. on a database that Sam Voight will keep.

Trip Overview

- German schools are in session until 7/28
- Anticipated arrival date for SWG is Friday, 7/23 (possibly before)
- Departure date is 8/7
- Four adults are going (Ray Kennedy Sr., Lois Glinski, Ben Glinski, Sam Voight)
- 8-10 scouts are going

Lars (our contact in Germany) sent some advice on planning our trip. Pointed out that smoking/drinking legal age in Germany is 16. Discussion ensued about whether boys will be allowed to drink at their host family's home (never when in public or at an "official" scouting event).

Scouts should plan to make contact with their host family in advance and exchange information. We will share that info when it become available.

Group brainstormed ideas of what they would like to do while in Germany:

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ➤ Autobahn | ➤ Art galleries | ➤ Sporting event |
| ➤ (Shopping) mall | ➤ Train trip | ➤ Hotel, hospital, high school tours |
| ➤ Churches | ➤ Hike in Alps | ➤ Black Forest |
| ➤ Glacier tour | ➤ International trade show | ➤ Camping |
| ➤ Brewery tour | ➤ War sites (Dacchau, Berlin Wall) | ➤ Concert, Play |
| ➤ Castles | ➤ BMW tour | ➤ Hoffbrau |
| ➤ Restaurant | | |
| ➤ Chocolate | | |

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At this time, Lars indicated, that group events in the works include a BBQ, river boat trip with the host families, the weekend with host families, a day at a German school, a trip independent of the host families.

Camping will be Friday, 7/30 through Friday, 8/6. U.S. Scouts should bring a sleeping bag, a mat/cushion and appropriate clothing. The German Scouts will provide tents.

Positions

There are a number of positions (youth and adult) that need to be filled. Sam Voight will be serving as "Scoutmaster" on the trip and will coordinate the dissemination of information in the coming months (via e-mail, website, phone tree). He called for volunteers for positions. Most were "filled"; some remain open. Individuals who would like to still volunteer for a position that someone else has volunteered for are encouraged to still volunteer as some jobs will have more work than others!

Youth Positions

SPL - Matt

Quartermaster - Kyle

Scribe - vacant

ASPL - David

Historian - Peter

Treasurer - Peter

Transportation Coord. - vacant

Librarian - Peter

Fundraising Coord. - vacant

Adult Positions

Scoutmaster - Sam Voight

Medical Coordinator - Kate/Sam on trip

Treasurer - Carol S.

Transportation Coord. - Lois/Kate/Diane

Fundraising Coord. - vacant (see later discussion)

Meal Coordinator - vacant

Each position should communicate information directly to Sam so he can share information with the entire group.

Timelines, Organization Venue, and Costs

Sam asked if anyone can **not** go during the dates indicated (7/23 or earlier through 8/7). Everyone indicated that they could "make" these dates.

The anticipated cost of the trip will be \$1300-\$1500; much is dependent upon flight costs. To help save some money, the group agreed to fly out of Minneapolis (individuals would be responsible to get themselves to the Minneapolis airport). The anticipated savings between

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flying from CWA vs. Minneapolis is approximately \$200. Sam checked flights from Minneapolis to Germany vs. from Chicago to Germany and costs were virtually identical.

As soon as Carol sets up the group's checking account, individuals will be asked to deposit the majority of the money (if they have not already done so). It is anticipated that we will need to book flights immediately to ensure reasonable costs and the group will need to at least put down a substantial deposit. (Three Scouts already have some funds that will be transferred from Pete Meyer's Crew account: Peter Glinski (\$300); Matt Dunlop (\$900); Kyle Reck (\$100).)

{There was a discussion about fundraising. No one indicated that they would be unable to attend without a major fundraising effort. At this time, the group decided it *might* do a couple small fundraisers, but that the effort/return would not be high enough to expend a great deal of effort. It was noted that Scouts could also apply to the Council for financial assistance for the trip.}

The group will travel as one "entity." Discussion ensued and the group will travel as a Venture Crew. Pete Meyer indicated that the contingent could be housed under his Venture Crew. Some travelers (from the previous year's anticipated group) are already cross-registered with the crew.

Individuals who do not already have a passport should request one as soon as possible. Information can be found at the U.S. State Department website (http://travel.state.gov/passport_services.html). Fees are \$85 for individuals 16 years of age and older; \$70 for individuals under the age of 16.

The group decided to have a T-shirt and polo shirt to wear on their trip (particularly when traveling). A design will be posted on the website for all to view. It is anticipated that cost will be *approximately* \$25 for both (Pete Meyer has an individual who will be able to do this for us at or just above "cost.")

The group will also want to present gifts to the German Scouts and their host families. Brainstorming produced the following ideas:

- Dutch oven
- Cranberries/craisins
- Chocolate (Snickers?)
- T-shirts
- Patches
- Scout Shirts
- Cheeseheads
- Scouting the World shirts
- Scout Hats
- Other items that Samoset Council might provide?

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At a future meeting, the group will create "Code of Conduct."

Scouts and adult participants will need to have a Boy Scout Health Form (Class III) completed prior to the trip (physicals must be within one year of the trip). Contact your troop's "paper master" for a form or print one off the national BSA website (<http://www.scouting.org/forms/33412.pdf>).

The Scouts also briefly discussed attending summer camp as a provisional patrol at Tesomas during one of the earlier camp sessions (most of the boys will miss their troop's camping session – sessions 6, 7, or 8). Sam Voight will contact Kevin Weyenberg (council rep) about this possibility.

Sam alerted the trip participants that they should "allow time" during the trip:

- Do NOT fill every moment; allow some things to "happen"
- To Visit with host families as a group and visit with host families one-on-one
- For shopping (buddy system!)
- For sightseeing
- For journaling, postards home, etc.
- For obtaining tickets, exchanging dollars (there is a VISA cash card available for interested individuals:
http://www.usa.visa.com/personal/cards/visa_gift.html?it=h2_/index.html)
- For meals
- For REST
- For laundry
- For communicating on the trip itinerary – both Scouts and families back home in the States
- For customs processing
- For taking pictures (will put pictures on website that Sam V. has developed at the end of trip)

Other things that participants should be thinking about now are:

- Health insurance coverage – Check with your company and get the procedure for treatments or emergencies abroad.
- Prescription medication handling (and non Rx medicines)
- Putting together a personal and/or troop travel medicine kit

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Sam will be communicating with Lars some of our questions:

- How do we get train passes (and how much do they cost)?
- What is in season, sports-wise?
- What are our times for some of the things we've indicated an interest in?
- Where are we camping? What will we be doing there?
- Are there any anticipated weather anomalies (e.g., last year's floods)?

Sam shared a website that contains advice for Scouts traveling, particularly to Europe:

<http://www.msu.edu/~rasche/scout/trp180/travel.htm>

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, April 25, 2004, 12:30 p.m. (same location),

Troop 385 will be hosting a Pancake Breakfast from 8am – Noon at the Eagles Club that morning and all are invited. It might be a nice way to share a meal together before the meeting. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for ages 5–12, under 5 years old are free. If you are interested, let Sam know and the troop will set a table for us.