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Scouts join major jamboree event

Hundreds of Scouts from across the globe have gathered for a major event in Perthshire.

The 30th Scottish International Patrol Jamboree is taking place at Blair Castle, Blair Atholl, until 28 July.

More than 1,000 Scouts and leaders are attending the event, with participants travelling from many different countries.

They include Austria, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Iceland, Japan, Norway, Russia and the US.

International opportunities

The activities on offer include abseiling, rafting, mountain biking and archery.

John Kennedy, the area commissioner for the city of Edinburgh, is in charge of the camp.

He said he had been involved in scouting since he was a Cub.

"I experienced a lot as a youngster in the Scouts. I got lots of international opportunities and chances to be out and about through scouting that I would not have been able to do otherwise."

Thousands of children and young people are queuing up to join the Brownies, Guides and Scouts across Scotland.



There are long waiting lists to join the Scouts

“ They are grateful for what we offer but if parents want the resource they need to give a little of their time as well ”

Liz Pitcairn

However, they have become stuck on ever-growing waiting lists because there is a shortage of adults to run the groups.

The queue to join the Brownies or Guides is almost 5,000 long, while 2,000 people are waiting to join the Cubs or Scouts.

Chief Commissioner of Girlguiding Scotland, Liz Pitcairn, said guiding was as popular now as it was 100 years ago.

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She said parents needed to make more of an effort to get involved.

"If parents could give just an hour a month that would make a huge difference," she said. "I think, sadly, parents sometimes just drop the girls at the door, then pick them up later.

"They are grateful for what we offer but if parents want the resource they need to give a little of their time as well."

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