



**SCOUTS**<sup>®</sup>  
Creating a Better World

World Organization of the Scout Movement  
Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout  
Всемирная Организация Скаутского Движения  
Organización Mundial del Movimiento Scout  
المنظمة العالمية للحركة الكشفية

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To:  
National Amateur Radio Associations

C.C.:  
National JOTA-JOTI Coordinators (NJC's)

22 September 2020

**Re: Invitation to Jamboree On The Air 2020**

Dear National Amateur Radio Association,

Each year many members of your Association support the annual Jamboree-on-the-Air, JOTA for short. It is an excellent opportunity to involve youngsters into the world of radio connections and offer them new experiences.

The pandemic of COVID-19 has led to unprecedented measures in almost any country. Luckily, the JOTA-JOTI event will not be affected as much as other events, as you can take part from any location, any time during the weekend, with any number of persons while observing local restrictions. Our Scout groups around the world have taken precautions to offer a safe environment to radio amateurs supporting them in the JOTA event.

Therefore we would like to cordially invite your members to enjoy the upcoming JOTA event together with our Scouts. Specific information for preparing to join JOTA through amateur radio including the World Scout frequencies for the weekend are already available on the event website [www.jotajoti.info/jota](http://www.jotajoti.info/jota).

We all look forward to a joyful and fun weekend during these stressful times, and if you have any further questions, please contact Eric Takiy ([eric.takiy@scout.org](mailto:eric.takiy@scout.org)), Junior Manager, World Events at the World Scout Bureau.

Thank you for your kind support.

**Jacob Murray**  
Director, World Events  
World Scout Bureau

Enclosed: JOTA event details.

### **WHAT IS WOSM?**

The World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) is one of the world's leading educational youth movements, engaging millions of young people around the world to be active citizens and create positive change in their communities. Founded by Lord Baden-Powell in 1907, WOSM is a federation of 171 National Scout Organizations in a network of over 54 million Scouts in at least 224 countries and territories worldwide. The organization is headquartered in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

### **WHAT IS THE JAMBOREE-ON-THE-AIR?**

The JOTA is an annual WOSM event in which Scouts and Guides all over the world make contacts with each other by means of amateur radio. Short-wave radio signals carry their voices to virtually any corner of the world. It's the sheer excitement of having a live conversation with a fellow Scout or Guide at some other place in the world that attracts so many youngsters to this event. JOTA is a real Jamboree during which Scouting experiences are exchanged and ideas are shared.

The use of amateur-radio techniques offers an extra educational dimension for Scouts. Many grasp the opportunity to discover the world of wireless radio techniques and electronics. Thousands of volunteer radio amateurs assist the Scouts over the JOTA weekend with their knowledge, equipment and enthusiasm.

### **When is it?**

The JOTA 2020 starts at 00:00 h *local* time on 16 October 2020 and runs up to 23:59 h *local* time on 18 October. Note that details for use of special radio licences, operating times and allowance for Scouts to use radio transmitters may vary per country.

### **How to take part?**

Most Scout Associations have appointed a National JOTA-JOTI Coordinator (NJC), who co-ordinates activities for his Association and liaises with Amateur Radio Organizations in his country. Contact a local Scout group or the National Scout headquarters in your country to get involved.



### **SPECIAL ADVICE FOR COVID-19 MEASURES**

Scout groups have special attention for measures against the spread of Covid-19. In particular to make JOTA safe for participating and supporting radio-amateurs. Several WOSM Associations have specific mandatory protocols for Scout gatherings. These include in particular:

#### **Social distancing:**

Radio signals can bridge thousands of kilometres on the globe. So certainly, they can deal with 1.5 or 2 m distance at your local station. Install a microphone lead of 2 meters or more, so Scouts can keep a distance from the operator. Alternatively, you can use wireless microphones on e.g. Bluetooth, or even separate walky-talkies to get your audio to your radio transmitter.

You may also place radio stations outdoors, at a Scout camp e.g., where there is ample space to keep distances. And radio amateurs will love the space to set up huge antennas.

#### **Hygiene:**

Extra cleaning at your station, in particular of microphones, keyboards etc used by more than one person. You can place transparent screens between participants and / or radio operators. Scout groups will envisage additional measures for food and drinks at your radio station.

#### **Activities:**

Several fun activities can be offered to Scouts almost unchanged. E.g. a Morse code game with stations in separated rooms connected by wire, or foxhunting where individual Scouts try to locate small transmitters hidden outside in the field.

Scout groups are creative and focus on what is possible and safe to do. Ask your local group for details.

### **WORLD SCOUT FREQUENCIES**

Any radio frequency and operating mode authorised by the national amateur-radio regulations may be used. It is recommended that stations use the agreed World Scout Frequencies or frequencies nearby to easily find each other.

Scout Frequencies are chosen in a segment where low-power, simple stations are transmitting. This allows Scouts to operate such stations from camp sites and still be able to communicate with others.

<b>band</b>	<b>phone (MHz)</b>	<b>cw (MHz)</b>	<b>band</b>	<b>phone (MHz)</b>	<b>cw (MHz)</b>
80 m	3.690 & 3.940	3.570	15 m	21.360	21.140
40 m	7.090 & 7.190	7.030	12 m	24.960	24.910
20 m	14.290	14.060	10 m	28.390	28.180
17 m	18.140	18.080	6 m	50.160	50.160

### **9M4S, WOSM'S VOICE ON THE AIR**

The amateur radio station of the World Scout Bureau the international headquarters of WOSM, has a unique call sign and will be active during the full JOTA weekend with the Bureau's call sign 9M4S. Directly from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. QSL direct or via bureau.

### **ECHOLINK MAKES RADIO-WAVES TRAVEL OVER THE INTERNET**

If you have an internet connection available at your radio station, we recommend you use the Echolink system. Its main advantage is that Echolink allows you to make radio contacts over very large distances, regardless of the radio propagation conditions, using even small handheld radios. There is a main conference node on Echolink where Scout stations meet: JOTA-365.

Registration with [www.Echolink.org](http://www.Echolink.org) is advised before 1 October if you intend to use it for JOTA.

### **THE GERMAN WAG CONTEST**

Germany runs a contest during parts of the JOTA weekend. The organizers of this WAG contest kindly limit the use of amateur radio frequencies in such a way that it allows both events to operate in parallel without interference. Observe the "contest-free zone", details at <https://www.darc.de/der-club/referate/conteste/worked-all-germany-contest/en/rules/>.