



## GOOSE NETWORK 2008

<http://www.goosenetwork.org/>

### **Mission Statement:**

We aim to improve the quality of environmental, nature and cultural activities at European Scout and Guide Centers by sharing ideas, activities and information.

The network was initiated during the 7th European Scout and Guide Centre Managers Conference at Rieneck, and it is closely linked to this conference. Centers that are part of the network have an interest in environmental, nature and cultural activities.

Membership is not based on size, location, facilities etc., but solely on interest in the above-mentioned fields. Membership is free, but each centre is required to contribute to the "Goose Game" with one specific activity and a presentation of their centre, in accordance with the current game requirements.

### **Structure:**

All participating centres should confirm their on-going membership for the next year, by responding before 1th of October each year to the present co-ordinating centre of the network, mama or papa Goose.

It is required that each centre or its staff members has strong relations to a national association which is a member of either WOSM or WAGGGS.

The network meets once a year at either the European Scout and Guide Centre Managers Conference or at a member centre. The aim of the meeting is

- to make decisions about the future and aim of the network
- to evaluate the past years activities.
- venue for the next meeting
- setting goals for the coming years for the 3 main tasks:
  1. Exchange ideas through the data base with nature and environmental games, main goal is to exchange good ideas and experience.
  2. Exchange camp staff volunteers, main goal is the personal contact and experience.
  3. The annual Camp staff Seminar, main goal is to develop new ways of scouting, and establish long lasting personal contacts.

Every year we elect an exchange coordinator and also a hosting centre for the camp staff seminar at Easter

Every two year we elect the coordinating centre for the two next years, (mama or papa Goose).

2002-2004 Torben Stenstrup (DK), 2004-2008 Ingeborg van Dijk (NL), 2008-2010 Mark Knippenberg (CH)

The coordinating centre is elected for one year and can be reelected for another year. This mama or papa Goose is responsible for coordinating the network, distributing information within the network, organizing the next conference together with the host centre and delegating the necessary tasks.

Communication within the network is in English - this is not to exclude non-English-speaking centers, but to simplify communication among the centers.

We want to work as low budget as possible: using the e-mail instead of paperwork, hosting the meetings every time an other centre.

Centers interested in becoming members of the network have to contact one of the member centers which will put them in contact with the current coordinating centre.

We think 16-20 members is a good number of members for our network.

### **About the games:**

#### **First a short history:**

The last weekend of October 2002 9 scout centers from 7 different countries came together at a conference on program activities concerning nature and environment. The participants of the conference wanted to have a shared activity on nature

and the environment combined with an exchange of activities and ideas. These two concepts evolved into the idea of a backpack with an activity from each of the participating centres.

#### **Goal:**

First of all we want to improve the nature and environment activities for Scouts and Guides. Second, we want to provide an international experience by showing that Scouts and Guides in other parts of Europe are doing the same activities. In addition, it is a good way to promote the participating centres in Europe.

#### **Method:**

Till 2006 we worked with a backpack containing as many activities as there are participating centres. Each centre contributes with an activity description and a page with information and pictures of the centre in English and the original language. Later we decided to make a database on the website.

#### **Activity criteria**

- nature and environment activity, easy to understand and in simple language, as little material as possible, available everywhere, preferably for all ages or easily adaptable, age and duration indicated and with a material list

#### **In October 2007 we took another decision:**

We just make ONE game with the same criteria, (including information about the network), that we renew every year. One Goose-game- of -the-year. We want to give guests an international feeling, by playing this game. Others are playing this game other places all over Europe.

Information about the network should be a part of the game - or around it. A poster about the Goose network (with 3 lines about every goose-center and a picture) next to the Goose Game. A short description about the goose-network to the staff-members that introduces the Goose Game. Information about other centres in Europe (maybe they want to go travel next year). We hope that we realized this in 2008.

#### **About the badge:**

To sell or give away at the campsite, camp staff people can wear it, we can use it as a prize in the Goose Game. It's a reason to tell about the network. We all have different badges, similar, but a little different from each other. And people can try to collect as many as possible. We hope that we realized this in 2008.

New badges necessary? Contact Ingelsrud (Norway)

#### **About the Campstaff seminar:**

##### **Objectives:**

- To create a new partnership/network directly between young people dedicated to work with the development of our centres.
- To promote the Youth programme between the participants with focus on exchange of voluntary staff members, networking and future seminars on topics of common interest.
- To share ideas on activities, methods and thereby to open the possibility of improving the quality of our projects.
- To concentrate on personal development (skills, knowledge)

##### **Beneficiaries:**

The participants (voluntary staff members by preference between 18 and 26) from the involved scout centres will first of all get a personal experience and hopefully develop themselves from that (intellectually, mutual understanding of the European Region, future labour market experiences etc.) Secondly the centres represented by the voluntary staff participants will benefit from the seminar, as they will get back happy, encouraged staff members, who have new ideas adopted from the other participants. Committed staff members create excellent scout centres and a quality experience to scouts and non-scouts visiting their centres all over Europe.

#### **About the staff-exchange:**

The idea is that a Camp staff member of a Scout Centre (lets say no.1) goes for one week to another Scout centre and meet at least one staff member of the guest centre who works there during this week (lets say no.2). And then staff member 2 goes for one week to the scout centre of staff member 1 during a week that no.1 is working there.

It's a personal exchange, because we are hoping for a long lasting connection. It's free. Only the travel cost, and some centres decide whether to cover the travel-costs.

#### **Important dates:**

- Annual Goose Network Campstaff Seminar at Easter (2010 in Rotterdam (NL))
- Campstaff Exchange, when possible during the year, different for each centre. (Coordinator Stine at Houens Odde)
- International Centre day every year in July, 2010 organized by KISC (?)
- Centre Managers Conference every two years in October, with Goose Network-meeting the afternoon/ evening before. (2010 Zelhoff (AU))
- Goose Network Centre managers meeting the other year in September/ October at one of the centres (2011)