

## **Essex International 2027 FAQs – January 2026 Update – WSJ Poland**

Some older questions about the application form and selection process have now been removed and updated with questions that have arisen at the Welcome Gathering on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

### **General Questions & Updates**

On 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026, all young people received an envelope containing details of the first payment, including its deadline. All monies will be paid into the County bank account using the unique reference code as outline in the letter. Each unit has a finance lead who will make contact in the first instance if a payment is missed.

Please make sure that if you have a problem with making a payment that you inform your unit leader as soon as possible. We want to support and help you but we can only do this if we know your situation.

We encourage you to begin thinking about fundraising and contact your groups and districts in the first instance to see how they can support. If you are having financial difficulties some districts will have funds to help support so these expeditions can remain open to all. County also has a support fund if these first steps do not help.

There is a fundraising document which will be published shortly including over 100 ideas of how to fundraise for your trip. There is important information to read in there about the rules of fundraising – participants need to keep a record of where fundraising monies have come from, including any grants/sponsorships they may have received. This is so that if a participant withdraws the money can be returned to the donor.

#### **1. If we raise £100, can we claim gift aid?**

Check the rules in the fundraising document when it is published and talk to groups and districts. The likelihood is that this would not be allowed if it is for the benefit of an individual only.

## **Past Questions from Selection Weekends:**

### **1. When will the dates for the training weekends be released?**

There will be at least 3 weekends and this is the chance for the young people and adults to get to know each other, build bonds with their patrol and upskill where necessary to help prepare for the expedition.

It is imperative that you keep these weekends free for your young person to attend. The dates will aim to avoid GCSE/A-Level exams and County events.

Unit leaders will be in touch via email in the next week or so to share the dates so these can be put on calendars.

### **2. What is the schedule for payments and where will it be paid to?**

All money for the expeditions will be paid into the county bank account. You will be allocated a unique code to use as your reference when paying.

For World Scout Jamboree, the monies will then be passed to HQ for the jamboree fees. The payments will be split into HQ fees and Essex Levy. The Essex Levy covers the cost of the training weekends and any equipment needed for the expedition.

A payment schedule will come out in the next couple of months. Please remember to be on time with making the payments. If there is an issue, it is important you let us know so we can support if necessary. Scouting is inclusive and we do not want cost to be the reason a young person cannot attend one of these expeditions.

If you need financial support, contact groups and districts in the first instance. There is also an inclusivity fund.

As part of the trip, young people are expected to fundraise at least 30% of the fees. A fundraising guide is currently being finalised with past and new ideas of how to make the most of fundraising opportunities. It also outlines the rules around this which need to be followed with any fundraising that takes place.

**UPDATE AS OF JANUARY 2026:** Young people now have a document outlining the first payment and deadline along with their reference code.

### 3. Will we have a kit list?

There will be a kit list but it will be nothing out of the ordinary. Any specialist equipment will be provided as part of the expedition fee.

A pack of equipment will be provided and is likely to include:

- Roller Bag
- Day Sac
- Zoodie
- Polo Shirt
- Neckerchief
- Woggle
- Water Bottle

### 4. When will the final costings be released?

The World Scout Jamboree fee will be fixed – set by HQ and a little bit on top to cover preparation weekends.

**UPDATE AS OF JANUARY 2026:** Details received at welcome gathering share an outline of the projected costs. Much is dependent on cost of flights which cannot be obtained until much closer to the time.

## 5. A note on uniform

Uniform is important when travelling abroad. We will not just be representing Essex but the United Kingdom Scouts as a whole. We will be strong on the smartness of uniform. It makes us presentable but also means we can easily catch sight of those in the group when travelling through the airport for example. We will make it clear what is required – for example, activity trousers or activity shorts should be worn.

## World Scout Jamboree Specifics

All young people know their unit as of 25<sup>th</sup> January welcome event. They were given lots of information which will be shared with parents via email in the week that follows (including information about preparation weekends).

Social media is being setup for the two units including Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram and TikTok.

Online Scout Manager (OSM) has been setup for the unit. Unit leaders have set the participants as the primary contact so they will be first to receive communication. The secondary contact is the parent listed first in contact details – if the second parent would like to be added they can be as an emergency contact. Please do not change the young person from being the primary contact.

## 1. When will we get details of the training camps?

This will be via email within the next week or two. The first training camp will be 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026. More details to follow.

The two World Scout Jamboree units will be together for first weekend and then will begin to separate.

## **2. How long is the World Scout Jamboree expedition?**

The jamboree is 10 – 12 days long. We will need to account for travel arrangements either side of this so you will need to allocate 2 weeks for the trip.

We are waiting for HQ to confirm official dates of when we the units will leave and return to the UK.

You can find various pieces of information about the jamboree here:

<https://www.jamboree2027.org/>

## **3. How many leaders on the expedition?**

There are 72 young people and 8 leaders. UK HQ set number of leaders.

It is imperative that if you have any concerns or worries that you contact your unit leaders using the details given on the letter from the Welcome Gathering. They will be able to help you as long as they know you need it!

In the case you are not satisfied with the response, you can contact Graham Monk on [international@essexscouts.org.uk](mailto:international@essexscouts.org.uk) .