

Scouts from Stavanger, Norway



The Norwegian Guide and Scout Association

The Norwegian Guide and Scout Association is an ideal organization based on teaching children, youth and adults the fundamentals of responsibility taking, accepting challenges, new experiences and personal development. "Learning by doing" and leader training are important elements of the movement. Other important elements are outdoor activities, friendship, practical knowledge and improved quality of life. For more information, visit the Norwegian Scouting website, <http://www.scout.no>.

The 16 scouts and four adults traveling to Houston represent 8 different troops in the Stavanger area. In Stavanger, we have more than 2000 scouts. With plenty of high level activities, we probably are the most active group in Norway. Our group has been active for more than 90 years.

We have a lot of various activities for scouts of all ages. In addition, we offer 24-hour camping for non-scouts. This is a popular activity which we operate in cooperation with a local TV-Station. We have a lot of attention amongst the youth. Since we live on the coast, we naturally participate in marine activities.

We really appreciate international connections and have partnerships in several countries. This year we send scouts to different camps in United Kingdom and Scotland.

We are excited to be part of the Houston/Galveston–Stavanger Sister City Society Exchange Program and are looking forward to visiting Texas.

STAVANGER SCOUTS VISIT HOUSTON / GALVESTON

As a part of the "Stavanger in Texas" celebration and exchange program for 2004, with the Houston-Galveston/Stavanger Sister City Society, members of the **MADLA SPEIDERGRUPPE** (Madla Scout Group) will participate in several activities with members of the Sam Houston Area Council, Boy Scouts of America. A visit and camping at El Rancho Cima near San Marcos, Texas as well as enjoying home stays with families from the Woodlands, Spring, Pearland, and Houston are part of their program. They will present a program to the Brenham Rotary Club and visit the Blue Bell Creamery. During their stay, the Scouts and leaders will visit Space Center Houston, Cockrell Service Center of the Boy Scouts of America, and tour downtown Houston. Visits to several Scout functions will be part of their scheduled activities.

The Scouts: Christine D. Jacobsen
Hilde Jensen
Renate Mathiassen
Kjersti Nedreskar
Mari Sakkestad
Ida Selvikvaag
Eirik Fister
Knud Patrick Frost

Halvor Halderson
Eirik Hegreberg
Martin Knoop
Jonas Meling
Tarjei Lastad Sandnes
Andreas Terjesen
Jørgen Thorsen
Andreas Ovstebo

Leaders: Tor Inge Berge
Tor Einar Handeland

Helge Gabrielsen
Ingunn Andersen

Scouting in Norway



“Vær beredt (Ver budd)” ... “Be Prepared”

Membership: 21,000 members are organized in over 650 local groups spread over 32 districts. Scout troops include BOTH boys and girls. The structure is divided into age-groups as follows:

- Beavers: pre-school children
- Cubs/Brownies: 7 – 10 years of age
- Scouts/Guides in troop: 10 – 16 years of age
- Rovers: 16 years or older

Activities: Scouting offers a wide spectrum of activities, short trips and gatherings in the local community, and challenges such as rafting and climbing. Through activities in the outdoors our members gain knowledge about the nature and healthy views on environmental issues. Our training program takes into consideration the age and skill of each individual scout, thus giving each scout/guide the best opportunity to succeed.

The objectives of The Norwegian Guide and Scout Associations: The Guide and Scout Association shall help its members become independent and responsible human beings by:

- Offering a training program that emphasizes outdoor life, social commitment, international understanding and experience of the scouting ideals.
- Giving them responsibility and the feeling of being heard.
- Helping them develop a lasting faith in God.

Madla Scout Group: In 2000, the March 8th Aftenblad newspaper reported that the Madla scout troop was the largest in Norway: 256 members, 30 on the waiting list, and 51 active leaders. As one patrol leader said, “As a Scout, you learn much more than tying knots. You learn to take on responsibility. You draw on trips in nature, learn first aid (see photo above), and much more. Even when you leave Scouting, you take your experiences with you, and have learned many things that are useful later in life.” By focusing on the quality of the Scouting experience, and also making it fun, Madla has earned respect in the community, and enhanced the lives of many young adults in this suburb of Stavanger.