

Dear Richard,

Sending our warmest greetings from all of us at the Scouts. As we are drawing closer to the end of the year, we wanted to take a moment to share the heart warming impact your support has had on Scouts and how your generosity has enabled us to continue the journey of bettering young people's lives.

### UK Scouts return from World Scout Jamboree

A couple of months ago, we joyfully welcomed back our 4,500 young Scouts who returned from the 25<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree in Korea.

We faced some challenges, such as relocating the UK Contingent from SaeManGeum to hotels in Seoul. However, the UK Embassy, staff and volunteers all worked together to develop an exciting programme of activities so our young people could get the most from their experience in Korea. This included visits to palaces and temples, sporting events, cultural events and venturing to tourist sites. Young people also got to share experiences with Scouts from other countries.

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> of August, all 45,000 international Scouts attending the Jamboree came back together for the closing ceremony in Seoul's World Cup Stadium. Our Scouts then travelled home as originally planned on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> of August. Despite this not being the jamboree we were expecting, many of the young people still had a positive experience.



### Squirrels fly past milestone of 1,000 Dreys

In October we celebrated the second anniversary of the launch of Squirrels across the UK. We're so pleased to report that 1,243 Squirrel Dreys are now open, supporting over 11,000 children. We're particularly pleased that nearly 45% of these Dreys are in lower income neighbourhoods. Working with Save the Children, we've given 'Squirrel Scholarships' to those struggling to attend for financial reasons, covering costs for the two years they're in Squirrels, opening access to even more young people. We are also excited to be developing a Space Badge for Squirrels in partnership with the UK Space Agency.

### Award winning success

We were delighted that The Big Help Out was recognised as Charity Collaboration of the Year in the Charity Times Awards 2023. A huge thank you once again to HRH The Princess of Wales and her family who played such a central role, leading the renovation of the Scout Headquarters in Slough and championing the national day of volunteering. As you'll recall over 7.2 million people stepped up to volunteer across the week. The Big Help Out is set to return in 2024 and we'll share dates with you as soon as they're agreed. We were also incredibly proud that our Scouts won Volunteer Team of the Year in the Third Sector Awards 2023 for their role supporting the Lying-In-State of Her Late Majesty, The Queen. We were especially pleased that several of the young people who supported this were able to accept the award. I'm sure you'll agree, it was a fitting recognition for such



important public service.

## Celebrating the Chief Scout's Unsung Heroes 2023

On Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> of December, the recipients and their families got together at the Bear Grylls Adventure at Birmingham NEC. They were recognised personally by Chief Scout Bear Grylls for their achievements.

Ranging in age from 5 to 23, these amazing young people earned their awards for a variety of skills and endeavours. Whether they fundraised, used their emergency aid skills, or showed incredible resilience. Our Unsung Heroes received a £500 prize, funded by Bear himself, along with a certificate, Never Give Up badge, neckerchief and copy of Bear's new book – Do Your Best: How to be a Scout. These young people have truly gone above and beyond, showing our values and making amazing contributions to Scouts, their families and communities.

11-year-old Ernest has Achondroplasia (Dwarfism), but he's never once let that stop him. He's amazingly brave, resilient, and determined. To celebrate Chinese Lunar New Year, he brought his Section red envelopes with chocolate coins so they could all celebrate together. He considers Scouts to be an extension of his family and he inspires everyone.



Chief Scout Bear Grylls with Unsung Hero, Ernest

## Scouts! The Musical

One of the most colourful highlights of the summer was Scouts! The Musical, staged at the Other Palace Theatre in London's West End. Featuring an all singing, all dancing cast, it told a story of courage and resilience at the the 'Scout Games.' Chief Scout, Bear Grylls, attended one of the performances to thank the cast. It gained a slew of five star reviews and it's possible it'll make a comeback at some pont in the future. We are also excited to announce that the Musical has been shortlisted for Best Off-West End Production.



This Year has come and gone but the impact of your support will resonate forever. We are excited about the journey ahead and grateful to have you as vital part of our community.

Please do reach out to us at [mark.conway@scouts.org.uk](mailto:mark.conway@scouts.org.uk) if you have any questions or wish to discuss our initiatives further.

Once again, thank you for all you generosity and support. Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Many Thanks,

The Scouts Team