



Scouts return from a once in a lifetime trip to Germany, Denmark

Recently, a co-ed contingent of youth and adult members of the Greater Niagara Frontier Council (GNFC), Boy Scouts of America (BSA), and their counterparts from neighboring Iroquois Trail Council (ITC), BSA, returned from a 16-day trip to Germany and Denmark.

Fourteen Scouts and adult leaders from GNFC Troop 833 (Adams Volunteer Fire Company, Wheatfield), Troop 539 (Kenmore Presbyterian Church), and Venture Scout Crew 286 (Brighton Community Church) were joined by 10 members of ITC Troop 8 (Cambria Volunteer Fire Company) for the overseas adventure.

David Greinert, Troop 833 Scoutmaster, said the scouts told their leaders "the trip was a cool adventure and a once in a lifetime trip" one they "will never forget it."

Using Stevninghus International Scout Center in Denmark as a base for much of the trip, the American Scouts encamped and toured with their hosts from the

German Ring Evangelischer Gemeindepfadfinder (REGP) Scout Association.

Guides from the REGP led tours to the city of Sonderborg, in Denmark, and to Lübeck, Flensburg, Schleswig, Harrislee, Sterup, Brokstedt, Berlin and Hamburg, in Germany. The first night in Europe was spent encamped on the North Sea island of Hallig Oland (Germany), which is located in the Wattenmeer World Heritage Site (Wadden Sea National Park).

The American contingent was also able to meet, encamp and interact with Scouts from India, Luxemburg, two different Scout associations from Germany, and the international camp staff at Stevninghus.

Greinert said highlights of the trip included "walking across the North Sea at low tide from Hallig Oland to the main land; having dinner with scouts from India, Luxemburg, and the two different scout associations from Germany; and our trip to Berlin."

To help ensure the safety of the Scouts, the American group registered the trip in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program of U.S. Department of State.

Pre-trip cultural heritage preparations were enhanced through the assistance of members from Das Haus Museum in Bergholz, and the Historical Society of North German Settlements in Western New York.

The Polaris District of the Greater Niagara Frontier Council, and Boy Scout Troop 833, joined with members of Das Haus Museum and the Historical Society of North German Settlements in Western New York for a community open house on Sept. 8 at Adams Volunteer Fire Company, 7113 Nash Road, in the Town of Wheatfield.

There was multimedia displays and many pictures of the trip, with participants on hand to answer questions about the journey and the various programs of the Boy Scouts of America.

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In addition, several leaders of the Ring Evangelischer Gemeindepfadfinder Scout Association from Harrislee, Germany, were in attendance. Information about Das Haus Museum and the Historical Society of North German Settlements in Western New York was also available.

Greinert said he believes what will be most memorable for the scouts will be "the friends the scouts made from their trip. They are still in contact with the scouts from Germany and India."

For more information, contact Dave Greinert (716) 550-0721, Scoutmaster of Troop 833.

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