

International Connections Policy



The Vision

WINGS 2020 is an international jamboree that aims to offer all Scouting and Girl Guiding participants an experience they will never forget. Our main goal as organisers is to ensure that each and every participant enjoys a well organised, welcoming and safe event. All policies for WINGS 2020 are implemented with this vision in mind.

The Rationale

This policy has been written to clarify the support we can offer to our international guests and also to safeguard us as an event team.

Terms used within the Policy

International Connections Team: A group of WINGS 2020 volunteers providing support for our international guests.

International Guests: Individuals (volunteers) or groups of young members with the relevant adult Leaders attending WINGS 2020 from outside of the UK.

Member Organisation (MO): The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) is the global Guiding organisation. The Member Organisations are country specific organisations that belong to WAGGGS. Girlguiding is the UK's MO.

National Scout Organisation (NSO): The World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM) is the global Scouting organisation. The National Scout Organisations are country specific organisations that belong to WOSM. The Scout Association UK is the UK's NSO.

Home country: The country in which the International Guests live.

HoHo: This stands for Home Hospitality and applies to families of the members of a UK unit who offer space within their homes for international guests to stay with them.

The Policy

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Who is invited to attend WINGS 2020?

All international guests must belong to an MO or NSO and have the backing of that organisation to attend WINGS 2020. The International Connections team will be checking this with the relevant MO or NSO for all international guests.

Any international guests over the age of 18 years at the start of the camp (25 July 2020) will need to have completed the relevant recruitment checks for their MO or NSO.

The WINGS 2020 International Connections team will support all international guests to the best of their ability, however responsibility to ensure that all Guiding/Scouting rules are adhered to as well as the law, both within the UK and the home country, remains with the international guests.

Supporting Visa Applications:

Most international guests can obtain a Standard Visitor visa to visit the UK. International guests need to apply for these in good time to ensure they are in place prior to travel.

Our international guests should visit the UK government website for full details: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-standard-visitor-visa>

Girlguiding Royal Berkshire and Berkshire Scouts, as well as Girlguiding and The Scout Association UK, have no influence in the outcome of visa decisions. We are only able to support applications and cannot guarantee they will be approved.

When we issue a visa support letter, we are only able to confirm your invitation to the WINGS 2020 camp from 25 July to 1 August 2020. We are not able to include details of anything outside of the camp dates, other than including details of your flights.

All documentation sent by the International Connections team in support of a visa application will be sent in pdf format, including a signature of the Deputy Camp Leader with international responsibility. This is to ensure that documents cannot be tampered with once they have left the WINGS 2020 team.

All correspondence sent in relation to supporting a visa application will also be copied to the relevant MO or NSO.

When you receive your visa, international guests should check to see whether there is a requirement to register with the local Police force on arrival into the UK. If you do need to register with the police on arrival in the UK, it will be written on your entry visa document and will state 'Pol reg', 'Police Registration' or 'Register with Police within 7 days of UK entry'. If this is the case then please let our International Connections team know and we can provide further support in this area.

Insurance

We strongly recommend that our international guests take out insurance for their entire visit to the UK. This may include additional sightseeing outside the WINGS 2020 camp dates. This should cover the individual or group for eventualities such as cancellation of your trip, medical cover in case you fall ill or have an accident whilst in the UK, etc. This should be organised in your home country prior to travel and your MOs or NSOs may have a recommended provider.

Please refer to our Terms & Conditions of booking for full details of WINGS 2020 cancellation information.

Matching international guests with UK units

Where possible, the International Connections team will match up units from the UK who wish to share their WINGS 2020 experience with a group of international guests. To be considered for this matching process, you will need to consent to your group Leader's name and email address being shared with the group Leader from the UK unit.

It may be possible for your UK matched unit to offer HoHo, however the Guiding and Scouting rules surrounding this have become tighter in line with Safeguarding policies so very few units offer this. If your visit to the UK also includes additional sightseeing days then the International Connections team will try and help you identify suitable accommodation and transport information, however this would all need to be booked and paid for by the international guests.

Unexplained Absence from WINGS 2020

We understand that sometimes plans need to change because of unforeseen circumstances. Therefore, if for any reason your group will not be arriving at WINGS 2020 (or to your designated shuttle collection point if arranged) at the expected time then it is essential that you/your group Leader gets in touch with the camp to let us know. Similarly, if you/your group decide to leave the camp for any reason, we need to be made aware of where you are intending to go and when you are intending to arrive back at camp. A telephone number will be made available to all guests nearer the time.

- *Failure to arrive at camp:* If any of our international guests do not arrive at camp without making contact to tell us of delays to their travel arrangements, the International Connections team will report this to the Police.

For groups travelling to the UK on the first day of camp, our International Connections team will keep an eye on flight information using online data as we appreciate that if there are delays with your flights and you are in the air, you will not be able to let us know, but please get in touch as soon as possible after landing to confirm your expected arrival time. The International Connections team will also endeavour to rearrange any shuttle booking but we cannot guarantee this will be possible.

If you have not arrived at camp or your shuttle pick up point, we have not found any information about delays to your flight and no communication has been made, we will contact the Police 6 hours after your expected arrival time.

- *Abscension from camp:* If any of our international guests wish to leave the camp, they will need to check out at one of the entry/exit points so that we know who is onsite for fire regulations. However they will also need to let the International Connections team know where they are intending to go and what time they intend to return to camp. If these plans change then you/your Leader should make contact with the camp to update the International Connections team.

If you/your group fails to return to camp at the allotted time the Deputy Camp Leader with international responsibility will be made aware of the situation. Attempts will be made by the camp to contact you/your Leader using the contact details you have provided. If, after a further 2 hours, you/your group has still not arrived back at camp and communication has been unsuccessful, the WINGS 2020 team will report this to the Police.

Failure to keep us informed in either of these circumstances would require the WINGS 2020 team to report your absence to the authorities.

The WINGS 2020 team will support the Police in their investigation by answering questions relating to the individual or group and sharing any details or documents we hold about them.

This data sharing is in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Section 5 Restrictions, Article 23 Restrictions, 1(d) which allows us to share information under the following circumstances: “the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution or criminal penalties, including the safeguarding against and the prevention of threats to the public.”

Thames Valley Police
Windsor Police Station, Alma Road, Windsor, SL4 3ES.
0845 850 5505
<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/>

Brexit

The International Connections team will monitor the outcome of the Brexit situation. However you are reminded these decisions are out of our control and all international guests are responsible for ensuring they keep themselves informed of any changes as a result of the Brexit deal.