

Jamboree on the Air 2018

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA RESULTS OVERVIEW



Scout Participation Increased

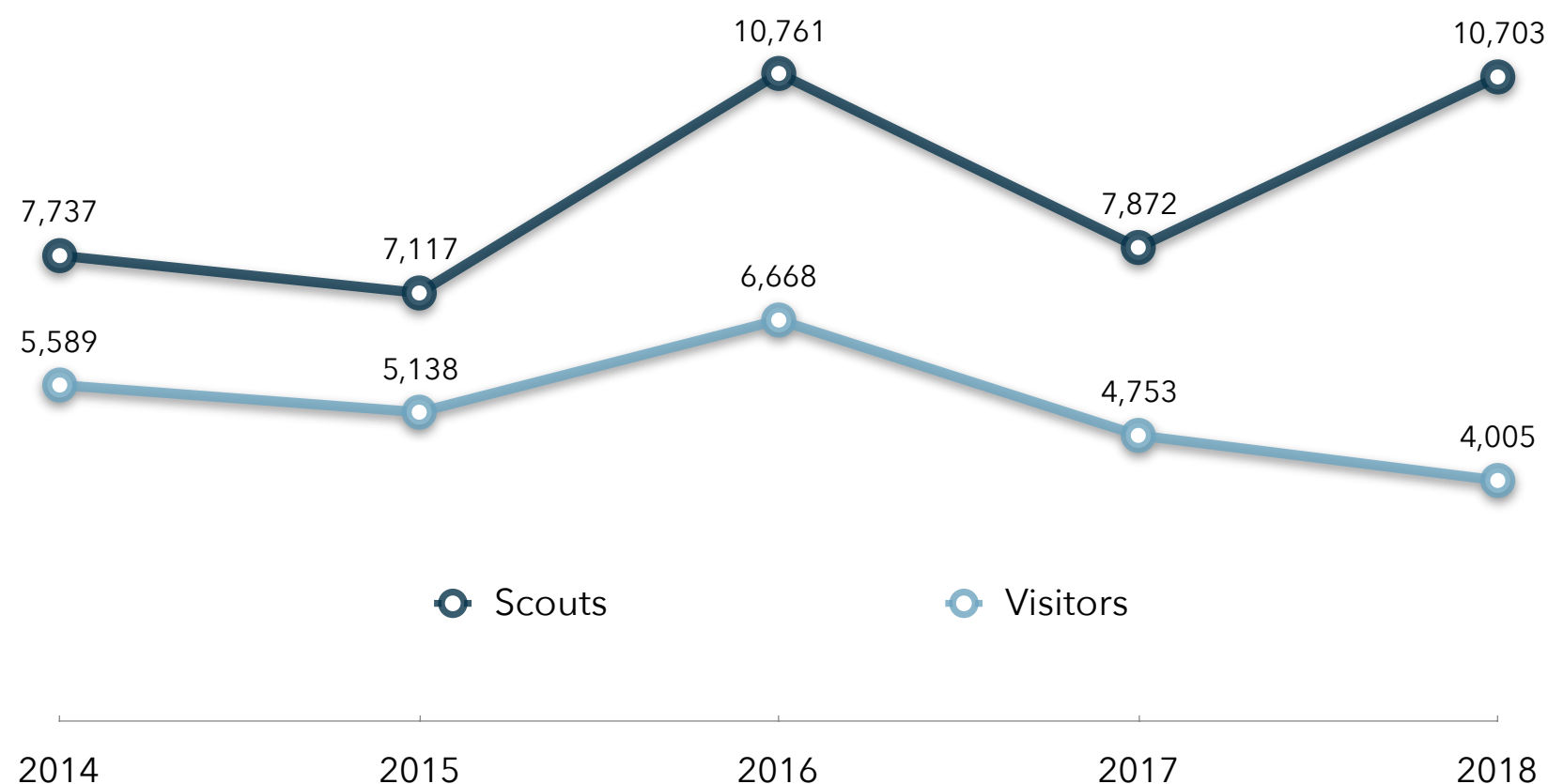
TOTAL SCOUTS PARTICIPATING IMPROVED 36% YEAR OVER YEAR



KB9UWS on the air from Carmel, Indiana, in the Crossroads of America Scout Council. Three Cubs, one Venturer, and one Girl Scout.

Significantly Improved Registration and Reporting

Registration jumped 46% with 314 JOTA Stations registered on the JOTA-JOTI.info registration system, up from 215 in 2017. Station reports increased 23%, 266 filed versus 226 in 2017. The number of amateur radio operators involved came in at 1,087 up from 958 last year.



TALKING TO OTHER SCOUTS ACROSS TOWN AND AROUND THE WORLD

Radio Scouting Updates

Radio Scouting awards continued at a reasonably high level. The number of Radio Merit Badges earned dropped in 2017, due perhaps to the delay in issuing the updated merit badge pamphlet until December 2017 with the requirements updated in January 2017.

The Amateur Radio Operator Rating Strip was discontinued this year by the BSA National Awards, Insignia, and Uniforms Committee. However, it can continue to be worn on the uniform, and as of this writing, it is still available from BSA Supply.

This is the first time we’ve been able to share numbers on the ARRL Amateur Radio Service to Scouting Award. It’s time to nominate others for this Radio Scouting recognition.



K4S on the air from Jasper, Tennessee, in the Cherokee Area Scout Council. Seven Boy Scouts and Seven Cub Scouts. Contacts from New York to the Dominican Republic.

| RADIO SCOUTING AWARDS | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------------------|
| Amateur Radio Operator Rating Strips (sold in last 12 months) | 6,800 | 1,726 | 1,825 | 1,870 | 2,639 |
| Morse Code Interpreter Strips (sold in last 12 months) | 1,200 | 365 | 304 | 307 | 366 |
| Radio Merit Badges (earned in the calendar year) | 6,665 | 6,709 | 6,442 | 5,840 | TBD January 2019 |
| ARRL Amateur Radio Service to Scouting Award | 7 | 34 | 20 | 14 | 9 |

Highlight Station Report

GREAT REPORTS FROM MANY JOTA STATIONS – THIS IS ONE HIGHLIGHT



K4L at Camp La-No-Che, Paisley, FL

This was our first official JOTA-JOTI at our camp in over a decade. We had a sold-out weekend of 1800 Cub Scouts for Cub Halloween & Fall Festival. We setup our new 60' tower, and used everything under the sun: HF, VHF, UHF, D-Star, DMR and Fusion. With 5 hams and 5-10 helpers throughout the day we managed to get everything through our two little pop-up tents.

HF (20M & 10M) was spotty and congested most of the day, we did get some good time with the North East US (NJ, NY, IN, MI, AL, GA) and a good half hour with Eastern Germany between Berlin and Munich. As the day rolled on we got better signal with Mexico. We also used every local repeater we could reach to ensure there was plenty of contacts for scouts. And everyone tried JOTI by using Scoutlink.net on 4 laptops we had setup to earn their Arrow of Light requirements by talking to another Scout in another country. Combined (JOTA-JOTI) our Scouts contacted 17 countries and 7 states, even if only for a couple minutes each. All the parents and leaders were encouraged to try IRC Scoutlink.net the following day to continue the fun.

Kenneth Lyons, KN4MDJ

You Asked

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS GATHERED FROM STATION REPORTS

Contests and JOTA Weekend

The biggest problem was trying to compete with high power contesting stations. It would be nice if the contest sponsors would give JOTA a little frequency space on the HF bands when they have coinciding events. Maybe not counting contest points on JOTA +/- frequencies. From K3HOU, Colhoun Farm - Harwood MD.

The Worked All Germany Contest provides "contest-free" frequencies and doesn't allow them as credit in the contest station's log. The state QSO Parties don't follow this practice.

Get ARRL to not sanction ANY contests on JOTA weekend. Contesters are somewhat obnoxious when the Scouts want to talk, and they just want to log contacts. From W4B, Falls Church, VA.

ARRL does not sanction contests. They operate their own but do not authorize any other contests. All other contests are operated by their own clubs, etc.

Finding an Open Frequency

Please remind each station that the Scout frequencies are for CALLING and that they should move off of that frequency to hold the QSO. This hurt our event because some stations were stronger than ours and we could not get out as well as hoped. From K2BSA/9 via KC9KOA in South Bend, IN.

Registration of Stations

The process of signing up to be a JOTA station in advance has got to change – for 2 years in a row, I used the JOTA sign-up on-line and entered my e-mail address (it took 4 attempts for the red box around the e-mail address to go away), but I never got a JOTA station number or confirmation. It's an awkward process that needs an improvement. From W2SSR, Amherst, NY.

Registration of Amateur Radio Clubs

Our station was coordinated with a local Amateur Radio Club using their radio room and there was no way to register with JOTA as a Non-Scout Troop station for local scout troops to register any interest in participating. All links we could find were for registering as a Scout group. From W9J Franklin, IN.

Use of VoIP Channels

It should be noted on the K2BSA page that when using large VoIP-connected networks, operators should pause casual conversation and call to see if there are any Scouts that would like to use the network. I heard many conversations going on for hours between adults where there were no opportunities for Scouts to jump in. When networks span multiple continents and have hundreds of stations connected, casual "rag chewing" should be short and limited. (However, I think some casual conversation is fine as a way to keep the network active and interesting -- we just need to make sure to give pause and announce priority to Scouting!). From W6A, Glendale, CA.

D-STAR worked well. The biggest issue we had was with people dominating the reflector. Some people did move to other reflectors, but many, probably including us, didn't. If someone were to be net control for the reflector and guide people to unused reflectors for QSOs, that would be good. From KB4RTM, Chattanooga, TN

YOU ASKED

World JOTA-JOTI Website

We need a JOTI-JOTA web page more simple to use! Please explain in detail what is JOTI.tv, Echolink. Please in simple words with the use of illustrations. From Manati, Puerto Rico.

ARDF Foxhunting

On the JOTA web site, could you post information on setting up running a simple intro fox hunting event. I've read a lot on line, but would like to hear from others on what works and doesn't work with scouts. From AF7NU, Corvallis, OR.

We have an ARDF-Foxhunting Team setting up for the World Scout Jamboree in 2019. They will generate a great deal of information on how to operate a simple event. We will share it before next year's JOTA.

JOTA-JOTI Activity Suggestion

Maybe try a "scavenger hunt" for getting Scouts to contact other Scouts. Have a list of maybe 150 scavenger items. When the Troop registers, they get a list of 25 items to scavenger. (Get a picture of contact with their country flag; learn how to say "Be Prepared" in a foreign language; play a 5 question trivia game with a contact.) K5VUL, New Castle, OK.

There are also a number of suggested activities posted at the www.jotajoti.info website, including JamPuz which is exchanging JamPuz IDs with other JOTA-JOTI Locations. This activity has been underway for quite a few years around the world.

Station Operation Recommendations

- Have a game activity nearby for the boys to do while they are waiting. In our case, we had a gaga ball pit nearby for our Cub Scouts to play.
- Purchase JOTA patches for the ham radio operators to have a souvenir.
- Have food & water available for your ham operators.
- Plan ahead as far in advance as you can to get volunteers.

From KI4BKE, Parkton, NC.

JAMBOREE ON THE AIR – TECHNOLOGY. FUN. MAGIC.

