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Invitation

WELCOME TO THE 18TH ANNUAL GATHERING OF THE FRIENDS OF SCOUTING IN EUROPE Dresden, Germany - 6th through 9th October 2016

This year, we have been invited to visit a country which does not exist. How so? In spite of the fact that a quarter of a century has passed since the fall of the Berlin wall and the re-unification of Germany, you will still find a lot of cultural and economical differences between the "Old West" and the "Old East". One remarkable example of this is attributed to Scouting - only some 1.400 scouts are found in the whole of the German state of Sachsen - an area almost half the size of countries like Switzerland, the Netherlands, or Denmark - holding a population of roughly 4,250,000.

During your four days in this corner of the bygone DDR, you will have an extensive lesson on European history, with a special focus on the occasionally extremely turbulent period taking its beginning during the last days of WWII. All, of course, accompanied by the unbeatable company of other Friends of Scouting.



Who can participate?

All Friends of Scouting in Europe and their adult family members are welcome, and so are their friends. Availability of accommodation as well as transportation may force organizers to limit the number of participants, therefore be sure to book as early as possible. First come first served.

Travel arrangements

International flights to Dresden are quite numerous, and also include low-fare operators such as Germanwings (refer to germanwings.com), Air Berlin (refer to airberlin.com) and EasyJet (refer to easyjet.com). To get the best price, it would, however, be advisable to book your flight as early as possible ... upon receiving your booking confirmation for the FOSE event.

Germany is a member of the Schengen treaty. Visitors from another EU country therefore need no specific formalities to enter. Visitors from other countries are strongly encouraged to check for possible visa requirements with local EU consular services in your own country prior to departure.

What to bring

Bring casual clothing for early autumn temperatures (October may actually still be quite pleasant) – and a scout uniform, if you have got one.

Programme

The official programme will start on Thursday, 6th October mid-afternoon, and end Sunday 9th October after lunch. Please check out the details below.

Costs

a) Programme

The cost for participation in the full programme (accommodation not included) will be **€ 325**.

The programme will, as usually, be arranged on an *all inclusive basis*, and so the programme fee will cover transportation throughout the week end, all excursions, guides, entrance fees, and (not forgetting) catering inclusive of drinks during meals from Thursday afternoon until farewell time Sunday early afternoon. It has become a tradition to use any financial surplus from the gathering, should it occur, to sponsor a Scout project, with priority given to a project in the host country.

b) Accommodation

The group will stay at the Kim Hotel im Park, a modern 3-Star facility, peacefully situated in a large park on a hilltop overlooking the City of Dresden - just some 20 minutes by tram from the City Centre. The hotel is easily accessible by public transportation for those arriving by air or by train. Friends choosing to ride by car to Dresden (which is actually very centrally located for all parts of the European Continent) may enjoy free and safe private parking in front of the hotel. The address is Otto Harzer Strasse 2, D-01156 Dresden.

All rooms are equipped with private toilet/shower, cable TV and free WiFi access. Any use of mini bars will be at own expense, however...

Accommodation for **all 3 nights** will cost € 159 per person in single rooms, and € 110 per person sharing double rooms. Quoted prices include the new Dresden special tax on hotel accommodation.

If you want to extend your stay, additional nights at your hotel may be booked in the enclosed form. Such extra nights will be charged at the group rate, but should be paid directly to the hotel upon arrival.



Programme

Thursday 6th October Where are we?

We meet in the hotel lobby at 15:00, and shall start our stay having a walk through the Dresden City Centre. The walk takes us from the distinctive 1970 style main street to the replica of a selection of buildings from Dresden's baroque past - the originals were all destroyed in WWII.

We shall end the day enjoying a welcome dinner at the Dresden 1900 in a beginning-of-last-century setting just opposite the Frauenkirche.



Friday 7th October Out in the blue

Friday, a coach will take us to see some highlights of the "Saxon Switzerland".

We shall begin at the Königstein Fortress which has just been there - throughout the times and throughout the varying political environment. First mentioned in 1241, the fortress has served as a safe retreat and a magnificent background for parties of Saxon royalty, it has been used as a prisoner-of-war camp during WWI and as storage for valuable artworks during WWII - and as a youth detention centre in early DDR times.

We shall relocate ourselves to the village of Radeberg for lunch - and for a tasteful visit to the Radeberger Brewery which was important business also in the DDR ... after all, Germany is renowned for its beer culture!

Our outing will end at the Bastei - a magnificent natural beauty of rock formations by the banks of River Elbe.

The coach will take us to visit local scouts for supper - and for a presentation of *Small Projects* being candidates for economical support.

Saturday 8th October Time travel

Saturday, a time machine will take us from our 21st Century hotel to some time back in the 1970's.

Our first destination is the largest DDR Museum in Germany where we shall - among other things - meet the Pioneers and the FDJ. All too often, Scouts in the former communist countries are met with prejudices from parents not really wanting their kids to be scouts - because of their own memories of the political youth organizations. At the Museum, we shall have a chance to find out about "our competitors": who were they, what were their activities like, and what were their resemblances to Scouting? The Museum holds an impressive collection of memorabilia of everyday life *damals* which you will, of course, also have a chance to enjoy.

For lunch, we shall keep the line, and enjoy DDR specials at the Museum's "Seventies restaurant"

In the afternoon, we shall visit the Parkeisenbahn in Dresden - a miniature railway taking visitors around the City's largest park area. The railway staff is by large (except for engine drivers...) school children. Interestingly, the railway was in the DDR days run by the FDJ ... and apparently this fact does not keep modern youth from joining.

In the evening, we shall have the FOSE annual meeting, and the following traditional dinner (back to the 21st century...) at our hotel.



Sunday 9th October The fall of the Wall

Sunday Morning, you will have a unique experience meeting one of the actual *local heroes* who took part in the demonstrations against the DDR political system in front of the Main station in early October 1989 - and who eventually became a member of the *Group of 20*, formed on 8th October 1989 to negotiate with authorities. Mr Frank Neubert will share his memories of those turbulent days with us - and give us a clue on the background for the fall of the German Democratic Republic.

We shall go back to our hotel for a "farewell lunch" to make logistics as easy as possible for everybody.



What you don't see during the gathering...

As usually, we cannot possibly see everything during in just a prolonged week end. For those having the possibility to do so, take the chance. Guide books and tourist agencies will happily lead your way.

Here are a couple of suggestions -



Museums

Dresden City hosts a rich variety of museums - many of which are set up inside the replica of old baroque buildings in the heart of the city. Enjoy sculptures, paintings or porcelains.



Military History Museum

In general, you will find a huge collection of military hardware. A special exhibition in 2016 tells the story about spies in Europe throughout the 20th Century - an exhibition which is worthwhile seeing, even if you are no fan of big guns and fighter jets.



The Blue Wonder

Actually this bridge crossing the River Elbe is one of the very few original landmarks in Dresden - the rest having been bombed away in 1945. There is a nice restaurant out there as well from where you can enjoy the view.



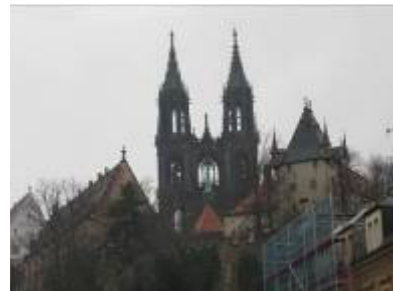
Loschwitz Bergbahn

Curiously, the World's oldest monorail Mountain Railway is found in Dresden, dating back to 1901. Just a block away from the Blue Wonder, actually. There is a nice view from the top end station, and you may visit the machine room as well...



The River Elbe

Dresden's location on the banks of the river invites to a stroll on a sunny day - or even a river cruise. The easiest way to see it all is to climb the Brühl's Terrace, nicknamed as The Balcony of Europe



Surroundings

Those wanting to move a bit outside Dresden will find many nice destinations - for example the town of Meissen with a nice cathedral and a nice (but very touristic) display of products from the famous porcelain factory.

The programme is valid as per the date of issue, May 2016. We reserve the right to amendments made necessary by circumstances beyond our control.

Registration form

To register for the 18th annual gathering of the FRIENDS OF SCOUTING IN EUROPE, please fill in the below form, and send it as attachment to a mail to FOSEtours@live.dk. Snail mail to Johansen&Stephansen, Boegevej 5, DK-4070 Kirke Hyllinge is less efficient, more expensive, but of course fully acceptable! You may fill out this form by hand and send us a scan - or you may write in the WORD document which is also enclosed with the invitation.

Please fill in & return the form as soon as possible, but no later than **1st August 2016**. **Payment info will be sent out upon registration. Prompt action will be appreciated as suppliers are waiting for a deposit!**

YES, cannot wait to go to Dresden on this year's FOSE-tour.

Name _____

Street/City/Country _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I/we shall **need hotel accommodation**

from (date) _____ until (date) _____ Arrival to the hotel is planned at (time) _____

I/we shall **leave**

on (date) _____ at (time) _____ by air ___ / rail ___ / road ___ (tick as appropriate)

____ I shall bring family/friends along, and there will be ____ people, including myself

____ I hereby book ____ (number) of **double rooms** in the name of _____

____ (number) of **single rooms** in the name of _____

____ I am travelling on my own, but I would not mind sharing a double room with somebody else

I have the following special dietary requirement (e.g. vegan, vegetarian, vegetarian +fish/poultry, kosher, halal, allergies etc.):

Any further information or comments: _____

WAIVER AND RELEASE with respect to the 18th annual gathering of the Friends of Scouting in Europe (FOSE):

I/we _____ desire to participate voluntarily in the 18th annual gathering of the Friends of Scouting in Europe ("Event"). I assume voluntarily all of the risks associated with the participation in the Event. I confirm that I have sufficient insurance coverage to cover the consequences, should a risk associated with the Event materialize.

My attendance and participation is absolutely and entirely at my own risk without any exception, and I agree that neither the European Scout Foundation, Geneva, nor any of the members of the board of this Foundation, has any responsibility for my participation in the Event. I forever waive, release and discharge the Foundation and its board members from any and all claims, liabilities or expenses, whether such claim, liability or expense is in contract, statute, tort or otherwise, relating in any way to my participation in the Event. This waiver and release may not be modified orally. This waiver and release shall be governed by, and constituted in accordance with, the substantive laws of Switzerland.

Date: _____ Signature: _____