

A warm welcome to Norway and to our bright summer nights!

The Guides and Scouts in Norway are excited to invite you to

**the 15th European Guide Conference,
the 22nd European Scout Conference
and the 15th European Guide and Scout Conference**

We are aiming at delivering an inspiring and professional conference set in beautiful Norwegian scenery. By bringing all countries of the European regions together on the Oslofjord, we are hoping to create an atmosphere for good decision-making. The venue – Oslofjord Convention Centre – was chosen for its excellent opportunities for a “Compact conference”, ideal for informal meetings and networking where all facilities are near each other. This is of great importance to us, as we strongly believe that the conference is an arena for sharing ideas and experiences.



This first information letter is meant to give you the first practical information:

Date

17-21 June 2016

The Conferences will start on Friday, 17 June 2016, with preparatory sessions, networking and check-in, followed by the opening event, but you may book your accommodation from Thursday depending on your travel possibilities.

The Conferences will end on Tuesday, 21 June 2016, with departures on Wednesday.

Venue

Oslofjord Convention Centre (<http://oslofjord.com/en/Home/>)

Oslofjord Convention Centre is situated in a picturesque and secluded location along the South coast of Norway, about 1.5 hours' drive from the Norwegian capital Oslo. With Sandefjord (TRF) Oslo Torp Airport just 20 minutes away, the convention centre is easily accessed from abroad.

The Oslofjord Convention Centre is owned by the Brunstad Church and its accommodations include 700 guest cabins and apartments providing up to 3000 beds, all in the immediate vicinity of the convention centre. The apartments are modern and light and come complete with a kitchen and a bathroom. All cabins and apartments have Internet access.

The address of the convention centre is Brunstadveien 77, 3159 Melsomvik, Norway.



Conference fee

EUR 595

The payment of the conference fee is due no later than 1 May 2016.

Late bookings (between 1 May and 1 June 2016) will be charged EUR 615.

The conference fee includes:

- Attendance at the conferences.
- Opening and Closing Ceremonies.
- Friday-Tuesday: lunch and dinner (except for one free evening; breakfast is included in the accommodation price).
- Coffee breaks.
- International Evening.
- European Market.
- Interpretation (English/French).
- Official conference documents.
- A contribution to the conference participation solidarity fund.
- A contribution to the conference organisational costs of WAGGGS and WOSM.

Conference registration will be handled online on the conference website which will be an integral part of the main joint communication channel – <http://www.europak-online.net/>. The conference website will open in September 2015.

Conference registration will open on 1 November 2015 and further information on the registration process will be communicated before this date.

Accommodation

Price per person per room per day:

Single room – EUR 140

Double room – EUR 84

3 person room – EUR 68

4 person room – EUR 54

Breakfast is included in the accommodation price.

Alcohol

The Guides and Scouts of Norway have a policy of not drinking alcohol neither while attending Scout and Guide activities nor when wearing uniform. The conferences will follow the Norwegian alcohol policy and will therefore be an alcohol-free event.

However, an exception has been made for a bar within the premises of the convention centre with fixed opening hours during the conferences. Participants are kindly requested not to drink alcohol outside the venue while wearing uniform or other symbols of Scouting and Guiding, as this will potentially damage the reputation of Norwegian Scouts and Guides. We kindly ask you to pay respect to this humble request from the organisers.

Visa

Obtaining a visa is the responsibility of the individual participant and/or his or her national scout or guide association. Please check on <http://www.udi.no/en/>, whether you need a visa to enter Norway.

Support letters will be issued on application to the European Offices of WAGGGS and WOSM. The process must begin well in advance of the conference date, and it is strongly suggested that 3 months are allowed, so that visas can be issued in time.

Transport

By plane

With Sandefjord (TRF) Oslo Torp Airport just 20 minutes away, Oslofjord Convention Centre is easily accessed from abroad. Torp Airport offers direct flight connections to Amsterdam, Copenhagen and Stockholm with KLM, Norwegian, Ryanair, Widerøe and Wizz Air.

Oslo (OSL) Oslo Airport is Norway's main airport. Oslo Airport has been named Europe's most punctual airport four times and lies 47 kilometres North of Oslo. The Airport Express train will take you from the airport to Oslo city centre in 20 minutes. There are also direct train connections to Tønsberg and Stokke from Oslo Airport, and they take approximately 1.5 hours.

By ferry

There are frequent ferry connections across the Oslofjord between the ports of Horten and Moss. Route information and travel times can be found at http://basto-fosen.no/?lang=en_GB. Horten is a 25 minute drive from Oslofjord Convention Centre.

There are also ferry connections to both Denmark (Larvik - Hirtshals) and Sweden (Sandefjord - Strömstad) within a 40-minute drive from Oslofjord Convention Centre. Information and travel times for these routes can be found at <http://www.colorline.no/>.

By train

The nearest train station is in Stokke (7 minutes' drive from Oslofjord Convention Centre) or Tønsberg (15 minutes' drive from Oslofjord Convention Centre). Information regarding routes and travel times can be found at <https://www.nsb.no/en/>.

By taxi

Tønsberg Taxi AS: tel. +47 33 30 11 11

Taxibussen Tønsberg AS: tel. +47 98 00 22 22

Vestfold Taxisentral AS (Sandefjord): tel. +47 33 42 02 00

By private or hired car

A big car park is situated beside the hotel.

Please check <https://www.google.com/maps> and "Sandefjord" for more details.



We very much look forward to hosting the European Guide and Scout Conferences by Oslofjord in 2016! We will do our best to ensure you good and happy conferences.

Warm and bright regards,

The Guides and Scouts in Norway