

JOTI – safety tips for leaders

If you need any technical help with getting prepared for JOTI go to the [event](#) or [UK Sites](#)

Setting up usernames

A good approach when setting up usernames is to include your group's name as the user ID and then add a number (e.g. Gilwell1st-01, Gilwell1st-02). This will help to build connections around your Scout group, in the first instance.

The purpose of JOTI is to get in touch with Scouts from around the world, so young people will be sharing stories and information with each other. Therefore, your young people will want to share their names and where they are from, so that they can talk about what Scouting is like, and build up a good conversation. It's OK for young people to share this information, but don't forget to remind them not to share personal details like address, email or phone numbers.

#Leaders areas.

You should also consider having a Leader username (Gilwell1st-Leader) and make sure that one of the leaders belongs to #Leaders area. Any issues that are reported are often flagged in the #leaders area and you can also contact the channel operators here too.

Supervision

The key thing is to make sure activities are being supervised, and that you have talked to young people about what to do if they have a problem, concern or are unsure about something. Don't ignore any problems, tell someone online, and keep a record.

Private messages

Private messages are expected during JOTI as there are a lot of users online at once and the channels move quickly. Private messages are not moderated by ScoutLink so this is the most likely place for young people to experience problems- unwanted behaviour or bullying. Any issues should be reported to ScoutLink so they can take action against the users, by either warning them or removing them off the network. Ideally get the young people to get a copy or screen shot of the posts.

It is possible to set up a log so you can save a copy of everything said

Official guidance on child protection

ScoutLink has provided guidance for users about child protection and staying safe:

<http://www.scoutlink.org/node/354>

If you encounter a problem....

The key piece of advice is to make sure that you talk to a channel operator if you encounter any problems. Make a note of any issues and talk to the young people involved to make sure they are OK. Let parents know if there have been any incidents involving young people. "If you ever have a problem and don't know who to contact, please join our #help channel, and ask for advice there."