



# Katatoskr

Official 15th World Scout Moot Magazine 2017 - Issue #1

THE  
JOURNEY HAS  
BEGUN!

# “Petta reddast”



Inga Auðbjörg  
Straumland

As an Icelander, I'm brought up with the notion of *Petta reddast*. This Icelandic phrase that means something like “I'm certain that this will be solved and will work out in the end”. This includes a dash of shrugged shoulders and a notion of the Arabic Inshallah, without the religious connotation, but including a bit of leaving things up to faith. Sometimes this attitude can be annoying. Sometimes you just want to plan everything meticulously and make sure it will all be perfect. But perfection, although something to strive for, is not always achievable. A humongous project like the Moot will never be perfect. It can be brilliant

and mostly flawless, but there will always be some chaos and some hitches that will have to be worked out, no matter how amazing the project management skills of the organizing team are. And it is at these times that this attitude can be empowering.

When thousands of people come together, setting up a whole community in just a couple of days, having positivity and willingness to help out others is vital. It's this attitude that is the magic during scout camps, whether they're small or big. I have worked on a lot of different events, but only in scouting can I be sure that I can always

walk up and ask for help and get a positive, even enthusiastic, answer. And this magic, is the magic that can make a moot. The magic that can make a community with all the complete infrastructure needed for a village the size of the 10th largest municipality in Iceland. And this is the magic I want to ask you to contribute to. Help one another, navigate the chaos and contribute to this collaborative project that is the World Scout Moot. At the same time, enjoy the chance to challenge yourself, make new friends and embrace the CHANGE. And last but not least, remember: Petta reddast!

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## What's the deal with the Moot magazine name?

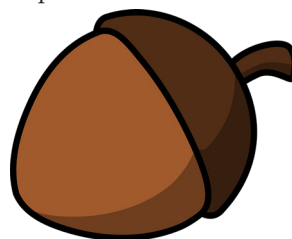
By Ger Hennessy

Meet Ratatoskr (Rat-a-toskr-rrr) a squirrel-like creature described in *Gylfaginning*, a section of an old Icelandic manuscript, the *Prose-Edda*. The chapter describes the creation and destruction of the world of the Norse gods. Ratatoskr is said to have climbed up and down *Yggdrasil*, the Tree of Life, spreading news and gossip between *Veðrfölnir* the hawk on top of the ash tree and *Níðhöggr* the dragon in its roots.

### Gossip squirrel

So Ratatoskr is basically a squirrel with big ears and

loose lips. Naturally, when we needed a name for the Moot magazine, “Ratatoskr” was the perfect choice. Our role



as the Moot's media team is to bring you all of the hot news and gossip from all of the expedition centers. We'll try to be not quite as wicked as the mythical Ratatoskr, but we aim to be as diligent in

spreading reports as our furry namesake is.

### Freshest news

During the Moot you might spot our very own squirrels prancing around the expedition centers and *Ulfjótsvatn* campsite in order to collect the freshest news of scouting adventures, pieces of campsite culture and gossip on rover romances.

We hope you will enjoy our Moot Magazine *Ratatoskr*, which will be brought to a campsite near you, every other day during the Moot.

### The Moot Magazine

*Editors:* Inga Auðbjörg Straumland, Stefán Rafn Sigurbjörnsson  
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*With support from the World Scout Bureau*

### Seen something cool?

We at *Ratatoskr Moot magazine* are always looking for a fun tale to tell or photos to capture a true scouting adventure. If you have tips for us at the magazine send an e-mail to [news@worldscoutmoot.is](mailto:news@worldscoutmoot.is) or drop by the Media Center, number 11 in the Alþingi map.



# Do's and Don'ts in Iceland

By Dominique Lysser

Many of you are visiting Iceland for the first time ever. That might excite you quite a bit, but for many of you, traveling thousands of kilometers to a remote island and a totally different culture might be a bit scary. Here are some guidelines that will help you navigate your way around Icelandic customs!



**Don't:** Blow your nose in public. It's seen as quite rude.

**Don't:** Try to eat at McDonalds. You won't find one.

**Don't:** Call the Icelandic Horses "ponies". Just don't. They might be small, but they're still horses.

**Don't:** Wander off marked paths. They are there for a reason. And don't touch the moss! Once destroyed, it takes about 40 years to grow back.

**Don't:** Enter a public swimming pool, if you haven't washed your body beforehand with soap. Sing along: head, shoulders, crotch and toes! See how easy that song goes?

**Don't:** Complain about the local food. Icelanders are proud of their traditional dishes. If you know that fermented shark meat or sheep's head won't please your taste buds, don't try it. It's as simple as that!

**Don't:** Buy bottled water. Iceland has the best tap water in the world.

**Don't:** Tip your waiter, if you happen to dine outside camp. It's not necessarily an Icelandic custom.

**Do:** Pay attention to the weather. If you don't like it, wait 5 minutes. But seriously, be prepared because the weather changes rapidly.

**Do:** Appreciate the unique landscape and unspoiled nature of Iceland! Find out why there are no trees! Or count the trees on site.

**Do:** Enjoy the long bright days, but come back in winter to see the northern lights and meet one of Iceland's thirteen Santas, also known as the Yule Lads.

**Do:** If an Icelander invites you to his or her home, take your shoes off.

**Do:** Last names are used quite rarely in Iceland. They are comprised of the father's or mother's first name and -son (son) or -dóttir (daughter). So like us scouts, Icelanders call each other by their first name. Why don't you create your own Icelandic last name?

**Do:** Make yourself familiar with the Icelandic Sagas and you'll never have to read a book on Iceland's history. Unless, of course, you want to!

## A beginning to remember

By Camila Monico

Colorful scout scarfs, all types of scout uniforms and loads of songs and laughter invaded Laugardalshöll, where the 15th World Scout Moot started with over 5,000 Scouts from more than 90 countries! Have you ever been with people from so many places around the world?

Everyone started arriving to be part of the opening ceremony, which initiated with opening words from Guðlaugur Þór Þórðarson, the Minister for Foreign Affairs in Iceland, followed by João Armando Gonçalves, the Chairperson of the World

Scout Committee and finished with Hrönn, the Moot's Camp Chief, all of them encouraging the scouts to be the CHANGE and to have the adventure of our lives, and by now they can be sure we already are having it! And not to forget the amazing performance by Circus Island who made us laugh and fly with their super cool acrobatics all over the place!

This was definitely a great start to the Moot and we're sure it will be an event full of excitement with hundreds of stories to tell!

# Scouts from around the globe

By Gemma Mears

**Jagz Bharth**

21 years old,  
UK



**Travel Duration:**  
3 hours by plane

*As the theme of the Moot is CHANGE, do you have a change and if so what is it?*

My change is to take what I've learnt here at the Moot and implement it locally in Scouting within the UK to show that Scouting on an international level is great fun for anyone of any age!

**Mahmoud Benayed**

20 years old,  
Tunisia



**Travel Duration:**  
Just under 24 hours

*Do you have a message you would like to share with all attending the 15th World Scout Moot here in Iceland?*

As an Arab and a Muslim Scout I want peace all over the world and no Islamic terrorism and I want all people to be friends.

**Naomi Rowe**

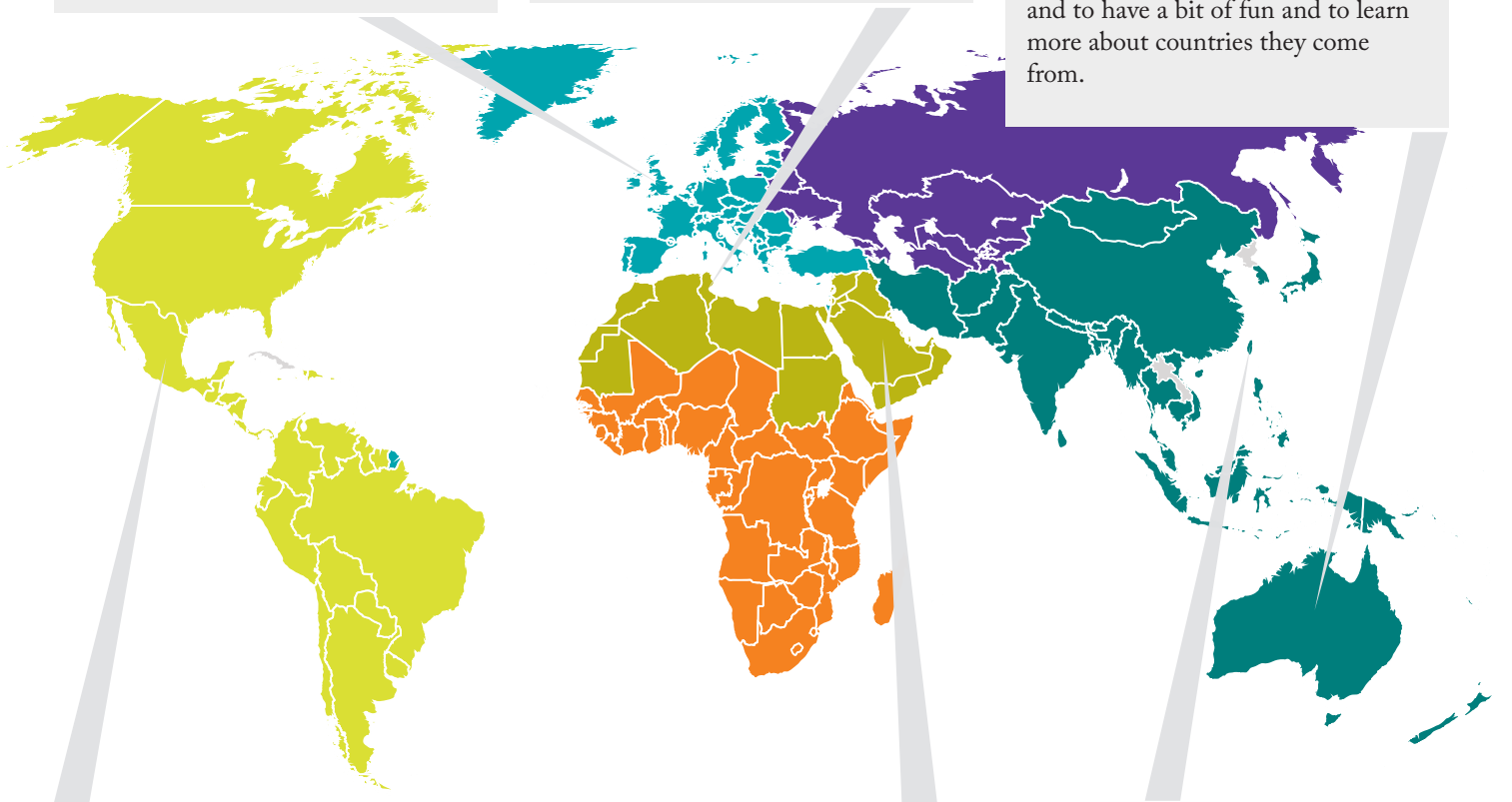
18 years old,  
Australia



**Travel Duration:**  
If you only include flying, it was 36 hours. If you include transit, it was 4 days as we had a stop-over in London.

*Why did you want to come to the Moot in Iceland?*

It just seemed like a really good opportunity to meet some of my brothers and sisters within Scouting and to have a bit of fun and to learn more about countries they come from.



**Andrea Torres**

18 years old,  
Mexico



**Travel Duration:**  
About 22 hours

*What are you looking forward to the most during your time at the Moot?*

I want every other person to be able to know that other parts of the world are good unlike the stereotypes and I also want to meet a lot of people.

**Saud Hamad Almuhaize**

20 years old,  
Saudi Arabia



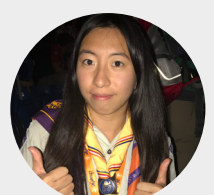
**Travel Duration:**  
About 13 / 14 hours

*Do you have a message you would like to share with all attending the 15th World Scout Moot here in Iceland?*

We have a pilgrimage every year and we want to share with everyone that we are messengers of peace.

**Kao, Chia-Jung**

24 years old,  
Scouts of China (Taiwan)



**Travel Duration:**  
23 hours

*What are you looking forward to the most during your time at the Moot?*

To dance. To do my best and help others.



# The Cases Case By Sara Bonetti

*Where is my baggage? Nobody knows, not the airlines, nor the airport and especially not the 85 Scouts, who arrived without their baggage at the moot.*

The sleeves of Lukas Press' hoodie end a handspan before his wrists. The hoodie is too short. "It's not mine", says the Austrian participant with a wry smile: "I borrowed it from another member of our contingent". It's Monday, the 24th of July, and, for Lukas, the third day without his baggage. This means, that he was left without his tent, his sleeping bag, clothes and other personal items. Lukas is just one of 85 scouts who arrived without their bags in Iceland. And he has to stay patient! The participants' trip began at the Vienna airport. The scout dropped his suitcase on the 22nd at 4 PM when he was checking in for his flight from Vienna to Reykjavik via Düsseldorf, Germany. "We wish you a nice flight", were the last words he heard from the airline, before his backpack disappeared into the conveyor. After a short stop in Düsseldorf Airport he landed in Reykjavik, along with two other scouts from Austria. Entering the arrivals hall, the next stop was the baggage belt. He waited and waited, and waited. At first he was

bored of waiting but became worried after half an hour, but in the same moment: The belt stopped! Lukas was confused. He was advised to check the oversized luggage area, but found neither his backpack nor the ones of the other Austrians. He turned to the lost luggage counter, but the only thing he got from them was a copy of the case report. "They had at least two mistakes in my name, and this is where the problem starts," the participant explains.

Jóhanna Guðmundsdóttir, head of the Information Center, shares her opinion. "Most of the lost-luggage reports are connected to flights that include stopovers. The airport and the airlines just don't work properly with each other. In most of the cases, there are problems with the system, and they don't work, or at least not the way they are

supposed to".

### **The Positive Side: A New Set of Clothes!**

While for an ordinary traveler a lost case is nothing more than an inconvenience, it can be the worst case for a scout. It was around 3 AM when Lukas and his mates left the airport and arrived in one of the schools, where at least a little help awaited them from the moot

team. "There were sleeping bags and sleeping mats provided and there was no discussion when I asked for sleeping inside the building", said the participant. Instead of sightseeing and discovering Iceland, shopping and organizing new clothes became the main priority, as

well as emailing and trying to communicate with the airline. "The first information we got from the airline was that it might take between 4 and 14 days until the luggage arrived. We, in the Austrian contingent, are taking care to keep all receipts so that the expenses, caused by the airline, will be refunded", says Christopher Calliess, Contingent Leader of Austria who has offered his and his contingent's support. Jóhanna and her team reacted as fast as possible. They figured out where tents, sleeping bags and other stuff could be borrowed for the lowest price possible. They were also communicating a lot with the airport and the airlines, but as of Wednesday evening, 25 scouts are still without their luggage.

They had at least two mistakes in my name, and this is where the problem starts

*Lukas Press  
Austrian contingent*



Looking for replacement equipment in the scout store

João along with Guðlaugur Þór Þórðarsson, Iceland's minister for foreign affairs, during the Moot opening ceremony.



# “I can't think of a better way to finish my term”

He might not be the most attention seeking scout of the camp, but he is the highest ranking. João Armando Gonçalves has barely taken off his grey World Committee scout shirt and purple scarf for a decade, as he's been busy serving scouting at European and then World level, and now he's finishing his term as a Chairperson of the World Scout Committee. João sat down with a *Ratatoskr* reporter in the sun, ready to answer some questions.

By: Inga Auðbjörg Straumland

**J**udging by your speech at the opening ceremony, I understand that there have been some that want to discontinue the World Scout Moos. Why is that?

“The attendance of the last few Moos has not exactly lived up to the expectations of WOSM and we were starting to worry if this was really the right use for our effort or if this kind of event was the wrong way to attract this age group. It's therefore amazing that the 15th World Scout

Moot has proven to be as popular as it is.” João thinks that there are two main factors that explain the large increase in attendance number for the event: “I think that Iceland represents a unique challenge. It's remote and both the landscape and the culture are platforms for remarkable activities. The second factor is how our Icelandic hosts have been pushing the message by being very visible, right from the start, with their orange colors everywhere and demonstrating that they were very eager

to offer a great event.”

*Attracting and retaining Rovers is a big topic for WOSM. This is the age when young people are focussed on important education, career and family decisions. João thinks it's important to cater specifically to the needs of young adults.* “Until recently, the World Scout Moos were really just small extensions of jamborees. The activities were similar, but I believe that we need to offer this age group a different kind of program that deals with the topics that are

relevant to them. It needs to challenge them on an intellectual, physical and emotional level.”

*The theme of Change must be quite relevant to the young people, that are dealing with a world that has been changing faster than ever in the recent decades. Is WOSM keeping up with all the technological and societal changes that we face?*

“WOSM is still too big and sometimes too stiff

to adapt to all these things we are facing. It is therefore great that we have so many young people who want to make their voices heard. They make the organization more flexible and they need to be the ones that make the change. We need to be better at acting instead of just reacting. Still, that is of course challenging in a

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voices heard. They make the organization more flexible and they need to be the ones that make the change.

**João Armando Gonçalves**  
Chairperson of the  
World Scout Committee

global organization as big as ours. Change happens at a different pace from country to country.”

*Although I'd love to steer the discussion into more sensitive topics, regarding change on an organizational level of WOSM, it's time to get into the shade. We wrap it up on a more personal note: What's next for João Armando Gonçalves?*

“Rest for a bit, and of course continuing to serve the scouting community. Personally, this is great. I cannot think of any better way to finish my term: In one of my favorite countries, one of my favorite events!”

*We thank João for his great service and wish him all the best!*



# Useful, and not so useful phrases.

*A World Scout Moot provides Scouts with the challenges and opportunities that come with language clashes. Whether it's the confusion between similar words used by Scandinavians, or the distinct writing systems of Asia, Europe and Arabia, it's useful to have a concise phrasebook for everyday Moot situations.*

Compiled By: Ger Hennessy, Mayra Sanchez

**Íslenska:** Halló, hvað heitir þú?

**English:** Hello, what is your name?

**Français:** Bonjour, comme tu s'appelle?

**Español:** Hola, ¿cómo te llamas?

**Deutsch:** Hallo, wie heißt du?

**English:** This tuna salad would benefit from the slightest hint of kale flakes.

**Íslenska:** Þetta túnfisksalat yrði betra með örlitlum keim af grænkálsflögum.

**English:** I would just like to say that of all the campers here, I think that you are the most beautiful. I saw you and I couldn't pass without saying hello to you.

**Íslenska:**

Blessaður! (to a male)

Blessuð! (to a female)

Blessað! (to genderqueer people)

**Íslenska:** Hvar er klósettið?

**English:** Where is the bathroom?

**Français:** Où se trouve la WC?

**Español:** ¿Dónde está el baño?

**Deutsch:** Wo ist die Toilette?

**English:** I believe, though at this point I am not yet sure, that this tent may possibly be on fire. I suggest, as a precaution that we evacuate,

and raise the alarm. What do you think?

**Íslenska:** Aaahhhhh!

**Íslenska:** Hvaðan ertu?

**English:** Where are you from?

**Français:** D'où viens-tu?

**Español:** ¿De dónde eres?

**Deutsch:** Woher kommst Du?

**English:** I really like the new Justin Bieber song

**Íslenska:** Ég hef mjög lélegan tónlistarsmekk

**Íslenska:** Eigum við að fara að borða?

**English:** Do you want to go eat?

**Français:** On veut aller manger?

**Español:** ¿Quieres ir a comer?

**Deutsch:** Willst Du essen gehen?

**Íslenska:** Viltu deila þessari máltíð með mér?

**English:** Do you want to share this meal?

**Français:** Est-ce que tu veux partager ce repas avec moi?

**Español:** ¿Quieres compartir la comida?

**Deutsch:** Möchtest Du diese Mahlzeit teilen?

**Français:** Tu n'as qu'un seul t-shirt!?

**English:** Change

# Rain or Shine or Shaky Ground

By Gemma Mears

*“Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces us up, snow is exhilarating; there is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather.”*

-John Ruskin, 1819-1900

## Hikers Sent Back by a Sandstorm

The rovers at Heimaland Expedition Center headed out for their hike at early morning and the weather was ok. The sun was out and there was a little bit of wind and the weather forecast seemed fine. About 5km into their hike, the wind picked up and dust and sand was flying around everywhere. It got worse and turned into a full sandstorm with sand sweeping into the Rover's eyes, ears and up the noses. It was extremely uncomfortable and the visibility of the route had been severely reduced.

As a team, the decision was made to turn back. The leaders explained the situation at length, and although many were disappointed, all fully understood. When the team got back to their starting point, they chilled out for a short while, enjoyed the sun and then went exploring, where they admired the local scenery, discovered a lovely waterfall and visited a local museum.

Congratulations to these Rovers for attempting their challenge, and for making the right decision to CHANGE their plans and stay safe!

## An Unexpected Heat Wave Up North

The Rovers at Akureyri have been experiencing an Icelandic Heat Wave. A temperature none of the participants had expected or thought would happen during their stay here in Iceland, but all are coping well with it despite only having packed long johns and down jackets.



The Rovers have been airing their tents and at Akureyri. There are only 4 showers, so there have been queues constantly all day with Rovers wanting to have a shower. As the weather was not expected, the Expedition Center at Akureyri had to go out and purchase a fridge as the perishables were starting to go bad.

## Blown Away by Vestmannaeyjar

Despite the blazing sun, the wind in Vestmannaeyjar has proven to be a challenge for the 400 Scouts camping in the storm. The IST who had arrived prior to the Rovers had attempted to put up the mess tents but they just collapsed. “Crazy winds here meant the tents blew down so dinner was a complete shambles,” said Beth Fyfe, a member of the UK contingent. “Hopefully tonight [26th of July] will go better now that each tribe has a mess tent and something to cook on”.

It's not unusual for the area to be windy, but the last few days have been pretty extreme. The Rovers rowing activity on Wednesday was cancelled and a couple of the peaks were off limits to walk up because it wasn't safe. Twelve sleeping tents did not survive the first night, but provisions have been made for those that are homeless.

## Shaken, - and stirred?

Nature in Iceland is brutal. It has a certain attitude and sometimes burst out in all kinds of anger. In the last days it's been showing its powers by offering up some earthquakes in the South West side of the country. Multiple earthquakes have shaken the ground on Reykjanes Peninsula at the time of writing, but fortunately there are no Expedition Centers close. However, there has been quite a lot of activity around Mýrdalsjökull Glacier as well, which is close to both Hólaskjól and Heimaland.

## WEATHER FORECAST ON FRIDAY

ÚLFLJÓTSVATN



17°

0mm / 5m.p.s

REYKJAVÍK



17°

0mm / 3m.p.s

HAFNARFJÖRÐUR



17°

0mm / 3m.p.s

AKRANES



14°

0mm / 6m.p.s

SKAFTAFELL



14°

0.7mm / 1m.p.s

HÓLASKJÓL



12°

0mm / 7m.p.s

HEIMALAND



15°

0.6mm / 2m.p.s

VESTMANNAEYJAR



11°

0mm / 4m.p.s

SELFÖSS



17°

0mm / 4m.p.s

PINGVELLIR



17°

0mm / 5m.p.s

HVERAGERÐI



17°

0mm / 5m.p.s

AKUREYRI



8°

0mm / 2m.p.s