

Wayne & Christine Perry

Passion for Jamboree Extends Across The Country, Around the World



Wayne and Christine Perry (top) — shown together at the 2011 World Scout Jamboree in Sweden — donate their time, money and a surplus of enthusiasm to the Scouting movement that they say helped instill important values in their four Eagle Scout sons.

When the 2017 National Jamboree kicks off July 19 at the Summit Bechtel Reserve, Wayne and Christine Perry will be there. Wayne's résumé includes stints as national BSA president and World Committee member, and Christine has handled tasks including den mother and overseeing construction of a dining hall at a Cub Scout camp. But at the jamboree, you're more likely to find them sweeping floors or cleaning tables than basking in VIP attention.

The Perrys have been significant supporters of Scouting since the first of their four sons joined a Cub Scout pack in their home state of Washington. All of the Perry boys have since become Eagle Scouts, and their parents have continued to remain active Scouters. One of the most significant peaks of their careers came in 2011 when the combined bid from the United States, Canada and Mexico was accepted to host the 2019 World Scout Jamboree, also set to be held at the Summit Bechtel Reserve.

The 2017 National Jamboree will be the second jamboree at SBR, which has replaced the previous national

gathering site, Fort A.P. Hill, Va.

Wayne believes the opportunity to show off SBR's high-adventure activities and other facilities to a national and global audience at these two events will generate benefits for many years to come.

"If a young man goes to a national jamboree, Philmont or similar event, we set the hooks in him for life," Wayne explains. "They really get the point of Scouting." Young people who are exposed to immersive and compelling experiences like these are more likely to retain an interest in Scouting as adults, he adds.

More Scouts and Venturers attending jamborees means more future Cubmasters and adult volunteers for Scouting.

Hosting a jamboree at SBR also will encourage adults to support Scouting. "One way we help supporters to see the benefits of Scouting is to see the Summit Bechtel Reserve filled with kids," Wayne explains.

He urges adults and Scouters considering attending these SBR events to take action now. World jamboree host countries can admit a limited number of their own Scouts, he notes. And, while the decision hasn't been made yet, it's possible that councils that send the most Scouts to the national jamboree will get

more chances to send young people to the world jamboree.

Wayne says the 2017 National Jamboree will be even better than the one four years ago. Thanks to the continued development of SBR facilities since 2013, this year's jamboree will have an adventure flavor unlike any previous national Scout gathering.

The pulse-pounding activities lineup at SBR includes BMX and mountain biking, whitewater rafting and kayaking, rock climbing, shooting sports, skateboarding and zip-line courses.

Those same high-adventure pursuits will help the 2019 World Scout Jamboree set a new bar for future global gatherings. Past jamborees, including the 2015 World Scout Jamboree in Japan, have featured mostly static exhibits. The 2019 event at SBR will be the first to offer such a rich



palette of engaging, adventurous pursuits.

Another factor that makes the 2019 world event special is that it will be the first world jamboree co-hosted by multiple countries. Wayne helped prepare the joint bid, and the combination of Canada, Mexico and the U.S. proved compelling. It was so compelling, in fact, that as soon as the three North American Scouting organizations revealed they were joining forces, he said all the other

national Scout organizations dropped out of the bidding.

The world jamboree will be the first in the United States since 1967, and it looks as though it will make up for its long absence with an electrifying experience.

Scouts from 161 national organizations representing 223 countries and territories are expected to attend. The theme, fittingly, will be "Unlock a New World."

The world jamboree will open the eyes of Scouts

everywhere to the wonders of SBR and the energy of North American Scouting.

For the Perrys, it all boils down to this message: Don't miss the chance to support, volunteer and attend the 2017 National Jamboree and 2019 World Scout Jamboree at SBR. "These opportunities do not come around multiple times in a Scouting career," Wayne stresses. "This is a unique opportunity for Scouts and leaders. I hope people avail themselves of it."

WHY WE GIVE

Because Scouting's values parallel our own

IF WAYNE AND CHRISTINE PERRY stopped volunteering or financially supporting Scouting today, any objective observer would say their accounts with the BSA reflect a huge surplus to their credit. But the Perrys don't see it that way, as evidenced by their continued devotion to the movement.

Wayne started his Scouting experience as a Cub Scout, and he later returned as an adult while pursuing a career in busi-

ness. Christine started as den mother when their first son joined a pack, and her involvement grew as their family did.

"The boys have been very enthusiastic about Scouts, particularly the outdoor activities," she explains. "After they grew up, we've continued to support Scouting because we think it's a wonderful organization."

The Perrys have worked side by side as Scouters and committed to financially

support the movement as a couple since the beginning. "We've had no decisions on Scouting without talking to each other," Wayne says.

"It's been a wonderful thing for our family," Christine says. "Scouting values mesh perfectly with our family values."

