



Intercultural Advice

Scout Camp offers amazing opportunities to meet and interact with people from all over the world, from different cultures and societies. Below is a simple list that offers advice for socialising in an intercultural setting, such as an international campsite or a Jamboree.

- Be friendly and respectful at all times.
- **Speak Slowly:** Irish people tend to speak very quickly, combined with our accent and this can be very hard for non-native English speakers to understand. You know how hard it is to speak in another language!
- **Humour:** Irish people use a lot of humour and make jokes about people when interacting with them; be aware that some people may not easily understand this. Also, avoid making jokes about national/cultural stereotypes; this may be offensive.
- **Manners:** In some cultures, things are said very directly; what may seem rude to us, is perfectly reasonable to others.
- **Different Genders:** In some societies, young people of different genders have limited interaction, be conscious of this when talking with others and making new friends.
- **Societal Attitudes:** Some cultures have different beliefs to ours, in areas, such as the role of men and women or towards people with disabilities. If these issues arise, it is best to not get into arguments, but to avoid them by changing the conversation.
- **Faith & Atheism:** Religion and personal beliefs can be very important to some people. Do not disrespect someone else's faith or beliefs. Discuss and share by all means, but be polite.
- **Swapping Badges:** Be fair in swapping badges and other scout paraphernalia.
- **Feeling comfortable:** If you or any other scout is in a situation that makes you feel uncomfortable, leave and go to one of your scouters to discuss it.

