



TAJ GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING

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Date: January 2008

To: World Scouting Organizations

From: Brad Baldwin, President Taj Global Understanding

RE: **GLOBAL INDIA SCOUTS & GUIDES INITIATIVE (GISGI)**

“The spirit is there in every boy; it has to be discovered and brought to light.”

Robert Baden-Powell

“The uniform makes for brotherhood, since when universally adopted it covers up all differences of class and country.”

Robert Baden-Powell

“I have never forgotten my days as an Eagle Scout. I didn’t know it at the time, but what really came out of my Scouting was learning how to lead and serve the community. It has come in handy in my career in government”

Lloyd Bentsen

“The work of today is the history of tomorrow, and we are its makers.”

Juliette G. Low



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TAJ GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING

Taj Global Understanding is a non-profit organization, based in the United States of America, which seeks to promote a greater awareness and understanding of culture. TGU was formed in the State of Virginia in August 2005 and is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit US foundation, with an organizational tax exempt number 22-3301153.

Taj Global Understanding was founded by Brad Baldwin, an American who has spent a great deal of time in India conducting a variety of social and humanitarian projects since 1999. The Board of Directors for TGU include: Brad Baldwin, President; Kavita Baldwin, Vice President; Jan Evans, Secretary; Ron Evans, Director; Jaideep Verma, Director; and Brian van de Graaff, Director. TGU receives support and guidance from its Advisory Board, which is composed of members both in India & the United States. Advisory Board Members in India include Dr. Madhav Deo Saraswat, Mr. Shankar Howal, & Mr. Feroz Sheikh. Advisory Board Members in the United States include: Mrs. Bea Ramer, Mr. Tom Earles, Mr. Jesus Montes, Mrs. Jo English, & Mr. Wayne English.

ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Taj Global Understanding projects include: Volunteer Programs, Short Term Exchange Programs, One Year Student Exchange Programs, Teacher Exchanges, Rural/Urban Development Projects, International Theatrical Productions, & Interactive Educational Projects.

At the core of TGU are volunteer programs, typically 2-3 weeks in duration, in which citizens from around the world travel to India to participate in a variety of humanitarian projects. TGU volunteer programs focus in the areas of education, health, the environment, as well as arts & culture; furthermore, projects provide platforms to create a bridge between individuals from across the world, regardless of race, creed, religion, ethnicity, or socio-economic background.

In the area of student and cultural exchanges, TGU conducts short term programs to the United States which blend academics, culture, and volunteer service. Project areas include both rural and urban parts of America. TGU is developing US based programs for students across the world, in countries such as Brazil, Thailand, Russia, France & Sweden. TGU also offers both one year and semester exchange programs to students (aged 15-18) to spend with American host families and have the opportunity to study in American schools. Exchange programs are life experience programs which foster an understanding among cultures and thus create a more peaceful world.

Taj Global Understanding has also launched several initiatives. In addition to the Global India Scouts & Guides Initiative, TGU has begun PYGAIN (Project Youth for Global Awareness & Interchange Network); a program linking disadvantaged schools in India to schools in the United States and eventually around the world for a series of enrichment projects and interactive experiments.

WORLD SCOUTING

With over 28 million participants in 155 nations, scouting is truly a global phenomenon for youth, which crosses all barriers, religious, ethnic, social & economic. Lord Baden Powell, the founder of the scouting movement, was quoted as saying “Leave this world a little better than you found it.” A large part of the scouting message is the teaching of volunteerism, community service, and well rounded global citizenship.

Scouting centers on the personal development of the world’s youth, instilling values, leadership skills, knowledge, wisdom, and the ability to be a better person, thus contributing to the world in which we live.

A core part of scouting is social service. Scouts of the World, based in Geneva Switzerland, is a leading global movement for advocacy in the following fields:

- Understanding Effects of Globalization
- Cultural Diversity
- Sustainable Development
- Rights of Young People
- Youth Employability
- Responsible Governance
- Fight against Racism
- Fight against Social Exclusion
- Equal Opportunities for Men & Women
- Youth Involvement & Citizenship
- Youth Policies
- Promotion of United Nations Millennium Development Goals
- Protection of the Environment

Taj Global Understanding supports the efforts of the Scouts of the World organization and encourages interactive and collaborative programs between national scouting organizations worldwide.

BRAD BALDWIN, PRESIDENT TGU SCOUTING CONNECTION

Mr. Brad Baldwin, a native of Culpeper Virginia, has a Bachelor of Arts in Cinema/Television (1997) from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Much of Baldwin's early life was spent traveling the United States (47 States) and nearby countries. However, it was Brad's first trip to India in 1992 that proved to be a pivotal turning point. Seeking a better sense of the world and more life experience, Brad moved to Northern India in 1998 and has been living off and on in India throughout the period. From assisting in earthquake rehabilitation efforts in 2001 to launching Vishvet (2003), a company dedicated to promoting cultural exchange between India and the United States, Brad has gained valuable insight into human nature and world events. A highlight of Mr. Baldwin's work includes EKTA (2002), a 90 minute theatrical and dance production performed by teenagers from India's underprivileged communities. EKTA toured throughout the USA, and was featured on CNN, as well as Atlanta PBS. Mr. Baldwin's background in humanitarian service, creative and visual arts and business provide a solid foundation for Taj Global Understanding.

Brad Baldwin spent his entire youth in the scouting program; participating as a Tiger Cub, Cub Scout, & Boy Scout.

Following Composed For:

Brad Baldwin

EAGLE COURT OF HONOR CEREMONY

July 29, 1991

“Brad Baldwin joined the Cub Scouts in June 1983 and earned the Arrow of Light as a Webelo. Brad joined Boy Scout Troop 196 on June 30, 1986. He has served the Troop as Historian, Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, and Senior Patrol Leader. He has attended five summer camps and in 1989 attended the 12th National Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia. Brad was presented the God & Country religious award in January 1988. He is a member of the Order of the Arrow, an honorary camping group. Brad has 41 merit badges.

Brad has over 1000 miles of biking, hiking, and backpacking during his eight years of scouting. He has completed the 184.5 mile C&O Canal Historical Trail three times. He biked the Washington & Old Dominion/Mt. Vernon trails in a 65 mile day trip.

Brad has over 260 miles of hiking and 220 miles of backpacking. He has thru-hiked and backpacked the 110 mile Shenandoah National Park. He was part of three summer backpacking trips – to New York's Adirondack Mountains in 1988, to Michigan's Isle Royal National Park in 1990, and to North Carolina's Great Smoky Mountains in 1991.

He is an honor roll student and rising 11th grader at Culpeper County High School. Brad plans to attend college to become a medical doctor”

SCOPE

AIM

The aim of the Global India Scouts & Guides Initiative (GISGI) is to create a bridge between scouts in India and scouts throughout the world through short term collaborative programs in the areas of volunteer service as well as cultural/educational exchange. GISGI is designed to be an enrichment program for the worldwide scouting movement.

OBJECTIVES

- I.** To provide a platform for international scouts to gain a global perspective, enhance their leadership skills, and gain valuable life experience.
- II.** To promote the values of the worldwide scouting movement.
- III.** To contribute to the enhancement of the Indian scout program and highlight the relevance of India in the 21st Century.
- IV.** To provide valuable one to one cultural and educational exchange between Indian scouts and international scouts.
- V.** To conduct various volunteer and social humanitarian programs.
- VI.** To promote peace and unity among nations.
- VII.** To expose Indian culture to a positive image of Western Culture.
- VIII.** To create long lasting friendships between scouts.
- IX.** To create partnerships between Taj Global Understanding and Scout & Guide Organizations in India and throughout the world, as well as the future establishment of a permanent base for scouts of all nations to come together in a spirit of common purpose and fellowship.
- X.** To create partnerships between Taj Global Understanding and various Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that work in India for the betterment of society, with a focus in the areas of educations, health, as well as women's development.

SCOUTING PROGRAM IN INDIA

Scouting programs across the globe differ in their presentation; however, the core values and message remain the same. As an American Boy Scout, I recall the weekly meetings, at 7pm, usually at a local church. Our scout troop was very much active; hence, there was always a weekend camping trip, hiking/biking trip, adventure, volunteer service activity, summer scout camp, and so forth. As a scout, there was a clear set of challenges laid before you in order to move up the rank and obtain the ultimate goal, Eagle Scout. It was a lengthy process filled with merit badges, social projects, and the 'scary' board of reviews. Scouts entered as a Boy Scout, then worked up to Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, & then finally Eagle. Parents of the local scouts would participate in their varying capacities. Our troop had a dynamic and intensely motivated scoutmaster and core scout leadership.

Taj Global Understanding has an office located in Karad, a city in the state of Maharashtra. Karad has about 300,000 people and is located in Satara District. In the Satara District there are about 60,000 scouts. However, scouting in India is much different than what I experienced. Firstly, scouting is conducted directly through schools. If a school joins the scout program, then a particular teacher at that school becomes the 'leader'. He/She receives training and scouting books and materials. Joining the scout program is voluntary and scouts receive one uniform, which cost about 65 Rupees or \$1.5 USD. They receive one patch for the scout uniform. I talked recently with a group of 8th grade scouts and asked them many questions.

In 4 years of scouting, the local scouts I met with had NEVER been on a single field trip, enrichment activity, or camping trip. The scouts NEVER had a scout book, only the teacher had a scout book. There was no ranking system, no patches, and no merit badges. The scouts had one patch and that was it. Sure, they learned a bit of first aid, tying knots and how to be a good person; however, they were not given the resources or tools which I was given in my scout program. The local scouts from Karad were amazed at my merit badge sash and photographs from my scouting youth.

With the resources and tools from Western scouting programs, an international collaboration can revolutionize scouting in India.

WHY COLLABORATE WITH INDIA?

India is unique for many reasons. India is the largest democracy in the World. India has 1/6 of the World's population. India has immense cultural diversity. India is rapidly undergoing a transformation in the 21st Century and is evolving into a major social and economic power. India has thousands of years of history and has been a crossroad for all major religions of the world. India creates a unique platform to understand the merging of Eastern & Western thought. India is the home to Mahatma Gandhi, one of the world's most dynamic leaders. India is a safe and stable country to work in. India and its people have a deep sense of spirituality from which much can be learned. Much of India speaks English and thus provides a common uniting factor for boy/girl scouts from across the globe. And most importantly, INDIA HAS OVER 2 MILLION SCOUTS

Taj Global Understanding has identified several key areas which are an important part of creating an interactive international scouting program. Those are:

- I. Youth – Scouting as a program aimed at the youth. Participation in the TGU Global India Scouts & Guides Initiative program brings youth together from different nations for one to one interaction and dialogue. This is key to building links of global understanding and creating a more tolerant and safe global society.
- II. Religion – Scouting is not a program which centers on or is driven by religion. Scouting is a program which is inclusive of all religions worldwide and thus, the motives for an international scout program are very clear.
- III. Uniforms - Scouts worldwide have uniforms. Scout groups traveling to India will be wearing uniforms at all times, Class A or Class B. The uniform provides a very important role in creating a positive image of Western Culture.
- IV. Principals – Scouting was created to educate youth, instill values, and create future leaders; hence, those principals will make an international scouting program stand on its own.

THE PROJECT

OVERVIEW

International scouts will travel to India for a specified duration (2-3 weeks) to engage in a program organized and structured by Taj Global Understanding, in the areas of volunteer service & cultural exchange. International scouts will be working closely with local Indian scouts for a customized program. Participating scouts will work toward earning the “Global India Scouts & Guides Initiative” patch during the program.

PATCH – “Global India Scouts & Guides Initiative”

Participating scouts will have the opportunity to earn a “Global India Scout Initiative” patch upon the successful completion of their program. Program requirements include:

1. Prior to arrival in India, you (scout) must prepare a 5-10 minute presentation that reflects your cultural background. The presentation should include information about you as a scout, your local community, and your country. Presentations should also include visual media; for example, photographs, newspapers and/or magazines.
2. In India, you must give your presentation to one local scout group as well as to one local school.
3. A day in the life of an Indian scout. You must spend an entire day with a local Indian scout and his/her family. At the end of the day, you must write an essay on your experience and what you learned.
4. India has a large and diverse population, composed of many different religious and ethnic communities. Choose 3 groups with different racial, cultural, religious, or ethnic backgrounds and do two of the following:
 - a. Visit a place of worship. Report on what you see and learn.
 - b. Talk with a person from the group about the heritage and traditions of the group. Report on what you learn.
 - c. Learn a song, dance, poem, or story from one group and teach it to your fellow scouts.
 - d. Select a festival which is important to one group. Report on what you learn.
5. Participate in a volunteer service activity, identified by Taj Global Understanding, for a minimum of 15 hours.
6. Watch a film or documentary in Hindi and/or any regional language. Describe what you see and learn.
7. Select a partner Indian scout. Without the use of a translator, create a 5 minute skit, song, dance, or play. Together, perform your skit to fellow scouts.

PROJECT LOCATION (POSSIBLE)

Taj Global Understanding has a Field Office located in Karad, India, a small city with a population of 300,000 about 6 hours south of Bombay (Mumbai). Karad is an agricultural region in the southern part of Maharashtra state, located on the Deccan Plateau with a year round moderate climate. Taj Global Understanding has an office and accommodation facility in Karad which has recently been renovated and equipped to host scouts and groups from around the world.

LOCATION FACTS

City/Town: Karad
Population: 300,000 +
State: Maharashtra
Project Region: Satara District (Rural, Urban)
Primary Languages: Marathi, Hindi, English
Elevation: 1000 meters (3000 feet)
Topography: Deccan Plateau, Mountains & Plains
Nearest International Airport: Mumbai (Bombay – 325 Kilometers)
Nearest Domestic Airport: Kholapur (60 Kilometers)

CLIMATE

Winter Season: November to February
Summer Season: March to May
Rainy Season: June to October
Hottest Month: Highs 96 F/ 36 C April
Coolest Month: Highs 78 F/ 25 C July & August
Year Round: Lows 59-70F/15-21 C

ACCOMMODATION FACILITY

Taj Global Understanding has a recently renovated bungalow facility located in Karad to house scouting groups. The bungalow offers a safe and secure program base, as well as a clean and hygienic facility. A few basic details of the facility:

- 8 Bedrooms (Structured into 3 Separate Apartments)
- 5 Full Bathrooms
- 1 Common Kitchen
- 1 Community Room
- 1 Meeting Room/Library
- Office Facility (Computer, Internet, Phone)
- Large Compound Wall (Safety/Security)
- Large Upper Terrace (Rooftop)
- Smaller Lower Terrace (Rooftop)

CAPACITY

Scouts: 10-15 (In Rooms) *Additional TENT Capacity on Flat Roof/Terrace*
Leaders: 1-2 (In Rooms)

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM TYPES

- Painting local schools
- Constructing toilets
- School Renovations
- Cooking meals for the poor
- Food distribution to needy
- Organizing field trips/local outings with other scouts
- Spending time with blind/handicapped students
- Designing & producing handmade greeting cards
- Organizing street plays/skits
- Teaching in local schools
- Organizing trash collection and use of trash cans
- Installation of solar panels
- Medicine Distribution
- Hygiene project to kids in local slums/rural areas
- Helping run a health clinic/camp
- Teaching computer applications
- Teaching sports/athletics
- Sharing the principals of scouting
- Providing assistance to widows
- Providing skill based training to women
- Projects in the areas of women's development

CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM TYPES

- Local school presentations
- Spending day with local Indian scout & family
- Visiting local sites
- Visiting local places of worship
- Field Trips
- Watching foreign films/documentaries/television
- Touring local Indian government offices
- Learning local customs
- Practicing traditional songs/dance
- Learning local languages
- Creating projects/programs with Indian scouts
- Taking local day hikes/trekking
- Learning about modern India
- Learning about traditional India
- Participating in a debate
- Participating in sports/athletics
- Organizing competitions (mixed Indian/Foreign scout groups)

SAMPLE PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Day 1	Arrival/ Orientation Meeting/ Welcome Party
Day 2	Exchange – School Presentations/ PM Activity
Day 3	Full Day Field Trip
Day 4	Exchange Program (GISGI) Evening Reflection/ Discussion
Day 5	Volunteer Service – Project 1
Day 6	Volunteer Service – Project 1/ Evening Film Screening
Day 7	Volunteer Service – Project 1
Day 8	Global India Scouts & Guides Initiative (Individual Projects)
Day 9	Seminar – Cultural Program – Guest Lectures
Day 10	Move to Secondary Project Work Site/ Camp (2-3 Hr Drive)
Day 11	Secondary Work Site Day 2
Day 12	Secondary Work Site Day 3/ Return to Base
Day 13	Exchange – A Day in the Life of a Indian Scout w/Family
Day 14	Exchange - Tour Local Government/Institutes
Day 15	Global India Scouts & Guides Initiative (Individual Projects)
Day 16	Full Day Field Trip
Day 17	Volunteer Service – Project 2
Day 18	Volunteer Service – Project 2
Day 19	Organized Sports/Competitions/ Evening Cultural Show
Day 20	Global India Scouts & Guides Initiative (Final Projects & Reports)
Day 21	Closing Function (Awarding GISGI Patch) & Departures to Mumbai

PARNTERSHIP WITH TAJ GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING

Taj Global Understanding (TGU) aims to serve as a facilitator and administrator of a Global India Scouts & Guides Initiative program. TGU seeks to work with individual scout troops, scouting councils and/or national scouting offices worldwide. A program would be booked and planned for a specific sending nation (i.e. Australia, United States, Japan, Norway, etc). It is for this reason that TGU wishes to keep groups small with a minimum of 10 participants and from single nations. In the future, TGU plans to have greater capacity to handle multi-national scout groups visiting India. TGU would like to clarify the roles & responsibilities proposed:

Taj Global Understanding

Communication Hub
Project Planning & Coordination
Accommodation
Food Preparations
Orientation & Prep Materials
Transportation To/From Mumbai
Ground Transportation
Basic Supplies & Resources

International Group

Promotion & Recruitment
Applications & Contracts
MOU
Orientations
Visa/Ticketing/Medical
Post Project Communication

APPLICATION & LEGAL

1. Each scout submits a completed TGU application
2. Each scout submits a contract/agreement signed by parents
3. TGU enters an MOU with International scout troop/organization

HEALTH & WELFARE

1. All team members are to bring a basic personal first aid kit. The Scout Leader/Program Coordinator is to ensure that there are appropriate first aid kits for each member.
2. For the conduct of the project, Taj Global Understanding has tie ups and resource information for all area hospitals and specializations. Should a team member require medical support they will be taken to the nearest hospital for treatment by Taj Global Understanding.
3. A basic medical and consent form will be issued with the application form for the Project from Taj Global Understanding. The comprehensive medical details form to be filled out by each participant prior to departure and will be confidential.
4. Immunizations. All immunizations are to be undertaken at the participant's cost prior to departure. Taj Global Understanding will work with the International Scout Coordinator to identify necessary or preventive immunizations.
5. Medicines. Team members will be responsible for the management of their own personal medication with the express but confidential knowledge of Scout Leaders & Taj Global Understanding support staff.

SAFETY

Safety is a primary concern; therefore Taj Global Understanding seeks to take every possible step to ensure a safe and secure program. TGU will work closely with the international scout coordinators during logistical planning and orientations to cover the basic safety precautions.

TGU has identified primary areas of safety concerns, which include:

- ❖ Individual Scout Accident/Medical Related Emergency
- ❖ Ordinary Crime/Theft/Assault
- ❖ Natural Disaster

Safety instruction and orientation procedures are to be discussed during pre departure orientations as well as upon arrival orientation in India.

“I have lived off and on in India since 1998 and endorse India as a safe and stable democratic nation. I have traveled alone in many parts of India and never felt threatened. Safety precautions should always be taken and safety is an essential part of the scouting program. Taj Global Understanding seeks to create a safe and secure program, as the benefit to scouts far outweighs the potential risk.”

Brad Baldwin, President

FINANCIAL

PROGRAM FEES

2 – Week Program	\$ 750 USD per Scout
3 – Week Program	\$1050 USD per Scout

Group Size 8-12: 1 Scout Leader/Coordinator 50% Program Fees Waived

Group Size 13-16: 1 Scout Leader/Coordinator Program Fees Waived

Troop Size: Discounts Applicable to Scouts/Leaders

INCLUDING

- Accommodation
- Food
- Transport To/From Bombay
- Local Transportation
- Program Coordination & Administration
- All Project Supplies & Materials
- Orientation Materials
- 24 Hour Emergency Support
- Project T-Shirt & Program Kit

NOT INCLUDING

- International Airfare
- Visa Charges
- Immunizations
- Pocket Money

FUNDRAISING & SPONSORSHIP

Fundraising/Sponsorship is a part of the scouting program and would be beneficial with respect to airfare and immunizations. Airfare cost will vary according to the time of year and origin. Scouts from Europe will have less airfare to pay than those from the United States or South America. Airlines may be able to offer partial sponsorship. Taj Global Understanding will provide a supporting letter to an international airline. In addition, local medical offices should be able to offer a reduced rate for immunizations.

TIME FRAME

Taj Global Understanding is aware that the available program times will differ according to region. Nations in the Northern & Southern Hemispheres will have opposite summer schedules; moreover, school vacations during the school year will vary from country to country. Taj Global Understanding would like to have the flexibility to accommodate scout groups year round to India; however, certain seasons would be better than others to conduct programs.

Winter is the best season across India from November – February and the most ideal time to plan a program. The Western summers of June-August are also feasible, though groups may encounter monsoon rains and delays. As per the scouting motto, it is important for groups to **'Be Prepared'** for a variety of weather conditions.

CONCLUSION

Taj Global Understanding welcomes the opportunity to work with scouting organizations from across the globe in creating enrichment opportunities for young people. In today's era of globalization, it is important for each of us to be better well informed citizens. Through cultural exchange and volunteer service, young scouts will gain an international exposure, insight into their own country, develop lasting connections with scouts in India, as well as develop their leadership skills. India is becoming an important nation in the 21st Century and Taj Global Understanding seeks to be a part of that overall development. Hence, nurturing the growth of the scouting program in India and fostering links with scouts worldwide is an important part of that process.

CONTACT

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