



WAGGGS Around the World

Tuesday 17 - Monday 23 February 2009

Event Letter #3 for Participants

Greetings from Sangam!

Here at Sangam the temperatures are beginning to drop as we enter winter – after the blistering heat of the Indian summer, who knew I would be pulling out a jumper?! Not to worry though as it will surely be warming up again by the time you get here.

For up-to-date Pune weather forecasts check <http://www.worldweather.org/066/c00535.htm>

This letter is a final update for your event before you join us at Sangam. Please read this information carefully and feel free to contact us with any questions you may have. We look forward to getting to know you and enjoying a great time together!

Participation

So far we have a total of thirty-eight participants from the United Kingdom and Canada enrolled in this event. Our international staff come from Hungary, India, Ireland, the United States of America, Venezuela, and Wales. Additionally, the Sangam family has nineteen members of staff who live in the local area.

Written Materials

If you (or your group leader) have not sent your health forms or travel arrangement form, please send them immediately. Also, let us know if there have been major changes to the health information you submitted previously.

Travel Reminders

If you have not already done so, please find out the procedures for getting a visa. All visitors must have a visa. Please be aware that Indian visas are valid from their date of issue, rather than the date of entry into India.

You may want to consider getting travel insurance for your trip. These policies may cover lost luggage, expenses incurred in emergencies, or the financial loss from a cancelled trip.

Arrival

Ideally, you will arrive the day before your event begins, so that you can rest. The travel to Sangam can be quite tiring, no matter if you are travelling across the country by train or ½ way around the world by plane! Carry Sangam's address and phone numbers (24 hour cell phone: +91-99-7007-1392, as our landlines are currently not working) with you when you travel. Keep them in an accessible place. If possible, alert us of changes along the way.

If you arrive via the international airport in Mumbai, you will be given a customs and immigration forms to complete. You will go through immigration first, where they will check your passport, visa, and immigration card. Afterwards, collect your luggage – free push carts are available. When leaving the baggage claim area, your bags will be put through an x-ray machine. Next, there are the money exchange booths.

You will need enough Indian Rupees for your first few days at Sangam, which will include some shopping excursions for saris, jewellery and souvenirs. Many participants spend between 500 and 2000 Rupees on one Sari. ATMs/bank machines are also available around the city. Please check with your bank about whether your card is compatible with the Indian system. About mid-way through the event, you will have an opportunity to change money again.

After changing money, proceed to the exit doors where you turn in your customs form. Once outside, there may be many drivers waiting for clients. If you arranged transportation through Sangam, one of them will have your name on a sign. From Mumbai airport it is approximately a four-hour car or bus ride to Sangam where staff will welcome you.

About Your Event

The previous letter described some activities you may participate in during your time here. Your schedule will be based on the following core objectives, set out by WAGGGS:


1. Learning about WAGGGS, its Member Organizations, themes, projects, regions and World Centres, sharing the international friendship that Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting offers.
2. Experiencing the unique culture of India through its traditions, history and people.
3. Participating in activities and workshops related to leadership, advocacy and other topics relevant to your event.

Evaluation

Even if some of you are already well-established leaders, the aim of WAGGGS World Centre programmes is to contribute towards participants leadership and advocacy skills. On the last day we will ask you to evaluate your event against these core objectives.

Event Schedule

The schedule below is subject to change but gives you an idea of the timetable you will have during your week with us. The updated schedule will be given to you at the beginning of the event.

Date		17/02/2009	18/02/2009	19/02/2009	20/02/2009	21/02/2009	22/02/2009	23/02/2009
WAGGGS Around the World - Thinking Day 2009	8:15 AM	Arrivals	Patrol Time	Patrol Time	Patrol Time		Sunrise Hike Parvati Hill	Patrol Time
	8:30 AM		BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST
	9:30 AM		Laxmi Road and Phule Market	10 Million girls ! Voice	Community Partner Visits	Lie In / Water Tower Climb	Thinking Day Celebrations with Bharat Scouts and Guides	Laughter Yoga Sangam Wow
	11 AM			TEA		TEA		TEA
	11:30 AM			WAGGGS Millionaire Game		Thinking Day Preparations		Evaluations Closing
	1 PM	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
	2 - 3 PM		Tailors				Tailors	
	3:00 PM	Introduction to Sangam	Warli Art/Embroidery	Peer Education	Advocacy Session	Off Site Leadership Session	Indian Afternoon	
	4:30 PM	TEA	TEA	TEA	TEA		TEA	
	5 PM	Introduction to Sangam	Warli Art/Embroidery	Peer Education	Prep for International Night		Indian Afternoon	
	6:30 PM	DINNER	DINNER		DINNER	DINNER	Maharastrian	
	7:15 - 7:45 PM			Bollywood Movie and Dinner Out				
	8 PM	Welcome Ceremony	Campfire		International Night	Bollywood Dance	Candle Lit Walk/Thinking Day Ceremony	
	9:15 PM	TEA	TEA	TEA	TEA	TEA	TEA	

*The opportunity to worship/attend services can be made possible - please speak to a PA

Objectives

1. Learning about WAGGGS, its Member Organizations, themes, projects, regions and World Centres, sharing the international friendship that Girl G
2. Experiencing Indian culture through its traditions, history and people.
3. Participating in activities/workshops related to leadership, advocacy and other topics relevant to the event.

Are you are an accomplished juggler or a dedicated card maker? Have you got so many campfire songs in your head that you just have to share? Can you play your national sport?

You will notice that we are having a peer education session one afternoon. This is a chance for you as experienced Guides/Scouts to show us some of your skills & talents and teach us about your hobbies. We will run this session with a "round robin" format ie. one person will set up a station each and the others will move around and participate as per their interests.

We expect approximately 60 people to attend this event so would like 6 to 10 of you to volunteer your skills and expertise. We are open to *any* suggestions. Please let us know if you think you have something to offer and we will do our best to provide the necessary resources.

Preparations Checklist

Clothes & Shoes

Multiple changes of comfortable clothes (please no tank tops or shorts), a sunhat, a cardigan/jumper/sweater for the evenings.

Comfortable, supportive, but not too-hot ones for longer walking. Open-toed, slip-on sandals are convenient for inside Sangam. Please be aware that we remove shoes before going inside temples and homes in the neighbourhood.

Flag Ceremony

Knowledge or instructions of flag ceremonies carried out in your country.

Reflections *Optional*

Poems, songs or readings to share (we also have many resources here)

International Evening

5-10 minute dance, song, legend, etc. from your country/community – wear your national costume!

Postcards, photographs, flags (no Canada, UK, or USA – we already have plenty for you to use!) and other items about your country or region on a 75cm x 120cm cloth banner

Badges, pins, etc. that represent your Guiding Association and country to trade with others

Campfire Ashes *Optional*

Ashes and their history from a previous campfire in your country to add to Sangam's fire ring

Donation *Optional*

You may also wish to make a financial contribution (in Indian Rupees, you will have to change any foreign currency) to Sangam's community partner(s) / social organisation(s) that you visit. If you wish to bring *items* from your home country *please get in touch with us first*; together with the our partners we can advise you what is needed and what might better be purchased in India to be most effective.

In the Future...

Again, feel free to contact us. Remember, "There are no strangers at Sangam, only friends we have not met." We wish you a safe and enjoyable journey!

Yours in the Spirit of Sangam ~

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