

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

~ A 2019 WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE FOOD TEAM COMMUNIQUÉ ~

~ JUNE 2018 ~



We continue every month to be that much closer to the next World Scout Jamboree. I am excited about its swift approach despite the challenges to be faced between now and then as we all try to balance the different cultures that will assemble next summer in a single world wide event. I recall from prior World Jamboree experience that language often presents difficulties that all of us will work to overcome. One of the food related topics that repeatedly has presented us with critical thoughts from Scouting colleagues around the world I believe is really just a problem of understanding the words we use and what they mean in practice, not just what one thinks they mean when reading or translating them. So for this issue of the monthly *Food for Thought* newsletter I would like to talk about the word “Menu” and explain a little about how you should interpret our use of that word in different ways during the 2019 WSJ..

Specifically I am going to focus first on the Troop Food Markets and how the participant Scouts and their leaders shop for their breakfast, lunch and dinner meals. The Jamboree Food Team has published ‘2017 World Jamboree Menus – Draft Only’. Here is the link to the English version for reference: [\[click here for 2017 WSJ Draft Menus\]](#). The word ‘Menu’ seems to have caused some confusion that I hope to straighten out here.

We use menu as fully described in the cover letter to that document – that these are ideas of meals that a unit could make while at the Jamboree – but Scouts with varied tastes and dietary ways are not limited in any way to follow these. For those who have been to prior World Jamborees that used the distribution method of food service, a system where there is a set menu and delivery of items to make that menu and only that menu to the units, the word may be conjuring up lack of flexibility and a need to follow what is written. In 2019 we are **not** doing that and instead are offering a grocery store model of food provision to the units. Scouts from each unit will come to an assigned store called a Troop Food Market and be able to shop for their meals from among a wide variety of items that will be stocked in the store. Here is the link to the English version of the draft item list: [\[click here for Draft Market List\]](#)

I hope you see that there are so many different items that will be stocked in the market stores that a unit can plan whatever meals will best suit their many unit members. We know for example that there will be many who want to avoid sugary breakfast item, you can do that and even though the menu might suggest that as an option you can select

something else with little or none. We know there are going to be vegetarians and vegans and many with their religiously motivated dietary ways and avoiding prohibited items is as simple as not procuring those restricted foods in the store while you shop for the meal your unit decided to make.

I am thinking that maybe we used the wrong word to describe the suggested meal preparations, for menu does in a way suggest limited choice. The publication using that word has happened but hopefully you will see what we intend in practice is for all units to be able to look at the list of items that will be offered in the market stores and to prepare their own meal choices from them. I have often thought that the published menu suggestions might better have been termed a Jamboree Cookbook – for the menu list offers you ideas but if you don't like one of the meal recipes on the menu you are free to alter it to suit your dietary way or to ignore it completely and prepare something else from the offered list or that you simply make up on your own.

Now in contrast, the word menu will be used as a limited list of food offerings in other aspects of Jamboree Food Team. When IST come to eat at one of the Staff Dining halls, there will be a published menu and that is what will be served and only what will be served. You will have lots of choices since we will have a menu that offers four different serving lines, but what we will serve will be listed and only that will be available on the identified day. There will be menus at the Chat 'n Chew and at the various International Food Houses, prepared and approved well in advance, and again those will identify your options and only options for food selection with associated cost. So it seems that the word does carry a limiting aspect in some cases, but certainly not in the Troop Food Markets where the only limit to a Unit's meal choice is the points we assign as the currency to buy only a certain amount of food and the creativity of the Scouts in the unit.

In future months we will gladly cover other topics of food related interest and if you have any suggestions for things you might like to have us write about feel free to send your ideas to: 2019jamboreefoodteam@gmail.com