



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND

The Guides and Scouts of Finland are holding their eighth big camp, the Kajo Finnjamboree, at the Evo hiking and camping area in Hämeenlinna on 15-23 July 2022. The event is a masterpiece of joint effort and volunteer work. In practice, a medium-sized town is built from scratch in the middle of the forest. Merely the amount of building materials required is in a class of its own. Tens of thousands of guides and scouts representing a wide range of nationalities will gather at the site.

The importance of the guide and scout movement has been underlined during the pandemic. Weekly activities have been organised remotely, as well as outdoors respecting health security. It is therefore no wonder that guiding and scouting has experienced no uncertainty with regard to lower participation. In some areas, there has even been a clear increase in the membership levels of local groups. Most parents of guides and scouts consider that continuing the hobby has had a positive impact on the wellbeing of the whole family.

Trackers, explorers and rovers alike have shown their ability to change plans and adapt to the prevailing situation in exceptional times. Now, once again, the holding of the big camp and the meeting of friends will show guiding and scouting activities at their best.

In addition to friendships, the guide and scout movement provides skills for later life. Children and young people learn a sense of responsibility, leadership skills and the irreplaceable value of nature. These are the best tools for changing the world.

I thank all of the event's organisers and volunteers for their valuable work and wish all the participants an unforgettable camp experience.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sauli Niinistö".

Sauli Niinistö
President of the Republic of Finland
Patron of Kajo 2022