

## Southern Europe Report

With an increase of 14.6% in total membership now delivering UK scouting to 532<sup>(1)</sup> young people delivered by a 212<sup>(1)</sup> adult volunteers, Southern Europe continues to grow and build on the success from the previous year. Significant growth was recorded in our 1<sup>st</sup> Naples Group in Italy increasing youth membership by 36.6% and now deliver a full programme from Squirrel's to Scout ages and opening the first Squirrel Drey in the district.

Southern Europe are delighted to have welcomed our first group in Romania, 1<sup>st</sup> Bucharest where the group continues to go from strength to strength and open addition sections as it matures currently providing Cubs and Scouts to 38 young people. Growth continues within the Southern Europe district as we prepare to welcome 1<sup>st</sup> Lanzarote and 1<sup>st</sup> Alicante in Spain in addition to 1<sup>st</sup> Geneva, Switzerland who will all commence willingly in September.

Our adult volunteers continue to deliver an engaging programme to our Young People across the region of Southern Europe in the aim to obtain top awards and DoE through a balanced programme and want to thank each and every contributor who enable this every week to our young people. I was delighted over the course of the year to attend various Camps, Meetings, Gang shows and much more, seeing the fantastic work of our volunteers in addition to seeing so many young people with smiles on their faces developing skills for life.

Southern Europe's adult volunteers have also been delivering success, with a total of 8 Wood Badges, 4 Commissioner Commendation Awards, 13 Long Service Awards & 1 Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service Award, all awarded to recognise the commitment and dedication to scouting by each of the recipients.

During the course of last year, Southern Europe led its first District Camp within Griebal, Spain attended by 73 young people from across the district. The camp was a success and a special thanks must be mentioned to James SCOTT (1<sup>st</sup> Madrid) for acting as Camp Chief and leading out the end-to-end planning. Another well attended camp during 2022 was Kent International Jamboree (KIJ) and would like to extend my thanks to John BROXIS (GLV, 1<sup>st</sup> Chantilly) and Justin STEED (DGLV, 1<sup>st</sup> Bougival) for leading this camp for BSO.

Unfortunately, last year the district was shocked and saddened of the sudden passing of Ruth MARIENFELD following a short illness. Southern Europe's deepest condolences and thoughts are with her family and a memorial service was attended by members of the district in England. During the KIJ Camp, a generous donation was made for a Tardis that was on the campsite and the monies donated to two charities of the Marienfeld family's choosing in way of remembering Ruth led by John BROXIS.

To wrap up, I want to thank also the District Leadership Team, District Trustee Board and BSO Team for their support in enabling Southern Europe and look forward to delivering more success over the next period.

*Jordan McCullough*

Jordan MCCULLOUGH  
District Commissioner (Southern Europe)

<sup>(1)</sup> Information from 2022 Census