

# Peace Light from Bethlehem2014:

## Fellow Scouters:

**What is the Peace Light:** Each year, a child from Upper Austria fetches the light from the grotto in Bethlehem where Jesus was born. The light is then flown to Austria from where it is distributed at a Service of Dedication to delegations from across Europe who take it back, with a message of Peace, to their own countries for use at ecumenical services throughout the Continent. Scouts and Guides can then take the light on to houses of worship, hospitals, homeless shelters, old people homes, prisons, and places of public, cultural and political importance - to anybody who appreciates the significance of the "gift"

The Peace Light first came to New York in 2001 by Canadian Scouts who brought it to Ground Zero. In 2004 the Austrian Scout Movement, Austrian Airlines and Boy Scouts of America International Division arranged to bring the 2004 Peace Light to New York on Dec. 4. Two security guards and Dr. Thomas Ertlthaler, international commissioner of Austrian Scouting, flew from Vienna with the Peace Light in two explosion-proof, British mining lamps, fueled by smokeless paraffin oil. Just 11 days earlier, Austrian Scouts had extracted the light from the eternal flame in Bethlehem.

Austrian Airlines has continued to bring the Peace Light in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014.

**Troop 1** (4001) is taking part in the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) to distribute the Peace Light of Bethlehem. As part of the program, we will deliver the light via a hurricane lantern to your scouting unit. We have a short "Sharing of the Light Program" to exchange the light to your unit. If you are unable to schedule a time but would still like to get the Peace Light give the Troop leaders a call, we will make arrangements to get you the peace light. We recommend a lantern using liquid paraffin or lamp oil for your unit to receive the light. On December 12, a Troop 1 leader will be receiving the Peace Light in the Ohio or Pennsylvania and bring it to Southern Indiana.

**Starting Saturday, December 13, 2014**

**Troop 1** would like to deliver the peace light to your unit. To make arrangements for this sharing of peace, contact Steve Driver at [sdriver@acm.org](mailto:sdriver@acm.org) or 502-876-5498 (cell) to arrange a time for a presentation

by Troop 1 scout.



**A Scout is Reverent:** Why participate in the Peace Light exchange. During this Christmas season we feel the Peace Light program is a way to symbolize the true meaning during the Christmas season – PEACE. So, we bring you this light in the spirit of the one who was born there over 2,000 years ago, Jesus Christ, the one that the Bible calls, the Light of the World and the Prince of Peace

Reference and sources: <http://scout.org/peacelight>, <http://www.peacelight.org/> and <http://bsainternationalpeacelightusa.org>