



Saturday 25 August 2023

It's time for us to say tschüss

As the sun rises on another fantastic day here in Kandersteg we can hardly believe that this is the last edition of KIX+ for 2023. Sorry that we only put enough CHF in the meter for 7 days' worth of sunshine...

We'd like to start off by saying a really big thank you to all of you who have sent in contributions to us each day, for the amazing pictures you have taken and articles you have written. We'd also like to say a special hello and thank you to everyone who has been reading KIX+ online back at home, your comments on the blog and emails through to the KIX+ team have been really appreciated by everyone at KIX.

Ian MacQueen, the expedition leader would like to thank you all for your help in ensuring that KIX 2023 was a success, so thank you all. As you can see from the picture of Ian with Felipe from KISC, we've left a piece of Surrey here in Switzerland in the form of our expedition scarf.



As you start your journey back to Surrey, we thought we'd share some interesting camp facts with you.

Our kitchen team have provided enough evening meals to feed one person for 10 years. You've munched through over a tonne of fruit and vegetables (1111kg in fact), 350kg of potatoes, 100kg each of yogurt and cheese, 120kg of pasta, 90kg of rice, 322kg of meat and 700 schnitzels; not to mention 287kg of breakfast cereal.

The high walks team have helped you to walk over 8000km (5000 miles) and ascend a total of nearly 450km (280 miles). To put that another way, that's like walking from here to

Surrey about 10 times whilst climbing Mount Everest nearly 20 times! The activities team have arranged and provided tickets for a total of 1362 toboggan runs, that's a distance of 953 km (nearly 600 miles). You've taken over 900 separate trips in a cable car and 345 trips to a swimming pool.

Is it any wonder you're feeling a bit tired?

Save the date



We really hope you've had as much fun on KIX as we have had running it for you and look forward to welcoming some of you back to Switzerland for KIX 2026. That's in only 1092 days' time...

For now, have a safe journey home and get some well-earned rest. You deserve it!

Chief Scout's Gold Awards

As most of you will know, the Chief Scout's Gold Award is the highest award a Scout can earn. To complete it, you need to complete all nine of the Challenge Awards six Activity or Staged Activity badges of your own choosing.



At last night's international campfire 1st Weybridge's

Oliver Middleton (left) and **Conrad McLaren** (right) were presented with their awards by Surrey Heath ADC **Justin App**. In the course of achieving this award they have volunteered with the Alzheimer's Society, flown a light aircraft, done lots of hiking (and learnt to read



maps), have attended numerous camps and scoured London at the Monopoly Run. They've constructed large pioneering projects, made morse code machines and learnt about Scouting around the world. Conrad and Oliver are finishing their Scout adventures with this international trip to Kandersteg.

1st Haslemere's **Dominic Kennedy** was presented with his Chief Scout's Gold Award yesterday morning. Max Earis commented that this is the best location to have the award presented!



Congratulations to Conrad, Dominic and Oliver from everyone on the KIX team! Why not talk to your leader to find out more about how you can achieve this amazing award?



A special message

Aiden Golden (the youngest member of the expedition) would like to say "thank you to all the children and adults that played with me and gave me attention. I look forward to seeing you again soon at the next adventure."

Saturday in Kandersteg... East France... North East France... Sunday in Surrey...

Afternoon



18°

Evening



21°

Night



16°

Morning



12°

Aare rafting

5th Reigate and **1st Oxted** had a fabulous day in the sun rafting floating along the river. They all enjoyed cooling off in the water doing flips and dives. Some of the scouts went to Bern and saw the famous bears 🐻!!!

They told us they “loved chucking and pushing people into the river, it became a game of who’s going to push each other in - one of the best days”



Rolling on the rodelbahn

1st Jacobs Well experienced an enjoyable ride with the toboggans down the slopes. We sped down the slide as fast as we could. After the amazing tobogganing we began our journey to the lake which was a bright blue in colour and spent some time splashing around in this magnificent lake. We all got an ice cream or slushy and started to head back to the campsite. As we reached town we decided to stay for a bit and catch



the bus. After waiting a while the bus finally came however didn't stop and kept going so instead we began to walk back. Once we finally arrived we were all tired and hot. Luckily the leaders booked the Finnish sauna as we all loved it and didn't want to leave. We really appreciate the leaders organising this wonderful experience.



International Campfire

There was a veritable sea of Surrey red at last night's KISC International Campfire. Check out more pictures on our blog at kix23.blog



Birthday Greetings

It's 4th Weybridge leader **Mike Barker's** (pictured right) birthday today. We've had a message for him: "Wishing Mike B a very Alppy birthday, we all hope you have a great day, from 4th Weybridge scouts, YLs, leaders and Schreckhorn."

There are three more birthdays before you all get home; **Jake Hoath** from Leatherhead District and two members of the staff team **Claire Gosling** and **John Howcroft**. Everyone on the KIX team wishes you all a very Happy Birthday.

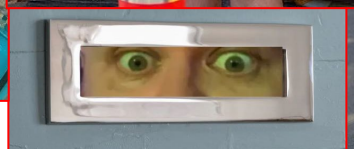


Behind the scenes

Along with 124 adult leaders, a 50-strong team of KIX staff have helped bring your expedition to you.

From several years' planning to arriving on-site and leading walks, to preparing, cooking and serving meals (and making sure you get there on time), ensuring you have hot water, arranging and booking your activities, pitching dining tents, providing medical support, producing KIX+, recycling...the list goes on.

But we must have managed to have a *little bit* of fun whilst doing it as several of us will be back in 2026!



What do you call a group of coaches..?



Another group of people that KIX couldn't have happened without is the 26 Bakers Dolphin coach drivers who have been transporting you to and from Surrey as well as all your activities this week. Operations Manager **Chris Rubery** has been among their numbers and when he's not working or volunteering to drive ambulances he's also an Avon Scouts GSL at 1st Kewstoke in Weston-super-Mare. Chief Scout **Bear Grylls** got in touch with a personal thank you to Chris, pictured left as a Cub Scout wearing the Queen's Silver Jubilee Badge from 1977 and below with some of his leaders from 1st Kewstoke.

Thanks from all of us at KIX+ to Chris and all the drivers, we hope you enjoy a well-earned rest when you get back home.

KIX
2023



Messages from home

Hi **Archie** (12th Caterham), what an adventure! It looks like you had a wonderful time. We can't wait to see you and hear all your news. Loads of love from Nanna, Grandad and Uncle Ben xx

Hello to all at **5th Reigate** and **1st Oxted**, especially the two young leaders Daniel and Edward (aka marshmallow and sweetcorn). Lucky you have all those lovely clear rivers and lakes out there, it means you've had more washes than you normally would on camp. Save travels home to everyone and look forward to hearing all about the adventures after you have slept for about 3 days 😊😊 Love from Squirrel

Hello to **Stelio**, **Vanos** and **Rosie** of 5th Reigate. I hope you have had a fantastic week and good luck for the journey home. Lots of love, Claire/Mum

Hi **Henry Merriman** (5th Reigate), looks like you have been having an amazing time at KIX. Make sure you thank all your amazing leaders - they deserve a medal for putting up with you!! Enjoy the coach journey home ... make sure you get lots of sleep and come back well rested. Lots of Love Mum x x

Wow what a fantastic week it looks like you have all had. Wishing you all a speedy journey home. **Toby** (5th Reigate), how many days have you worn that hoodie ????? Ha ha. Can't wait to hear all the stories of your adventures. Please tell me you and Patrick have been taking photos! McDonald's breakfast waiting for you on arrival Toby and Patrick. We have missed you xx mum and dad.

Hi **Samwise** (1st Oxted); have a great trip home and don't forget the Stugeron 😊 Looks like you've had a fab few days of watery fun and an amazing thunderstorm when you went to Blausee. Hope it wasn't too terrifying for being virtually over your head! We're all missing you and can't wait to see you, M, D & L xxx

Hi there Tiger (**Franklin**, 1st Oxted), if you've had even half as much fun as it looks like you have, you'll have whetted your appetite for travel and adventure for sure! It looks like a fantastic experience and hope you've all really enjoyed it. We're annoying Maia by talking about your trip far too much, just like we did to you when she was away. We're all looking forward to having you back home, and wish you a safe and fun journey. Try to bring some of that Swiss sunshine with you and we can spend some time by the pool over the bank holiday 🌧️ ⚡ 🏠 Love from Mum, Dad & Maia.

Hi **Ben** (5th Farnham) - we hope you've had a fantastic adventure In Switzerland and made loads of great memories. We can't wait to see you and hear all about it! You won the rock/paper/scissors game by the way. Love Mum, Dad and Flo

Hello **Patrick** (5th Reigate)! It looks like you have had an amazing time - I particularly liked the look of those bears! Can't wait to get you back home now we have missed you so much. Love from Mum and Dad

Dear **Isabella** (5th Reigate) We cannot wait for you to return and to share all the amazing adventures you have experienced this week. Scouts have helped you on a path which we know will continue to fill your future with experiences which you wouldn't have otherwise. It's been too quiet without you and not a moment has passed where we are not thinking about what you're up to on Switzerland. Continue your safe travels. All our love, Mum, Dad, Charlotte and James and the rest of the crazy Lambert's xxx

Thomas Stapley (5th Reigate) Hope you've had an amazing week and aren't too sad to be coming home. Wishing you all a safe journey back. Mum, Dad & Lucy (Ps your room's almost finished!)

What a week! It's been lovely to see photos of amazing experiences! Of course, this would not have been possible without the awesome leaders and volunteers, so a huge THANK YOU! We are sure that **Jacob Loombe** (5th Reigate) has had a fantastic time and great end of being a scout. We look forward to hearing about the adventures...no doubt after some sleep! Have a safe journey home! The Loombes

Hey **Zach Pinto** (5th Reigate), it looks like you are having an amazing time. We can't wait to hear all about it. We have all missed you loads! Safe travels home to all of you and see you bright and early on Sunday morning! Lots of love Mummy, Daddy and Finn xxx

That's all folks, see you in 2026!