

## Scouting challenge in Libya

I was very fortunate to be part of the contingent made up of nine venture scouts from Xghajra, Zabbar and Cospicua scout groups, which represented our island in a scouting challenge in Jebel al Ahdar in Libya in summer 2006.

In this experience I opted for the marine challenge. After being informed about the various hazards of marine life and on marine environment we were trained to develop skills in yachting, canoeing, rowing, fishing, snorkeling and survival. Then we were sent on a four day survival mission.



We had to look for water, catch our food, carry all the tents and marine equipment, walk long journeys, safeguard our possessions during the night, fight the extreme weather,



amongst many other challenges. I have to admit that those four days were extremely hard. Physical as well as mental strength were essential. This experience helped me appreciate all those normal things in life that I used to take for granted. At home I used to simply get a bottle of water out of the fridge and drink it, but there I had to look for the

water, boil it to make sure that it was safe to drink, cool it, store it, carry it during long journeys and then drink it! What a difference!

There we faced a language communication problem, as they were totally unable to talk in English. This fact made things even worse, as we were separated in patrols among different scouts coming from all over the African continent. However it was a nice experience. We met with and learnt about lots of different cultures. Finally, at the end of the camp, the patrol in which Jurgen Bonavia, from the Zabbar scout group, and



I attended, won the best patrol during the Camp amongst a number of 57 different patrols. For me this was a marvelous achievement! We were awarded a medal and further more a chief scout personal award for the chief commissioner for our bravery. I can now proudly look at those awards on my uniform and have great memories and nostalgia of a great challenge that was an essential chapter of my life.

Warren Gauci.

Xghajra Scout Group