Scouting instills confidence, helping young people discover they can achieve more than they thought possible.

That’s the uplifting message behind the logo and theme for the 2021 National Jamboree, which the BSA recently announced.

Using Scouting’s highest-profile gathering to deliver a distinct thematic message signals a bold new approach for National Jamborees. It ensures that the theme, “Face the Challenge,” will leave a lasting impression on Jamboree participants and our entire movement.

Jamboree organizers will weave the theme throughout the event. They’ll reinforce it before, during and after the Jamboree. They’ll showcase it at stadium shows, deliver it using wearable technology and highlight it at special flash challenges that pop up wherever participants congregate.

Smartphone integration and a pre-Jamboree survey will ensure that each participant embarks on their own Jamboree journey. Even with tens of thousands of participants, no two Jamboree experiences will be the same.

The inspiration for this exciting new approach comes from a desire to make the National Jamboree about more than a collection of awesome activities and a few words on a patch.

A Jamboree should inspire a Scout or Venturer to be more. It should show them how to use their Scouting skills to transform the world. And it should engage them in a way that makes their Jamboree experience transformational — not just for its memories but for how it shapes their life.

To be clear, the National Jamboree model has worked well for decades. Each instance of the quadrennial event offered fun, fellowship and unforgettable adventures.

But with the 2021 event, organizers plan to more deliberately embrace and celebrate the impact Scouting has on each of us.

The reinvented approach means transforming a theme into a call to action — sparking an energy that Scouts and Venturers will take back to their troops, crews, schools and communities.

From Bryan on Scouting
The Twin Valley Backpack Trail is a moderately trafficked loop that features a river, lots of hills and is rated difficult. It includes over 22 miles of hiking through the beautiful Twin Creek Valley of southwest Montgomery County, Ohio, connecting Germantown MetroPark, an area of 1665 acres in a pristine valley along Twin Creek, and Twin Creek MetroPark, occupying 1000 acres of steep ravines and mature forest. These parks are part of larger park system in the Dayton area consisting of 18 MetroParks.

The topography of the area is steep along Twin Creek and its numerous side ravines. Farther away, the land flattens out into gently rolling hills, more typical of southwest Ohio. An elevation change of 150 feet is common between the water level of Twin Creek and the crests of adjacent hills. A variety of habitats in various stages of natural succession including open grasslands, cedar glades, dry hillside prairies and mature old growth forest are found within the boundaries of the parks.

Secluded camping opportunities are available to backpackers at three locations along the trail: Cedar Ridge, Pine Ridge and Oak Ridge. Each location, called a pod, has three campsites with each individual site large enough for two small backpacking tents. These are primitive backcountry style campsites that can support up to four to six hikers depending on the style of tent. Each pod also has an outhouse along with a common area for cooking and gathering.

Fires are not permitted. The maximum number of nights at any one pod per hike is two nights. Group camps for larger outings are also available.

A free backpacking permit is required for all overnight use of the backcountry. Permits for all overnight backcountry use must be obtained through the Outdoor Recreation Department of Five Rivers MetroParks. Permits cannot be picked up at either park and must be acquired in advance.

Water is not provided at any of the three backcountry camping areas, although it can be treated from nearby natural sources. On the trail, natural water sources are plentiful but will require mechanical or chemical treatment.

Built and maintained by volunteers with the support and guidance of Metroparks Toledo, the full 12.1-mile mountain bike singletrack trail in Oak Openings is now open. With 12 unique bridges and other obstacles, such as an optional teeter-totter bridge, along the narrow, scenic path, riders can enjoy a nice afternoon ride or get after it with a group of friends. Don’t expect black diamond jumps and drops, but get ready for the best seasonal trail riding in the area.