



WORLD SCOUT ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME FACT SHEET



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World Scout Environment Programme

"Nature study is the key activity in Scouting and Guiding." - Baden-Powell

The environment is central to the Scout Programme and a key element of developing good citizens of the world. Since Scouting began, young people have been connecting with the outdoors, learning from nature and taking positive action for their local and global environment. There are many more environmental challenges today than when Scouting started, making it even more important to keep the environment central to Scouting, to build on the momentum already established and to make Scouting a positive force for change.

Scouting plays an important role in connecting people with the natural world, especially given the increasing separation of young people from the natural environment. With nearly 50% of the world's population living in urban settings, it is important to incorporate the 'bigger picture' of the environment, which includes more than just plants, animals and conservation. Helping Scouts to see the relationship between their actions in an urban setting and the natural world is an important element of environment education.

The environment is changing all around us, with a loss of habitat and native species, reduced access to clean water and clean air, more harmful substances entering our environment and more people being affected by natural disasters. Scouts need to understand these issues and feel empowered to decide what are the most suitable environmental practices they can apply and take action to improve their local area. The environment is a global subject and Scouting is a global movement. Through environmental education and action, Scouting can really make a difference.

The importance of the environment to Scouting was highlighted at the 37th World Scout Conference with resolutions on environment education and sustainable development, 18/05 and 20/05. In response to these resolutions, the Educational Methods Committee, through the Environment Education Task Team, has developed the World Scout Environment Programme. This has been developed through a process of consultation and review with environmental education experts within Scouting, with partner organisations and local level Scout groups in countries around the world.

The World Scout Environment Programme provides support for Scouts to engage in environmental education activities, to learn about nature and the environment and to make informed choices about the environment, people and society - choices that reflect Scouting's Promise and Law.

World Scout Environment Programme

The World Scout Environment Programme is a collection of tools, resources and initiatives to support the development of environment education in Scouting around the world. The programme is based on a set of environmental principles and aims that provide a foundation for environment education in Scouting.

The World Scout Environment Programme includes:

- Principles and aims for environment education in Scouting
- Framework for environment education in Scouting and the World Scout Environment Badge Programme Activity Resources
- SCENES – Scout Centres of Excellence for Nature and Environment
- Scouts of the World Award
- Partnerships

Principles and aims for environment education in Scouting

The principles and aims form the foundation that underpins the approach to environment education in Scouting. The principles reaffirm Scouting's commitment to the environment and its place in the broader Scout programme. The aims identify the key environmental issues facing the world and provide a focus for Scouting to address these.

Principles

The environment is central to the Scout Programme and a key element of developing good citizens of the world.

Scouting provides opportunities to experience and connect with the natural world.

Scouts actively engage in educational programmes to make informed choices about the environment, people and society - choices that reflect the Scout Promise and Law.

Aims

Scouts are working towards a world where:

1. People and natural systems have clean water and clean air.
2. Sufficient natural habitat exists to support native species.
3. The risk of harmful substances to people and the environment are minimised.
4. The most suitable environmental practices are used.
5. People are prepared to respond to environmental hazards and natural disasters.

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