

champions for nature

national challenge 2023

background information



introduction

Nature, Biodiversity, and Better Choices

Nature is very relevant and attractive for young people all over the world for leisure, a learning space, cultural exploration, and spiritual development. Currently, each individual shares this planet with thirty million other species.

The Champions for Nature Challenge takes young people on a journey to discover and recognise the importance of biodiversity for all living beings, helping youth to connect with nature while engaging in projects to protect and improve our relationship with the natural world.

Why is the Champions for Nature Challenge important?

The Champions for Nature Challenge will help young people to understand how to make an impact on the environment through responsible consumption, and how to make better choices and develop sustainable habits and behaviours. The Champions for Nature Challenge is part of World Scouting's Earth Tribe learning paths of Nature and Biodiversity.

champions for nature challenge

What is the Champions for Nature Challenge?

The Champions for Nature Challenge is a learning opportunity developed under the Better World Framework and Scouts for SDGs mobilisation in partnership with WWF. The Challenge encourages young people to discover more about nature, biodiversity, and sustainable lifestyles, enabling youth to take concrete actions for our planet. It also empowers young people to be active global citizens.

The Champions for Nature Challenge supports the development of a specific set of competencies in young people to adopt responsible behaviour towards the environment connected to the Earth Tribe learning paths of Better Choices, and Nature and Biodiversity. This set of competencies is complementary to many others that Scouting recognises, as well as other recognized by other institutions aligned with Education for Sustainable Development Goals.

By taking up the Champions for Nature Challenge, young people develop their knowledge, skills, and attitudes essential for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) be part of a global youth movement for environmental action



Who is the Challenge for?

This Challenge is designed for all young people from seven years and above, eager to discover new ways to advocate and contribute to the protection of nature and develop new consumption habits that actively contribute to protecting our natural resources. In South Africa we added a set of actions for our younger branch – the Meerkats – too. The Champions for Nature Challenge offers meaningful content and activities for each age range and capacities.

Champions for Nature Challenge objectives

Young people can be ambassadors for positive environmental change and action!

The Champions for Nature Challenge aims to:

1. **Encourage young people to have the knowledge, skills, and attitude** to assess and lower the impact of individual behaviour on the environment, and to foster the protection of nature.
2. **Promote understanding** about the interconnectedness between sustainable development and poverty because of environmental challenges, biodiversity loss and individual actions.
3. **Recognise and promote the contribution of young people** towards a balanced, sustainable life and biodiversity.
4. **Take part in the Earth Tribe global community** of young people as a member of SCOUTS South Africa, or member of other organizations who are actively aware and involved in environmental education specifically around Nature and Biodiversity; collaborating with community, partners, and key stakeholders; and taking responsibility for improving our planet.

Together we are aiming to activate young people, adults, institutions and civil society in a movement inspiring concrete and sustainable transformation in our way of living. Young people will be connecting with nature by understanding the interconnectedness and relationship between humans and nature, and how ecosystems work.

By completing the Champions for Nature Challenge, young people will have explored one of several learning paths to become a recognised member of the Earth Tribe, and to become a member of a global community working to preserve and protect our planet.

SCOUTS South Africa has adopted the Champions for Nature Challenge as our National Challenge for 2023! Find out more here:

<https://www.scouts.org.za/champions-for-nature-2023/>

Find the National Challenge for your Branch here:

- [Meerkats](#)
- [Cubs](#)
- [Scouts](#)

sustainable development goals

The Champions for Nature Challenge is one of many ways that young people can contribute to the **Scouts for SDGs mobilization** to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

SCOUTS for SDGs

From now to 2030, we are calling all Scouts and young people to **take action** by inviting community members, partners and experts in designing sustainable solutions for the challenges affecting their local communities.

The Scouts for SDGs mobilisation aims to inspire, enable and deliver on a commitment to develop active global citizens and sustainable communities. The learning process of the Earth Tribe enables young people to explore and define their educational journey in three stages:



- **BE AWARE** of the world around you and key environmental concerns.
- **COOPERATE** with others to find solutions to protect ecosystems, biodiversity and outdoor spaces.
- **ACT** to develop and implement actions that can make a difference.

The Champions for Nature Challenge contributes to the development of young people, with a specific set of actions related to the learning paths of Nature and Biodiversity.