

# champions for nature

## national challenge 2023

### cubs



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the World. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead







## introduction:

Nature is very relevant and attractive for young people all over the world for leisure, learning, cultural exploration, and spiritual development. Currently, each individual shares this planet with 30 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. It helps young people to connect with nature while engaging in activities 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.

### 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 SDG's mobilisation, in partnership with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). Champions for Nature 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.

### SCOUTS South Africa has adopted the Champions for Nature Challenge as our National Challenge for 2023!



By taking up the National Challenge, young people throughout South Africa will be enabled to develop their knowledge, skills, and attitudes essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) and become an active part of the global Scout Movement's drive to empower young people for global environmental action.

Let your Cubs join hands with 50 million Scouts making the world's largest youth contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals!

## the challenge:

### Task 1: Self-assessment

Before going ahead with the Challenge, have the Cubs complete the self-assessment (see appendix), which will help them to better understand their knowledge and understanding of the relationship between humans, nature, and biodiversity.

### Task 2: Be Aware

Complete **TWO** of the following:

1. Learn about the effects of invasive species, both on an ecosystem and the native species within it, by playing the '**What is the risk**' game – refer to page 43 of the *Champions for Nature Action Kit*.
2. Prepare a poster/presentation on native plants and invasive plants to share with your Pack/Parents/School.
3. Find out about one invasive species in your community and how best to eradicate it.
4. Find out about three endangered species in South Africa and what is being done to conserve them.

### Task 3: Co-operate

Complete **TWO** of the following:

1. Run the '**Protecting our environment**' programme below.
2. Play the '**Web of Life**' game with the Pack – refer to page 54 of the *Champions for Nature Action Kit*.
3. Make a detailed grassland or rainforest diorama.
4. Earn one of the following interest badges: Gardening, miniSASS, Naturalist.

### Task 4: Act

Complete **TWO** of the following:

1. As a Pack take part in a nature clean-up. If your nature clean-up is completed in the months of February or March 2023, and you upload a photo, short description, and how many people took part here: <https://sdgs.scout.org/> \*(Create login, go to "take action", follow the prompts), and email [jeanette.angus@scouts.org.za](mailto:jeanette.angus@scouts.org.za), your Cubs could get a free Litter Less Action badge.
2. Go on a Transect walk to identify the different kinds of plants, insects and animals that live in your chosen area. Choose one of the species found and draw a food web. Explain how the food web/chain fits into the ecosystem. As a Pack, prepare and conduct a **BioBlitz** – refer to page 48 of the *Champions for Nature Action Kit*. Also refer to [BioBlitz Program | National Geographic Society](#)
3. Plan two activities to run during Earth Day in April 2023.

## reminder:

### Registration

Pack Scouters are requested to register their Pack for participation in the Champions for Nature National Challenge 2023 by clicking on the [Champions for Nature Registration link HERE](#). (Ctrl + Click to follow link). It's simple quick and will only take two minutes!

Please register your Pack for participation in the National Challenge 2023 by the latest 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

### Deadline

**National Challenge deadline: 30 November 2023.** All entries are to be submitted to your Regional Team Coordinator by 11 December 2023

On completion of the National Challenge, the Cubs and Scouters who took part will be awarded a special National Challenge badge and the Pack will be awarded a special National Challenge Certificate.



### Note for Pack Scouters


You can help SCOUTS South Africa enhance our public visibility by embracing the PR value of the National Challenge 2023.

Please take advantage of the PR opportunities and (with parental consent) post your Pack's Champions for Nature Challenge activities and photographs on social media with the hashtags #ChampionsforNature #NationalChallenge2023 #Cubs #Scoutssouthafrica #Cubbing #Scouts #SkillsforLife #Communities #Upliftment #ChildEmpowerment #Scouts4SDGs

Thank you for getting involved, for inspiring and empowering our Cubs to create a better world!

<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Protecting our environment</b>
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<b>Time</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Scouter</b>
	05	<b>GRAND HOWL</b> Flag Prayer Register	Totem/skin/rock Flag/flagpole Prayer book Register	
<i>If we are going to help protect our environment, it's time to make some changes.</i>				
	05	<b>STEAM RELEASE:</b> Change  The Pack is divided into two sides, each taking position in diagonally opposite corners of the playing area. One Cub is in the middle and calls 'change'. The sides change places and Cub touches as many as they are able. These stay in the middle and help catch.	None	
<i>Animals living in rivers, dams and the sea are under threat by plastic pollution.</i>				
	10	<b>TEAM GAME:</b> Octopus  Cubs form an octopus by getting into groups of four. They stand with their backs facing inward and link arms. Have an octopus race (practise first). How does an octopus manage with all those tentacles?)	None	
<i>Invasive species have a huge effect on our native biodiversity, but what are invasive species?</i>				
	10	<b>ACTIVITY:</b> Native vs Invasive species  Explain to the Cubs what invasive species are – see appendix  Examples of invasive species are Water Hyacinth, Yellow Bells, Pompom Weed, House Crow, Famine Weed, Guttural Toad, Lantana, Bugweed.	Pictures to show the Cubs of the invasive species	
<i>To conserve our native species, we need to start removing all the invasive species.</i>				
<b>Time</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Scouter</b>

	05	<b>ACTIVE GAME:</b> Invasive plant hunt  Coloured papers are scattered around the playing area. The Cubs must collect as many coloured papers as they can in the given time. The Six with the highest score, e.g., Green = 6; orange = 4; red = 2, or the least number of red cards, is the winner.	Coloured paper/card  Red paper/card for the invasive plants	
Now that we have removed the invasive species, time to hear about the effect an act of kindness had.				
	05	<b>YARN:</b> The red moon	Story below	
<i>Like the little boy in the store, we too can make a difference, for the creatures living in our rivers and seas.</i>				
	10	<b>RELAY GAME:</b> Seashore  Cubs in relay formation. Several plastic bottle tops are strewn in a line across the far end of the playing area. When the Leader calls "tide's coming in, tide's coming in", the first Cub in each Six runs to the seashore and start picking up the bottle tops, one by one. They continue until the Leader calls "tide's in" when they rush back to their Six. The game continues until each Cub in each Six has had a turn. The Six with the most bottle tops are the winner.	A supply of plastic bottle tops or stones or similar	
<i>Let's see if we can plant more trees and flowers to save our planet.</i>				
	15	<b>HANDCRAFT:</b> Plastic bottle planters   Using a utility knife, carefully cut the plastic bottle in half or about 1/3 of the way from the bottom. Using a paint brush, paint the bottom portion of the bottle. Glue a pair of googly eyes to the front. Fill the bottle with soil then add a plant. Your plastic bottle planter is complete! <a href="#">How to Make Plastic Bottle Planters - One Little Project</a>	Plastic bottles; acrylic paint; googly eyes; utility knife; plants; glue  Soil; plant	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Scouter</b>

*Our Outdoor Code reminds us that we are to protect and care for wildlife, trees, and flowers.*

	10	<p><b>CIRCLE GAME:</b> Land, sea, or air</p> <p>The Pack sits in a circle. One Cub stands in the centre – 'it'. If 'it' stands in front of a Cub, and makes a rolling motion with their hands, the Cub must give the name of an animal that lives upon the land before 'it' has counted to ten. Should 'it' pass their hands backwards and forwards over each other, palms down, to indicate waves, the Cub must give the name of a fish or sea creature. If 'it' places their hands at either side of their head, and make a flapping motion, the Cub must give the name of a bird. No Cub may repeat the name of a creature already given.</p>		
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*Trees play an important role in nature and we need to protect them too.*

	05	<b>SINGING:</b> Baobab the tree	See words below	
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*It's up to us, Cubs, to*

	05	<b>NOTICES/BADGES:</b>		
	05	<p><b>GRAND HOWL</b></p> <p>Flag</p> <p>Prayer</p> <p>Dismiss</p>	<p>Totem/skin/rock</p> <p>Flag/flagpole</p> <p>Prayer book</p>	

## **YARN:** The Red Moon

There was once a little grey planet that was very sad. The people living there hadn't looked after it, despite them having all the inventions and spaceships you could ever need. They had contaminated the whole countryside so much with rubbish and pollution that there were no plants or animals left.

One day, a little boy was walking on the planet, when he passed a cave and noticed a small red flower inside. The flower was very sick - almost dying - so the boy carefully dug up the flower, with roots, soil and everything. Then, he started looking for a place where he could look after it. He searched all over the planet, but everywhere was so contaminated that there was no place the flower could possibly live in. Then he looked up at the sky and noticed the moon. It seemed to the boy that maybe the plant could survive there.

So the little boy put on his astronaut suit, and climbed into a space ship. He put the little red flower in the back, and off they went to the moon.

Far away from all that pollution - and with the boy visiting it every day to tend it - the flower started to grow. The flower was so well cared for, that it had soon germinated, giving birth to others, and these other flowers spread onto other flowers. Before long, the whole moon was completely covered with flowers.

That's why, whenever the little boy's flowers open up, for a few minutes the moon takes on a soft red sheen, like a warning light. Maybe it's telling us that if you don't look after your planet, a day will come when flowers will only be able to grow on the moon.

[A short story about care for environment \(freestoriesforkids.com\)](http://freestoriesforkids.com)

## **SONG:** Baobab the tree had five branches.

(Tune: Alice the Camel)

Baobab the tree had five branches.  
Baobab the tree had five branches.  
Baobab the tree had five branches  
So, grow, Baobab, grow.

Boom, boom, boom, boom!

Baobab the tree had four branches.  
Baobab the tree had four branches.  
Baobab the tree had four branches.  
So, grow, Baobab, grow.  
Boom, boom, boom, boom!

Baobab the tree had three branches.  
Baobab the tree had three branches.  
Baobab the tree had three branches.  
So, grow, Baobab, grow.

Boom, boom, boom, boom!

Baobab the tree had two branches.  
Baobab the tree had two branches.  
Baobab the tree had two branches.  
So, grow, Baobab, grow.

Boom, boom, boom, boom!  
Baobab the tree had one branches.  
Baobab the tree had one branches.  
Baobab the tree had one branches.  
So, grow, Baobab, grow.

Boom, boom, boom, boom!  
Baobab the tree had no branches.  
Baobab the tree had no branches.  
Baobab the tree had no branches.  
'Cause Baobab was destroyed.



## evaluation of a pack meeting:

	Yes	No
1. Was it fun? Did the Cubs enjoy themselves?		
2. Did each Cub achieve something and make progress?		
3. Was there a balance of work and play?		
4. Was there a variety of games?		
5. Did all the Scouters take part in the programme?		
6. Was there a yarn?		
7. Were the active games followed by quieter activities/games?		
8. Was the timing allowed for each activity, correct?		
9. Was there something old and something new?		
10. Did the meeting start and finish on time?		
11. Were most or all the activities aimed at one of the Training Programme items?		

**General Comments:**



appendix:

Self-assessment form  
(Acknowledgement: Champions for Nature action kit)

Age section (7-10)	I am at the beginning of my exploration.	(✓ or X)	Write notes to start your Champions for Nature Challenge journey	My Personal Goals  I can choose an issue I want to work on through positive actions(assisted by an adult)	My Activities  Define an activity or project (personal or with my team/ patrol)
	I am on my exploration.				
	I have finished my exploration.				
Better Choices					
1	I know what I can do to live healthily and how to reduce my impact on the environment.				
2	I reduce my personal wants in light of the needs of the natural world, other people and future generations.				
3	I use every opportunity for pro-environmental behaviour.				