

champions for nature national challenge 2023

meerkats



"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 Meerkats join hands with 50 million Scouts making the world's largest youth contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals!

the challenge:

1. Our Meerkat Programme has wonderful Nature Badges, so as we become Champions for Nature, complete two of the three nature theme badges.
 - a) Gardening
 - b) Nature
 - c) Recycling
2. Do **ONE** of the two challenges below.

Pollution Pirate:

Do **ALL** the following:

1. Listen to a story of the water-cycle.
2. Learn about how a piece of litter that is lying around can get into our rivers, dams, and the sea.
3. Go on an outing (possibly as a Den) and see how much litter you can pick up (use gloves for safety). If your litter 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, your Meerkats could get a free Litter Less Action badge.
4. Learn why it's important to keep our rivers, dams and the sea free of litter.
5. Find out about a creature that lives in the natural water near your home or den (fish, insect, mammals).



Bug Hunter:



With an adult go to any place where there is grass and nature (local park, bottom of the garden, somewhere at the hall, anywhere where bugs are likely to live). Find a good spot and then see how many bugs you can see.

Do **THREE** of the following:

1. Find out about spiders. Are spiders insects?
 2. Make a poster or a play dough model of the life cycle of a butterfly.
 3. Find out how to prevent mosquito bites.
 4. Make a bee or bug hotel.
 5. Find out about the life cycle of bees and how bees help us.
 6. Find out about your favourite bug; where does it live, what does it like to eat, what likes to eat it, does it live alone or in a colony or swarm?
3. Run the '**Looking after our Earth**' programme. Try to run the programme early in the 1st term and prepare for planting ahead of your programme.

reminder:

Registration

Den Scouters are requested to register their Den 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 Den for participation in the National Challenge 2023 by the latest 28th 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 Meerkats and Scouters who took part will be awarded a special National Challenge badge, and the Den will be awarded a special National Challenge Certificate.



Note for Den 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 Den's Champions for Nature Challenge activities and photographs on social media with the hashtags #ChampionsforNature #NationalChallenge2023 #Meerkats #Scoutssouthafrica #Scouting #Scouts #SkillsforLife #Communities #Upliftment #ChildEmpowerment #Scouts4SDGs

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

Theme:	Looking after our Earth
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Time	Min	Activity	Equipment	Scouter
	05	OPENING: Meerkats in Burrows, Meerkats Stand Tall We are the Meerkats Register	Meerkat Totem Membership cards Register	

Today we are going to find out what we can do to help make our Earth a better place.

	05	STEAM RELEASE: Animal Antics Meerkats run around pretending to be different animals and insects, mimicking the actions and sounds they make (e.g., buzz like a bee; chirp like a cricket; walk like a crocodile; jump like a buck).	None	
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We have so many beautiful creatures in South Africa, but their habitats are not always looked after. How can we help?

	15	ACTIVITY: Making History In a pre-dug hole/bed/pot, mix compost and some sand, then plant a tree and/or a bee friendly plant.		
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I hope you haven't forgotten that our plants need water. We need to take turns to water our plants so that they can grow.

	05	TEAMWORK: Meerkats take it in turn to fill their container with water then go and water the plant/s or pass the container from one to another as a game.		
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We have planted our plants to keep the birds and insects happy, we also need to be careful with other things on earth. Energy is a limited resource, and we need to use it wisely.

	05	DISCUSSION: Chat with the Meerkats about how we can use less energy and water, especially fossil fuels. Introduce the subject of Earth Hour when it takes place.		
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Let's go outside and see if we can find some creatures. It may be an insect, bird or small animal.

Time	Min	Activity	Equipment	Scouter
	05	<p>OBSERVATION:</p> <p>Meerkats go outside and see what they can find, come back, and tell the Den Scouter.</p>		
<i>We have worked out some of the answers, now we need to share these with others.</i>				
	10	<p>ACTIVITY: Conserving our resources</p> <p>Make a poster about conserving our resources, include coal, water, electricity, and the like. Try run the programme early in the year and include Earth Hour in your poster.</p>		
<i>What a busy day we have had, let's go out and put all that we have learnt into action.</i>				
	05	<p>CLOSING:</p> <p>Meerkats in Burrows, Meerkats stand tall Hand out any badges We are Meerkats Meerkat prayer What will we do until next week? - Promise.</p>	Meerkat Totem Badges	

