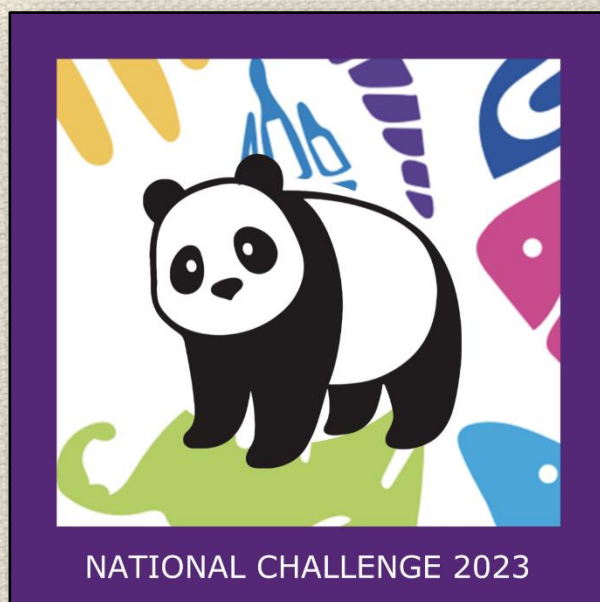


champions for nature

national challenge 2023

scouts



"Surely we have the responsibility to leave for future generations a planet that is healthy and habitable by all species."

David Attenborough



be prepared

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.

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

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



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.

the challenge:

SCOUTS South Africa's National Challenge 2023 addresses SDG's 13, 14 & 15 and will focus on the Nature and Biodiversity learning path where young people will be connecting with nature by understanding the interconnectedness and relationship between humans and nature, and how ecosystems work.



The purpose is to encourage Scouts to have a greater awareness of their local environment and to take practical action, to become a *champion for nature and biodiversity*, by developing sustainable habits for an eco-friendly and healthy lifestyle.

The Scouts are challenged to focus on environmental challenges in their community.

Requirements

The Challenge for Scouts is broken down into **five tasks**, starting with a **Self-Assessment** of the Scout's understanding of nature and biodiversity and their own plan of action, either as an individual or, preferably, as a member of a Patrol.

There is a general educational requirement, **Be Aware** – assessing the environment in an area of the Scout's choosing. The project-based requirement, **Cooperate** is an environmental service project. *If this project is completed in the month of February and loaded onto the Scouts4SDG portal, Scouts would simultaneously qualify for a "Litter Less Campaign" badge.*

The Champions for Nature Challenge activities, particularly the environmental service project, can and should be done as a Patrol whenever possible.

Act - The Scout's Personal Action in the form of planting a tree, creates an awareness of each individual to maintain the biodiversity of our planet.

And lastly, the **Scout's own personal development**, the acquisition of a Scoutcraft, Scout Interest or Challenge Badge, should assist with their own personal Scout advancement requirements.



Task 1: Self-Assessment

Before starting on the Champions for Nature Challenge, the Scout must take the *champion for nature and biodiversity* self-assessment. (See appendix) This will help to better understand their own knowledge and awareness in the areas of Nature and Biodiversity.

In addition to the self-assessment, it is important for the Scout to plan how to tackle the Champions for Nature Challenge, identify a suitable environmental area and the actions to be taken.

Task 2: Be Aware

Explore and understand different environmental challenges related to, and because of, consumption habits. The Scout is to choose a particular area within their community, this could be a stretch of road, pathway, bush/veld, or watercourse, either nearby / around their home or their Scout meeting place or camping facility; the recommended length is a minimum of two kilometres.

Explore within the community and surroundings to identify environmental challenges present in the community.

Observe and record on the following whilst exploring the chosen area:

- **Waste Management** – Consider these aspects. What waste management service exists in the area, is there evidence of poor waste management practices such as littering and illegal dumping? (Public Health Interest Badge)
- **Water and Sanitation** – Inspect the area for any water leaks and/or sewage spillages, report any faults to the local authority. Make sure that you obtain a reference number to follow up with the authorities. (Public Health Interest Badge)
- **Animal Activity** – Look for evidence of any animal, bird life, or insects in your area. Be on the lookout for habitats, spoor, and the frequency that they occur.
- **Biodiversity** – Describe the plant life in your area. Consider indigenous and alien plant life, evidence of soil erosion and deforestation, and food bearing plants.

Task 3: Cooperate

Identify local actions to contribute to addressing a specific Nature and Biodiversity challenge in your community. Work with others to create sustainable solutions using the information gained in Task One, identify a local **environmental service project**.

The Champions for Nature Challenge environmental service project should take a **minimum of six hours**. Complete this service project by yourself or, preferably, as a member of your Patrol. The project can also include other members of your community. (Traveller/Discoverer Service Project / Star Patrol Community Service)

Litter Less Campaign

If you complete the environmental service project / clean-up during the months of February or March 2023 you will also qualify for an additional **Litter Less Campaign** action badge!

Upload* a photograph and a short description of your service project to Scouts for SDGs, [Click HERE for the Scouts for SDGs Link](#), *(Create a login and register, go to "TAKE ACTION", and follow the prompts), and send an email to Jeanette Angus, SSA Coordinator: Better World Framework, @ jeanette.angus@scouts.org.za with the link to your SDG submission and your Scouts will qualify for the free **Litter Less Campaign** action badge!

Task 4: Act

In addition to the actions taken in Task Three, each Scout participating in the Champions for Nature Challenge must **plant an indigenous or fruit-bearing tree** (or a Spekboom or other similar plant indigenous to your area) at home, school, or Scout meeting place or Scout training or camping facility.

Plant, maintain, and grow the indigenous plant successfully during the period of the National Challenge 2023.

This can also be done as a Patrol project; however, each individual Scout must plant their own tree and maintain it.

The upcoming 2023 SA tree of the year is - Buddleja saligna, Olive Sagewood.

Task 5: Self-Development

The Scout must complete, or have completed, ONE of the following badges:



- Conservation Scoutcraft Badge
- Food for Life - Starter Badge (Scouts aged 11 to 14)
- Food for Life - Silver Badge (Scouts aged 15 to 17)
- Gardener Scout Interest Badge
- Public Health Scout Interest Badge
- Water Biologist Scout Interest Badge
- World Scout Environment Interest Badge



Risk Assessment

Please note that there are potential hazards when working on roads, in the bush/veld, water courses and pathways. Possible hazards, amongst others, would include the presence of undesirable people, snakes, chemical pollutants, and broken glass. Illegal dumping should be carefully checked before attempting to be cleared.

It is important that a risk assessment should be undertaken before the project starts and approval must be obtained from both the Troop Scouter and Parents.



Activity Permits

Please ensure that the necessary permissions and SCOUTS South Africa Activity Permits are acquired prior to undertaking any environmental assessments and service projects.

Registration

Troop Scouters are requested to register their Troops 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 Troop 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 2023, the participating Scouts who successfully completed all five Champions for Nature Challenges will be awarded a National Challenge 2023 badge. The Scout Troop will be awarded a special Champions for Nature Challenge certificate.

Note to Scouts

We invite you to become a champion for nature and biodiversity and accept the SCOUTS South Africa Champions for Nature National Challenge.

We hope that you enjoy yourself whilst exploring your neighbourhood and making a positive difference within your community. Please make sure that you have your parent's permission when you go out and keep your Troop Scouter fully informed as to what you are doing.

Note for Troop Scouters

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

For example, 1st Malvern Troop, KZN, previously surveyed a total of 30km of road in their suburb and conducted an in-depth study of water leaks in the area. In time, all leaks were repaired. The Scouts were thrilled to see the results due to their actions; their efforts were posted on social media and the community were impressed.



Please take advantage of the PR opportunities and post your Troop's Champions for Nature Challenge activities and photographs on social media with the hashtags #ChampionsforNature #NationalChallenge2023 #Scoutssouthafrica #Scouting #Scouts #SkillsforLife #Communities #Upliftment #YouthEmpowerment #Scouts4SDGs



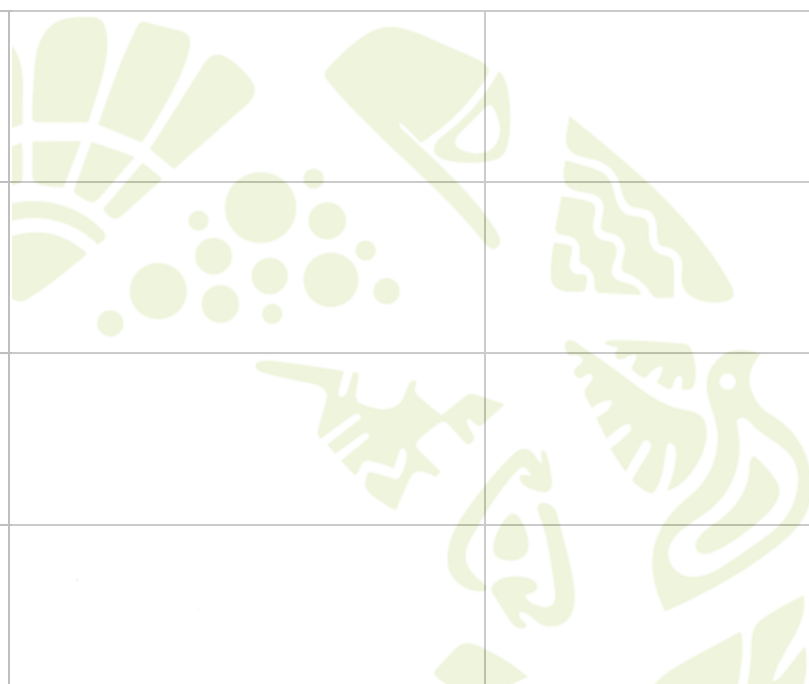
If one thousand Scouts complete the Champions for Nature National Challenge, we can safely say that the South African Scout Movement serviced 2,000km of road, pathway, bush/veld, or watercourse in the country, as well as an additional 1000 indigenous trees being planted.

"Try and leave this world a little better than you found it"
Baden Powell



<h2>Champions for Nature and Biodiversity Self-Assessment</h2> <p><i>Connecting with Nature and protecting it towards sustainability</i></p>	<p>I am at the beginning of my path and I need to learn more about the issues.</p>	<p>I am on my path and have started a project or activity.</p>	<p>I understand the issues, participate in activities and projects and promote the solution to the issue.</p>	<p>My Personal Goals</p> <p>I can choose an issue I want to impact with positive actions</p> 	<p>My Activities</p> <p>Define an activity or project, either personal or with my Patrol</p> 
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Scout's Name: _____ Age: _____ Patrol: _____ Troop: _____









Scouts Age 11 to 14	Scouts Age 15 to 17	✓ or X	Write notes to start your Champions for Nature Challenge journey.
1 I know my countryside and learn about local habitats and species.	I understand the roots of biodiversity loss at both the local and global levels.		
2 I feel good and enjoy the outdoors and appreciate nature.	I can identify different standpoints in environmental conflicts and form my own opinion based on personal values.		
3 I respect other living organisms while spending time in nature and I know how to behave to avoid impacting them.	I reflect on how to live my life in harmony with nature and how to help my society to become more sustainable.		
4 I take part in events that help to protect and restore nature in our region.	In my everyday life, I take into account and measure the impact of my actions on nature and inspire others to do so as well.		



Champions for Nature and Biodiversity Plan of Action

Connecting with Nature and protecting it towards sustainability

Scout's Name: _____ Age: _____ Patrol: _____ Troop: _____

Be Aware - Cooperate - Act		Task	Planned Date	Individual or Patrol Activity ✓	Date Completed	Signed off by TS	
1	Self-Assessment	Complete the champion for nature and biodiversity self-assessment for a better awareness of Nature and Biodiversity.					What is your understanding of Nature and Biodiversity?
2	Local Awareness Waste Management Water & Sanitation Animal Activity Biodiversity	Record your observations of a two kilometre section of chosen area of road, bush/veld, pathway, or watercourse.		 			Describe the chosen 2km area and list your observations.
3	Local Action Environmental Service Project	Identify and implement a six-hour environmental service project to improve the quality of the environment in your community.		 			Details of your six-hour environmental service project.
4	Personal Action Plant an indigenous or fruit-bearing tree	Plant an indigenous or fruit-bearing tree maintain, (for a minimum of six months), and grow it successfully.		 			List the name of your chosen tree and where it was planted.
5	Self-Development	Complete, or have completed, one of the selected Scoutcraft, Interest or Challenge badges.					List the badge(s) that you have completed.