

sustainable development goals meerkat national challenge – 2020

‘get involved & be prepared to
create a better world’



SCOUTS  *for* **SDGs**

introduction:

On the 16th of November 2018 "Scouts for SDG's" was launched at the United Nations (UN) headquarters in New York – "an unprecedented mobilisation of our Movement that will see 50 million Scouts make the world's largest coordinated youth contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) for 2030". Check out the [SDG Challenge page](#) on the [SCOUTS South Africa website](#) and the [WOSM Scouts for SDGs initiative](#) for lots more information.

how can we help?



In order to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all, we all have a role to play. This is where Scouting comes in.

"Since its beginnings, Scouting has been enabling young people from every corner of the globe to create positive change in their communities, acting on challenges and needs at all levels of society. It uses an action-orientated, self-educational approach to contribute to the empowerment and holistic development of young people as autonomous individuals and active global citizens."

For the next few years, the SCOUTS South Africa National Challenge for Meerkats and Cubs and the SDG challenge for Scouts, Rovers and Adults will focus on a number of SDG's.

the 2020 challenge:

This year's SDG Challenge will focus on **SDG's 5, 13, 14 and 15**, being gender equality; climate action; life below water and life on land.

Sustainable Development Goal	Challenge Badge
 <p>All humans are born equal no matter their gender. It's our duty to make sure that women and men have equal opportunities and rights in every part of life. When women are empowered, the entire society benefits.</p>	<p>Badge Requirement:</p> <p>As Meerkats we should always "Try our Best" in all we do, and know that girls and boys are created equal.</p> <p><i>Do 2 of these:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do your very best to achieve the Keep Fit badge. It doesn't matter if you are a girl or a boy, as you both work equally hard to get your badge. Work against stereotyping. 2. Do the Little Helper badge and show how clever you are at household chores. 3. Listen to this story and discuss who is doing the right or the wrong thing. To find a story click here.
 <p>The negative effects of climate change are already visible in so many aspects of life. Offsetting the impact of climate change starts with education, awareness, and individual action. We can all do something small to offset our footprint on this planet that we call home.</p>	<p>Badge Requirement:</p> <p>Our World is changing all the time, and we are going to have to live in it for many years to come.</p> <p><i>Do 3 of these:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make a poster that shows why we need to look after our world. Include contact details of your local Den and find a place to display it, e.g. library, school, etc. To do this, find out about things like pollution, the ozone layer and global warming.

2. Find out who lives on the earth with us by doing the World Around Us badge.
3. Agree to avoid using plastic bags and plastic straws and encourage your family not to use them either. [Click here to download Commitment Certificate.](#)
4. We can all make a difference in reducing global warming and fighting air pollution. Each Meerkat should decorate a pot, plant a piece of Spekboom, take it home and water it. When it is ready, see if you can find a place to plant it in your garden or at your meeting place. If you can plant more Spekboom at your home, hall and elsewhere, that would be a bonus!

Spekboom is indigenous to South Africa, very good at taking Carbon Dioxide out of the atmosphere and easy to grow from a slip, so that's good news.

<https://www.gardenandhome.co.za/gardening/7-reasons-plant-spekboom-garden/>

<https://www.samara.co.za/blog/five-things-didnt-know-spekboom/>

Sustainable Development Goal



Oceans and seas cover over 70% of our planet. Our existence depends on them for food, water, energy, and more, yet they're suffering from overfishing and plastic pollution. By keeping our oceans clean and our fish stocks healthy, we'll ensure that the Earth will remain habitable for humankind for centuries to come.

Challenge Badge

Badge Requirements:

Fish live in the sea, but we as humans make it very difficult for them. We make lots of plastic and other things that eventually become junk and end up in the seas. Try your best to make a difference with the people you come across.

Do 3 of these:

1. Do the Recycling badge to make an impact in your community.
2. Do the Collector badge. Ask friends, family, and the rest of your Group to help out.

E.g. Making Eco Bricks is lots of fun, and keeps all that plastic out of our rivers and seas.



[Source: The Sundaypost.com](http://TheSundaypost.com)

3. Pick up litter. This can be done as a Den, Group, District or Region. Make sure to wear your uniform so your community can see how you help

	<p>(don't forget the sun cream). It can be an outing or you could go on a hike ... extra badge☺, walk along the sea shore or at a park. Get out in the open air and see what you can collect.</p> <p>4. Carry out an experiment showing how hard it is to take fine pollution (e.g. micro plastic) out of water. Better to use something natural that is fine, so that we aren't adding to the problem, e.g. quinoa or oats.</p>
<p>Sustainable Development Goal</p>	<p>Challenge Badge</p>
<div data-bbox="280 724 488 924" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Forests provide a home for millions of species and give us all clean air and water. To protect and restore life on land, we need to stop deforestation and preserve biodiversity.</p>	<p>Badge Requirements:</p> <p>We all like a clean house. Let's keep the area where we live clean and beautiful too.</p> <p><i>Do 4 of these:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Earn the Gardening badge where we plant a vegetable patch, or plant trees in a park where needed. 2. Earn the Nature badge. 3. Prepare a soil erosion demonstration to show why we should stay on paths when hiking. <p>Take 3 shallow boxes and fill with sand, plant grass on the one, cover another with compost, leaves and grass cuttings, and leave the other one bare.</p>

Allow the soil to settle, position them all on the same slope and gently spray water equally over them. Can you collect the water that runs off? See which one loses the most sand and which one the least. Discuss what you have learnt.

4. Identify 5 indigenous plants or trees and learn why we should conserve them.
(hint Spekboom is one of them)
5. Earn the Handcraft badge using as much recycled materials as possible.

Note – If two of the badges above have been done by your Meerkats in the last year, they may be counted. If more than two, contact your RTC Meerkats for an alternative requirement.

As Den Scouter, always try to have cards available with your contact details on it. You can find promotional Adult Leader business cards for download in the online marketing toolkit here: <https://www.scouts.org.za/members/marketing-toolkit/>
Let's grow the Movement together!