

SCOUTS *for* SDGs

50 million Scouts making the world's largest youth contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

national meerkat challenge 2021



The Challenge:

There are four sections to the 2021 challenge, covering the following sustainable development goals:

Section 1: Clean Water and Sanitation – SDG 6

Requirements:

Complete **ONE** of the following:

1. Complete the 'World Around Us' badge with a focus on water.
2. Initiate and complete a good turn project focussed on water.



Section 2: Affordable and Clean Energy – SDG 7

Requirement:

Complete the Clean Energy Programme - focused on solar energy.

See programme below.

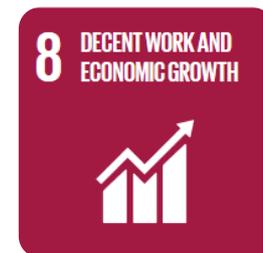


Section 3: Decent work and economic growth – SDG 8

Requirements:

Do **ALL** of the following:

1. Decorate and sell cupcakes, cakes or biscuits (or similar) at a Group activity. Remember to have an adult in charge of the money.
2. Make a poster to advertise your cake sale.
3. As a Den donate the proceeds to a community cause.



Requirement 1 is part of the Cooking Interest badge and the Den could complete the rest of the badge.

Section 4: Sustainable communities – SDG 11



Requirements:

As a Den complete a special project to help people in your community focus on greening the community or making it more beautiful.



As part of this requirement you could complete the Community challenge badge.

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 challenge certificate.

Reminder:

- **National Meerkat Challenge deadline: 30 November 2021.** All entries to be submitted to your Regional Team Coordinator by 11 December 2021.
[Find the National Meerkat Challenge entry form here.](#)

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

Meerkats to come dressed as Superheroes. Use whatever you have available; homemade is best.

THEME:	Superheroes (saving our world with clean energy)
---------------	--

Time	Min	Activity	Equipment	Scouter
	05	Opening: Meerkats in Burrows, Meerkats Stand Tall. We are the Meerkats. Meerkat Prayer Register	Meerkat Totem Membership Cards Prayer Register	

Superheroes, we need to keep ourselves supercharged by staying away from all shadows.

	05	STEAM RELEASE: Shadows Meerkats run around trying to stay away from each other's shadows, and warm up in the sun. This is basically a game of catch. You catch a person by casting your shadow on them. Once a Meerkat is caught, keep going, as scoring would be difficult.	Open field and sunshine.	
--	----	--	--------------------------	--

We've charged ourselves, now we need to use what we've learnt for our next challenge. And it's something for us to eat, sweet...

	20	ACTIVITY: Solar Cooker Take a box that opens, cover the inside and lid with tinfoil. Place a tinfoil plate inside the box and put some chocolate on it. Place the solar cooker in the sun. Make sure that the sun reflects off the lid and once the chocolate has melted, dip marshmallows into the chocolate for an out of this world sweet treat. (If you have more time, find another idea for a solar cooker below).	Pizza boxes or similar, tin foil, tin foil plate, chocolate, marshmallows, and decent sunshine.	
--	----	---	---	--

The world's energy supplies are in crisis, and it's up to you to save the world! This game will teach you all about different power sources, alternative energy, and how we generate electricity to power our lives.

Time	Min	Activity	Equipment	Scouter
	10	<p>WIDE GAME: Superheroes to the rescue</p> <p>Superhero Meerkats fly to all Scouters / parents learning about sources of renewable energy. Scouters / parents stand around the perimeter with cut-out pictures for each Meerkat. When the Meerkat gets to a Scouter / parent, they briefly explain what their energy source does, while the Meerkat sticks the picture on their plate. Once done, they move onto another Scouter / parent.</p>	Paper plates, printed pictures of energy sources, glue stick for each parent, and fact cards for parents.	
<p><i>Now that we've seen many different ways of harnessing natural energy, I'm sure you are all exhausted from all the hard work of saving planet earth. Come sit down and find out how, by using renewable energy, you too are a Superhero of planet earth</i></p>				
	05	<p>YARN: Miss Meerkat turns green</p>	Story printed out.	
<p><i>Superheroes need to know all about our planet.</i></p>				
	05	<p>CIRCLE GAME: What have we learnt?</p> <p>All Meerkats stand in a circle, with Scouter in the middle Scouter bounces the ball to a Meerkat who says something about what they have learnt today. They then bounce the ball back to the Scouter, who gives another Meerkat a turn. It's preferable for each Meerkat to have three turns.</p>	Large ball	
<p><i>You know about being a Superhero and using clean energy, but do you think it's any good? How do you think we should find out?</i></p>				
	05	<p>TEST TIME: The proof is in the tasting</p> <p>Each Meerkat gets to dip a marshmallow in the melted chocolate and enjoy. Note: depending on how hot it is, you may need to do this a little earlier or move the chocolate to a place that isn't as hot, you don't want to burn the chocolate.</p>		

Time	Min	Activity	Equipment	Scouter
<i>Thank you Super Meerkats! It's time to say goodbye.</i>				
	05	CLOSING: Meerkats in Burrows, Meerkats Stand Tall. Handing out badges if there are any. We are the Meerkats. Meerkat Prayer What will you do until next week?	Meerkat Totem Membership Cards Prayer Promise	

YARN: Miss Meerkat turns green

(Adapted from <https://youtu.be/R-UNKPdwpTg>)

On Friday morning Miss Meerkat came to school on a bicycle! The children were most surprised and asked her if her car had a puncture. "No" she replied. "But cars pollute the air, so I have decided to only drive when I must. I am going green!"

"You do not look sick to me" chuckled Racoan.

"Going green isn't about being sick, it's about keeping our earth healthy" said Miss Meerkat. "Who will help?"

Everyone shouted out together: "Me!".

"Wonderful!", exclaimed Miss Meerkat, and then she wrote three things on the board.

1. Use less consumables - recycle
2. Use less energy
3. Use less water

"Can you do that?" asked Miss Meerkat.

"Yes, we can Miss Meerkat" shouted the class.

Miss Meerkat pumped her fist in the air and said: "Yay! We are going green".

Frog jumped up and said: "I can use less water; I can stop taking showers".

Bunny pinched her nose and said: "Ugh, you will become very stinky".

Miss Meerkat said: "Frog does not need to stop taking showers, he just needs to take shorter showers".

Squirrel shouted out: "I know how to save paper. No more homework!"

Miss Meerkat smiled and said: "That's not going to happen, but you could use both sides of the paper!"

Mouse said: "Turn off the lights when we leave the room".

Bear had an idea too: "Sharpen your old crayons".

"Now we are talking" said Miss Meerkat.

That night frog stepped into the shower. He usually liked long showers with lots of singing, but frog was going green, so he took a short shower and sang afterwards. Raccoon was getting ready for bed: "Burr" she said, "It's chilly". She thought about asking her mom to turn on the heater, but Raccoon wanted to go green, so she took an extra blanket from the shelf instead.

Bunny went to the supermarket with her dad. When her dad started packing the groceries into a plastic bag, Bunny told him how bad plastic bags are for our environment. The next time Bunny and her dad went shopping, they took along a reusable cloth bag.

On Saturday morning Mouse was watching TV when Bear popped by to ask Mouse if he wanted to play ball. Mouse grabbed his glove and ran out the door. He was halfway down the street when he remembered something.

"I forgot to turn off the TV" said Mouse.

"So, what?" said Bear.

"I am going green" said Mouse, "Wait just a minute, I will be right back", and he ran back to switch the television off.

Frog went to visit uncle Toad. Uncle Toad had a scooter in his shed, he was giving it to frog. Frog couldn't wait to ride his new scooter, but uncle Toad also had old jars and newspapers in his shed. Frog wanted to be green! "I can help you load these into your car", said frog. "We can take them down to the recycling centre, I can ride my scooter later."

At school on Monday, Miss Meerkat's class held a toy swap! Bunny traded her yoyo for a talking tomato and Bear swapped his skateboard for a rugby ball. Day after day Miss Meerkat's Class made smart "green" decisions; they picked up litter from the school playground without being told, and they planted a tree in honour of Miss Meerkat's birthday.

The next day the principal, Mr Moose, showed up at school on a bicycle!

The children shouted: "Look Mr Moose is going green too!" All the learners cheered.

The next day Miss Meerkat's class had lots of company, the whole school was going green!

Mr Moose visited Miss Meerkat's class and said that he was very proud of all the children. He said that they were all Superheroes because they were not only saving the earth, but they had taught others to save the earth too! Miss Meerkat said she was very proud of them too.

The whole school now recycles, uses less water and even saves energy!

Make sun s'mores!

Harness the energy of the sun to make the best snack ever invented.



Yummmmm!

A solar oven is a box that traps some of the sun's energy to make the air inside the box hotter than the air outside the box. In other words, the solar oven is like a super greenhouse.

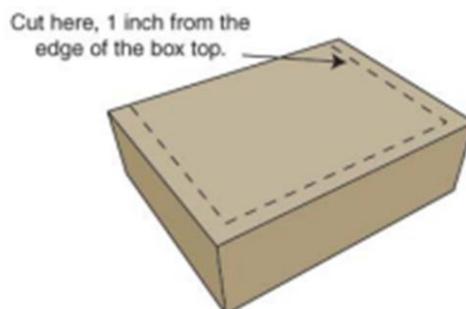
You will need:

- Cardboard box with attached lid. Lid should have flaps so that the box can be closed tightly. Box should be at least 3 inches deep and big enough to set a pie tin inside.
- Aluminium foil.
- Clear plastic wrap.
- Glue stick.
- Tape (transparent tape, duct tape, masking tape, or whatever you have).
- Stick (about 30.5 cms) to prop open reflector flap. (Use a skewer, knitting needle, ruler, or whatever you have.)
- Ruler or straight-edge box cutter or Xacto knife (with adult help, please!).

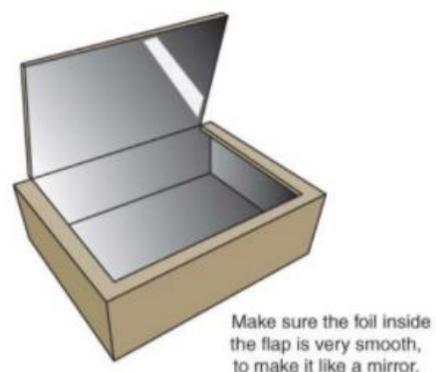


How to make solar oven:

1. Using the straight edge as a guide, cut a three-sided flap out of the top of the box, leaving at least a 2.5 cm border around the three sides.



2. Cover the bottom (inside) of the flap with aluminium foil, spreading a coat of glue from the glue stick onto the cardboard first and making the foil as smooth as possible.



3. Line the inside of the box with aluminium foil, again gluing it down and making it as smooth as possible.
4. Tape two layers of plastic wrap across the opening you cut in the lid—one layer on the top and one layer on the bottom side of the lid.
5. Test the stick you will use to prop the lid up. You may have to use tape or figure another way to make the stick stay put.



Two layers of plastic wrap over the opening will help keep heat in, while still letting all the light shine through.

Put the oven to work

Set the oven in the direct sun, with the flap propped to reflect the light into the box. You will probably have to tape the prop in place. Preheat the oven for at least 30 minutes.

To make s'mores, you will need:

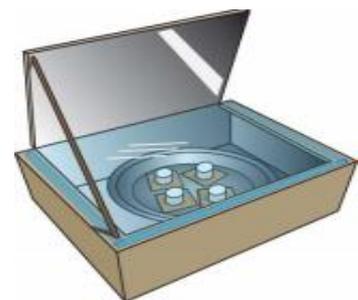
- Tennis biscuits
- Large marshmallows
- Plain chocolate bars (thin)
- Aluminium pie pan
- Napkins!

1. Place four tennis biscuits in the pie pan. Place a marshmallow on each.

IMPORTANT

Note that unlike most recipes, our s'mores have the marshmallow UNDER the chocolate. That's because, in the solar oven, it takes the marshmallow longer to melt than the chocolate.

2. Place the pan in the preheated solar oven.
3. Close the oven lid (the part with the plastic wrap on it) tightly, and prop up the flap to reflect the sunlight into the box.
4. Depending on how hot the day is, and how directly the sunlight shines on the oven, the marshmallows will take 30 to 60 minutes to get squishy when you poke them.
5. Then, open the oven lid and place a piece of chocolate (about half the size of the tennis biscuit square) on top of each marshmallow. Place another tennis biscuit on top of the chocolate and press down gently to squash the marshmallow.
6. Close the lid of the solar oven and let the sun heat it up for a few minutes more, just to melt the chocolate a bit.
7. Enjoy!



Acknowledgement: climatekids.nasa.gov