



SCOUTS GO SOLAR NEWSLETTER

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MEMBER SUPPORT

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World Scout Bureau - Africa Support Centre

Rowallan National Scout Camp Opp. ASK Jamhuri Showground

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INTRODUCTION

The Global Scouts Go Solar project (SGS) is an environmental partnership between World Scouting and Solafrica, a Swiss-based NGO, aimed at engaging and empowering young people to champion the adoption of solar energy as a solution to climate protection and ensuring a sustainable energy supply. Solar energy, among the renewable energy options, is the most appropriate for the learning-by-doing scouting method and very practical for community awareness. Scout leaders are trained to implement practices on solar energy in their contexts and champion the adaptation of the Scouts Go Solar Challenge in their NSO Youth Programmes. Since the first training in 2014, we have trained over 140 Scouts Go Solar Ambassadors, and this newsletter highlights the inspiring and impactful projects they have been implementing in their NSO's.

A horizontal decorative element consisting of a series of green chevrons or arrows pointing to the right, spanning the width of the page.

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- A large, stylized sun graphic in the bottom right corner of the page. It features a central circle with several curved rays extending outwards, all in shades of blue and teal.

“Every local action on renewable energy implemented by Scout Go Solar Ambassadors is a spark of hope and proof that young hands can power a sustainable future!”

Ivy Murugi
Junior Manager, Education and Impact,
World Scouting.



“Solafrica’s support ensures that young people don’t just learn about solar energy, they lead the way in making it’s use a reality”.

Martin Wanner
Project Manager Scouts go Solar,
Solafrica.

**140+
Scouts go Solar
Ambassadors
Trained**

GLOBAL UPDATES

Scouts Go Solar Ambassadors Virtual Gathering

The 4th of June is recognized globally as the World Environment Day, and this date coincides with the launch of World Scouting's environmental education initiative "Earth Tribe". To commemorate its fifth anniversary this year, we organized a special virtual gathering, bringing together the Scouts Go Solar Ambassadors that have been trained from across all regions under the Scouts Go Solar Challenge over the years. This celebratory call was a unique chance for us to celebrate the contribution that each of them is making towards protecting the planet through their sustainability actions, with best practices on some of the social community actions being implemented in the different regions shared. We also shared exciting updates on new trends within the Earth Tribe initiative, including World Scouting's renewed commitment towards championing climate action, as well as available resources and materials to support them in their work.

On top of that, they got a chance to learn from an international energy expert, Dr. Moaz Altaf, who gave an inspiring speech about the global outlook on clean energy, recent trends and innovation, as well as perspectives for the future. With this being the first of its kind gathering, the Solar Ambassadors also had the opportunity of engaging in a collaborative exercise to map out how we can strengthen the network, encourage peer learning and innovate new approaches to keep the momentum.

REGIONAL UPDATES

Africa

The Environmental Education Summit was held as part of the 15th Africa Scout Day celebrations in Antananarivo, Madagascar, on the 13th and 14th of March 2025. Hosted by Firaisan'ny Skotisma eto Madagasikara (the National Scout Organization of Madagascar), the summit aimed to equip Scouts with skills for implementing environmental initiatives aligned with World Scouting's Environmental Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The event provided an opportunity for the 30 participants from 13 countries in the region to exchange ideas and showcase best practices in environmental education and management, including examples of sustainable projects. The Scouts Go Solar (SGS) Challenge took center stage as an inspiring example of how environmental education translates into real youth-led action. During a deep-dive session, participants explored how the SGS learning path empowers young people to turn solar knowledge into community impact, and discussed strategies for National Scout Organizations (NSOs) to integrate the Challenge into their youth programs for wider reach and sustainability. The session was further enriched by the presence of Martin Wanner, the SGS Program Manager from Solafrica, who shared the history of how Scouts Go Solar began and the vision of the initiative as a powerful way for young people to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals and protect the planet. Importantly, NSOs that expressed interest in adopting the program are now receiving ongoing support to bring the Challenge into their local contexts, ensuring that the rays of change sparked at the summit continue to spread across the Movement in the Africa Region.



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Arab

We hold an annual regional Scouts Go Solar Ambassador training in one of World Scouting's regions and this year, the Arab region was our host. The in-person training held from the 4th to the 11th of July took place in Ismailia, the northern part of Egypt, bringing together a total of 14 scout leaders from 7 National Scout Organizations including Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. The trainees were taken through the basics of solar technology, methods and practical activities they can use to pass on this knowledge to different age groups, how Scouts Go Solar fits within the structures of World Scouting's SDG Initiatives and Youth Programmes of National Scout Organizations, as well as some methods of project management, among other topics.



The program also involved aspects of intercultural exchange, collaborative creation of ideas, and lots of fun. Three online sessions preceded the on-site training, covering several theoretical aspects and giving the participants a chance to engage on lots of practical activities in Egypt. The participants are now working on their own solar projects, which are a part of the Earth Tribe Learning Path. We are excited to report on the results for these projects in the next editions of this newsletter. If you want to learn more about the Arab Region's Training, see the links below to online posts, available in Arabic:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1548587252781445>

<https://www.facebook.com/100064458111233/posts/pfbid02tbqfUuF9JTYnmpKqnppuU7sBZFRW8erm9gRxduAKBwMGjJqedGaBQn9EyF7WHkKJ/>

https://www.instagram.com/reel/DL6_eRSoXH4/?igsh=MTVucmsyncnAxeTQ1Yg%3D%3D

https://www.instagram.com/reel/DL7s6QuKFS_/?igsh=MWcyZWU0Z3drZzB6MQ%3D%3D

SOLAR PROJECTS WORLDWIDE



A. Scout Go Solar Exhibitions at Regional, National and International events

1. Portugal

The 16th World Scout Rover Moot, held from the 31st of July to the 2nd of August, was probably one of the biggest international scout camps this year, bringing together more than 7500 young people from across the globe for a week of learning and fun. The program had a wide offering of both on-site and off-site activities, and a key highlight was the “Feel the sun Workshop”, centered on the Scouts Go Solar Challenge and hosted by the National Environment Department of the Portuguese NSO, with support from Solar Ambassadors and other Scouts Go Solar experts. The participants could pass through the three zones of the solar stand: Playing with solar-powered games, Preparation and Cooking of food using solar ovens, and finally, the Exhibition, where practical use cases of solar energy were showcased, revolving around everyday life and scouting. Among the people who visited the Scouts Go Solar stand was also Daniël Corsen, the Chairperson of the World Scout Committee. The SGS challenge also reached beyond the workshop area, with interactive activities at the Ready for Life tent and even a feature on national TV, helping spread the message of solar energy and sustainability to an even wider audience.





2. Madagascar

The Africa Scout Day is a major annual event celebrated every year on the 13th of March in the Africa Region, recognizing the contributions of the movement to Africa's development. Preceding the main event is usually an international camp, and this year's host was Madagascar. Under the theme "Shaping the Life you lead", the international camp brought together Scouts from 20 African nations and representatives from France for 3 days of shared learning and fun. Within the camp's programme was a showcase of the African Development Village, with a stand for the Scouts Go Solar Challenge as part of the setup and led by Amboara Rabe-Harinoro and Emma Dodin, Solar Ambassadors from Madagascar and the Seychelles. Together with the organisation ADES, which showcased different types of solar cookers, the Solar Ambassadors offered a broad range of experiments to the 150 scouts who participated. On one of the days, they received a very special visit from Madagascar's Minister of Sport and Youth and members of the Africa Scout Committee, who listened to the explanations about Scouts Go Solar and tried out some of the experiments!

Explore more about the event here:
<https://www.facebook.com/AfricaScoutDay/videos/943014977654893/?rdid=mIdK2J4X1WUaCOEE>

3. Taiwan

The city of Hsinchu organized its own Scout Jamboree, held on the 28th and 29th of July. One of the main activities offered to the more than 400 participants who were in attendance was the Scouts Go Solar Challenge. The Solar Ambassadors from Taiwan had gathered a team of almost 40 people to support them in the activities, focused on clean energy, and helped the participants gain a deeper understanding on its importance for a sustainable future.

4. Thailand

The National Scout Organization of Thailand held a conference on the 4th of August at their headquarters, featuring a special attendance by the Adjunct Minister of Education. At this event, the Solar Ambassador Chansak Sanguankiattisuk had an opportunity to give a keynote about the Scouts Go Solar program in the NSO and the immense contribution it has had on the young people involved in the activities. With a key strength of this project being the practical activities, he complemented his speech with a mini exhibition of several experiments.

5. India

The Bharat Scouts and Guides of India celebrated their 75th anniversary this year. In commemoration, they organised the Diamond Jubilee Jamboree in Tiruchirappalli in the southern part of India, held from the 28th of January to the 3rd of February, with around 26,000 people participating in the activities of this enormous camp. This event served as a perfect opportunity for the new Solar Ambassadors, Karthik Ramachandra and Chandan Jyoti Kalita, and their team to set up a stand for Scouts Go Solar. With an impressive range of 15 different activities, they managed to engage with about 22,000 Scouts and non-Scouts (family members, friends etc.) who joined their workshops. A Solar campfire, solar café, and solar fan cap were some of the fanciest activities they offered.

Enjoy a short video of the activities here:
<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1227499595599197>





6. Singapore

Scouts from across the world mark the Founder's Day celebrations every 22nd of February, celebrating the birthday of the Founder, Lord Baden-Powell. This year, the Scouts of Singapore took the opportunity to set up an exhibition space to engage participants present at the celebrations on Scouts Go Solar activities. Under the lead of the Solar Ambassador Pui Ling and her team, scouts of all ages were able to learn more about the magic of the sun and how it can be used in everyday life.



7. Zimbabwe

About 1200 scouts from all over Zimbabwe gathered in August for their Scouts Association of Zimbabwe National Jamboree. A huge range of activities were offered for the participants, among them those around the Scouts Go Solar Challenge. The Solar Ambassador Sydney Mayerwa showed participants how to make sunglasses, among other fun activities. To ensure a continued sharing of knowledge through this activity, he had printed many extra copies of the template, which he distributed among the scouts to carry home. Like this, they could take the templates and the window tint with them and replicate the activity in their communities, as well, while engaging their peers in conversations around renewable energies.



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B. Capacity Building Workshops



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1. India

The Solar Ambassador Chandan Jyoti Kalita and his colleague, the Messenger of Peace state coordinator Arpita Sengupta were invited to the Rabindranath Tagore University in Hojai, in the central part of India, this August. The local scout group had organized a workshop about Scouts Go Solar, the SDGs, and Action on Climate Change, and invited them as trainers. During the sessions, they introduced the participants to the Scouts Go Solar Challenge, focusing on the importance of renewable energy and the urgent need to adopt sustainable practices in our daily lives. They did sessions through interactive demonstrations of various solar gadgets and explanations of their practical applications, ranging from solar lamps and cookers to water fountains and chargers. The participants, especially the students, showed great enthusiasm and curiosity to learn more about solar energy and its different uses.

2. Honduras

After a first edition of their workshop “Kinich Ahau”, the Solar Ambassadors Obek Falck and Laura Cárcamo from Honduras went into a second round of the same in May. They held parallel workshops that took place at the same time in two different places, in the capital, Tegucigalpa and in San Pedro Sula, enabling them to reach out to 54 Cub Scouts and their Scout Leaders from the different regions of the country, explaining to them the advantages of solar energy and letting them try out different experiments. One of the highlights was the building of a fully functional solar oven made from pizza boxes.



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3. Ivory Coast

From the 28th of February to the 2nd of March, the National Scout Organisation of Ivory Coast gathered representatives of the different scout groups in the country to build their capacity, turning them into “SDG Ambassadors”. During the second edition of this training, one of the main topics was the Earth Tribe initiative, with a special focus on the Scouts Go Solar Challenge. The very active Solar Ambassador Clavaire Arnold Kouakou Koffi was invited as a trainer, to share his broad experience in this field. He delivered this through a session that combined theoretical input and practical hands-on activities, encouraging the young people to take concrete actions in favour of the environment.

4. Thailand

The Solar Ambassador Phichainarong Suwanmayura from Thailand is a teacher by profession. On the 4th and 5th of February, he organised a Scouts Go Solar activity at his school, located in the North of Thailand. Supported by the other Solar Ambassadors Leejoy Chairat and Chansak Sanguankiattisuk as well as other members of the Scouts Go Solar team, they set up a Solar Roadshow with solar car racing, solar cooking, solar art, solar gadgets and many other activities which the students engaged in, sparking their curiosity on learning more about solar energy and why it is a better option than fossil fuels.

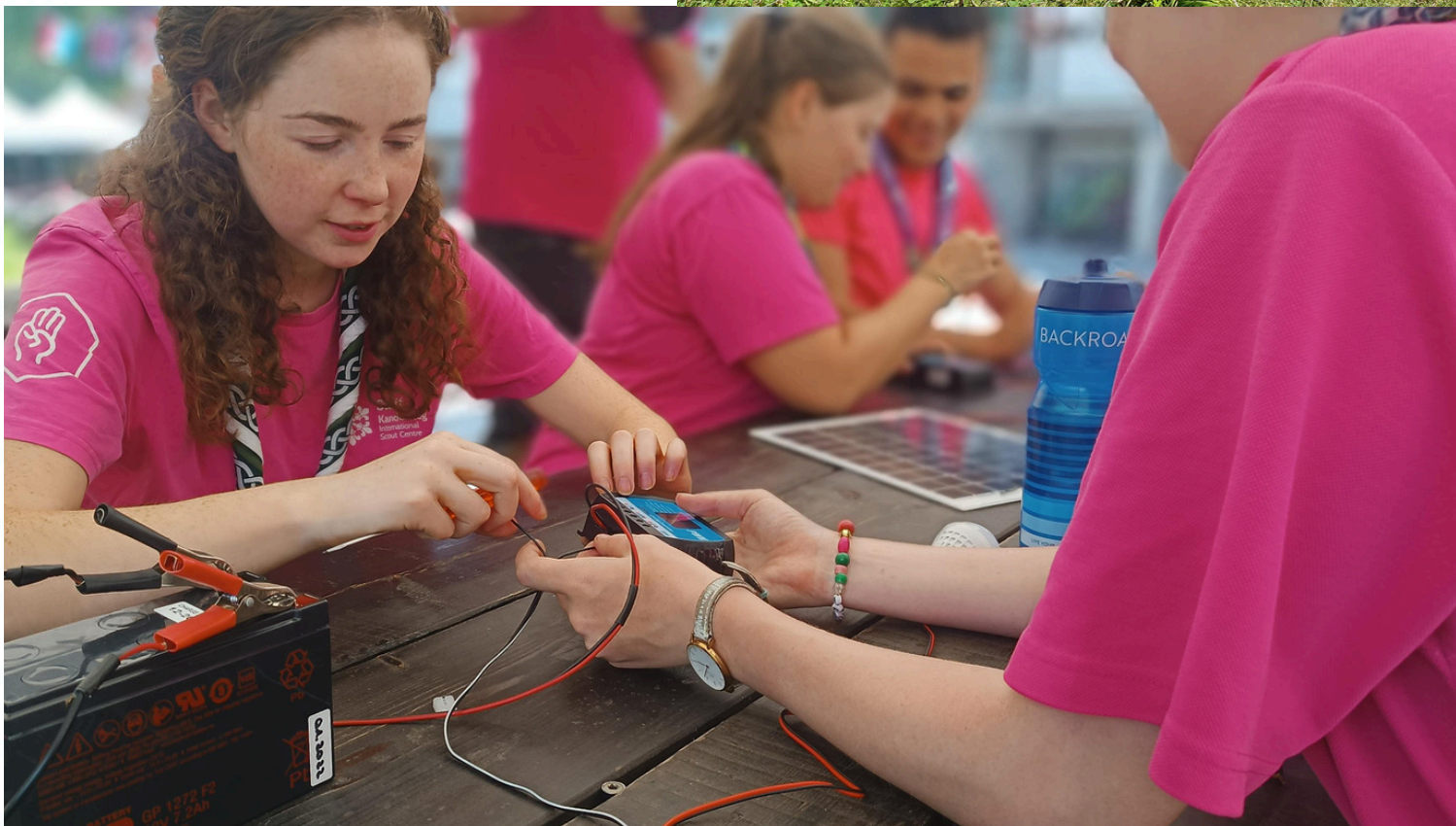
5. Switzerland

The Kandersteg International Scout Centre (KISC), founded by Lord Baden-Powell as the “first permanent Jamboree,” lies in the Swiss Mountains. All year long, scout groups from all over the world travel to camp here, engaging in a wide range of activities and special events supported by volunteer staff. Among the most engaging activities offered at KISC is the Scouts Go Solar workshop. With the center mostly run by scout volunteers who stay there for a couple of months, we have new people leading these workshops every year. To give these trainers all the necessary information about the solar activities, a team from Scouts Go Solar experts went there in June to implement a train-the-trainers workshop. Soon after this induction, the six volunteers from Argentina, Australia, Egypt, Denmark, Ireland, and the United Kingdom started implementing their own solar workshops with scout groups from all over the world, ensuring continuity of knowledge and skills around the Scouts Go Solar Challenge.



6. Switzerland

The 1st of August is globally recognized by scouts as World Scout Scarf Day. In Switzerland, this date coincides with the National Holiday, the Swiss National Day. The Kandersteg International Scout Centre (KISC) always organizes special activities to commemorate the day. As part of the Global Goals village, a team of Scouts Go Solar was present, showcasing solar devices such as solar cookers, solar water pumps, the assembling of a photovoltaic system, and many other experiments. The delivery of activities, was supported by some of the volunteers who were trained earlier this year at the center. Even with the weather changing between sunshine, clouds, and light rain, there was always something to try out and explore, and a lot of fun as well as learning on the use of solar energy as a renewable energy option.



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7. Ivory Coast

Under the title of “Green Skills for everyone: Eco Hubs”, the National Scout Organisation of the Ivory Coast is implementing a series of activities to champion for a network of ecological leaders of tomorrow. To cover the part on solar energy and how it can be used in everyday life, they invited the Solar Ambassador Clavaire Arnold Kouakou Koffi and his team. On the 21st and 22nd of June, these trainers introduced the more than 60 participants (scouts and representatives of other youth organisations) to the contents of Scouts Go Solar with theoretical and practical sessions. One of the highlights was the construction and use of the Copenhagen solar cookers, as well as learning more about and trying out the solar suitcase.



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8. Mexico

Several scout groups in Mexico have been implementing Scouts Go Solar activities and putting into practice small solar projects in the National Scout Organization. The Scouts not only get to earn the Scouts Go Solar badge, but also learn more about the advantages of solar energy and how it can be used in everyday life. Here a selection of the posts and reports you can find inspiration from:

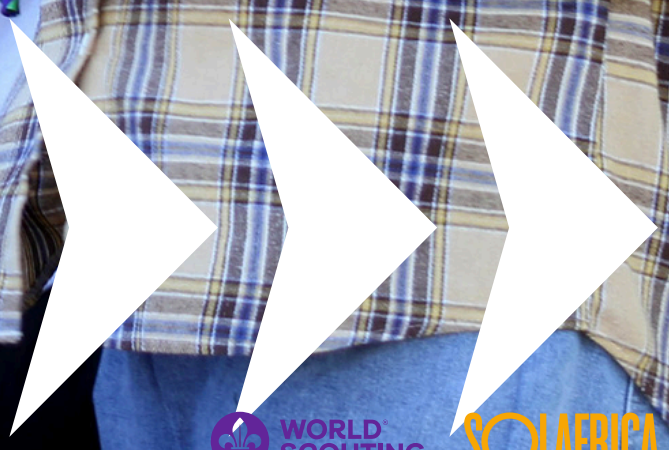
-<https://sdgs.scout.org/project/scouts-go-solarg7mclaren-0>

-<https://sdgs.scout.org/project/me-divierto-con-la-luz-del-sol>





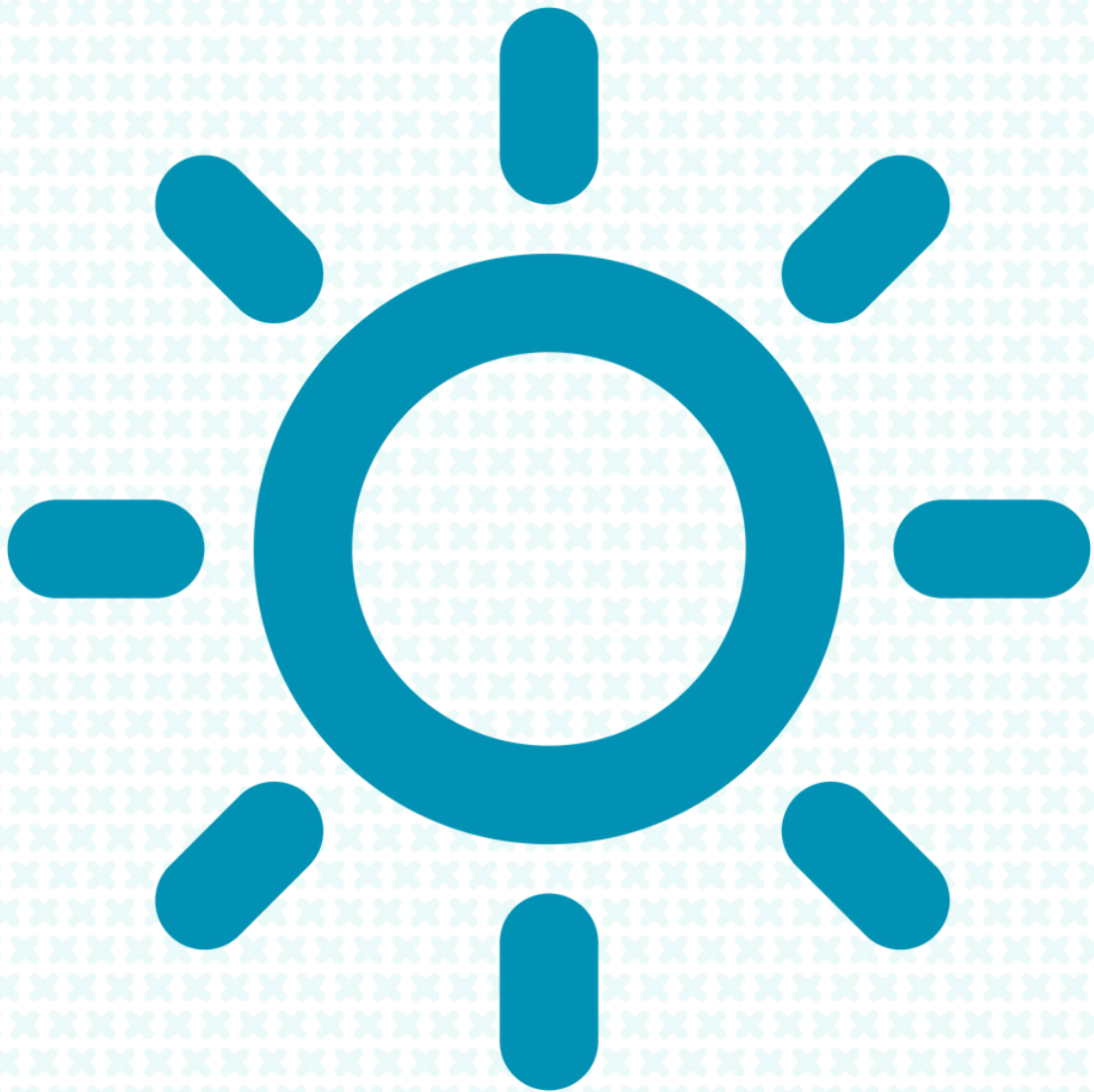
Through **2,720,244,454** service hours, millions of young people worldwide are creating a better, more peaceful and sustainable world.



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C. Advocacy Efforts





1. Portugal

The Cub Scouts from the Group 67 - Bairro da Encarnação from the capital Lisbon, were the first ones in Portugal to complete the Scouts Go Solar Challenge under the Earth Tribe initiative. In order to complete the learning path and earn their Scouts Go Solar badges, they implemented solar experiments and a sustainability fair in their local parish. For this, they prepared cookies using solar ovens, set up stands about the different steps of their learning journey, and told the visitors more about solar energy and its uses. The solar cookies were a highlight not only for the kids, but also for the adults, and showed in real life one of the many use cases of solar energy.

2. Seychelles



The “Little explorers promoting climate action through a transformative learning programme on marine life and fisheries” is a project running in the Seychelles Scout Association, supported by the NGO Gaea Seychelles. As a part of their scheduled activities, a national exhibition on sustainability was organized in the NSO, where the Solar Ambassador Emma Dodin and her team set up a stand for the Earth Tribe initiative, also promoting conversations on the use of renewable energies through the Scouts Go Solar Challenge.



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D. Virtual Engagements

1. Mexico

Let's imagine you want to build a solar cooker, and you don't know how. Then you can have a look at this Facebook reel, where a small boy from the Scouts Sahuayo, Michoacán province, in the central part of Mexico, tells you how to turn a normal umbrella into a solar cooker. He tried it out and prepared his instant noodle soup in less than one hour, only with the power of the sun! Have fun discovering:

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/2131670914017180>



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E. Solar Camps

1. Seychelles

The Scouts Go Solar Ambassador Emma Dodin organised two solar camps for different groups during the April and May school holidays in her National Scout Organization. The first one – for Cub Scouts – was centered on the benefits of the sun in our daily lives. The highlight for the kids was using the solar cooker to prepare marshmallows covered with chocolate.

The second camp was for older kids, with more technical content such as exploring how a solar panel works, how solar energy can help to reduce our carbon footprint, and how to assemble a solar torch.

2. Honduras

During a weekend in the beginning of June, the Earth Tribe team from the Scouts of Honduras organized their “Avatar” camp for rovers. These three days were all about the different challenges of the Earth Tribe, including: Scouts Go Solar, Plastic Tide Turners, and Champions for Nature. Among the practical activities for Scouts Go Solar was the installation of solar-powered streetlights for the campsite.



3. Chile

The summer camp for the Scouts of the commune of Quilicura, in the metropolitan area of the capital Santiago de Chile, held from the 27th of January to 3rd of February, was dedicated to the Scouts Go Solar Challenge. They implemented activities such as the sundials, solar compass, water disinfection and the solar charger, among others. To appreciate their effort, they were recognised as “Solar Observers”.



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F. Community Engagements

1.Mexico

From the 19th of May to the 27th of July, the Scout Leader Arturo Limon started his community project under the name of "Our relationship with the sun". He did some research on the topic and prepared the content and methodology for a workshop. Having all this ready, he visited two classes of a primary school, teaching them about the different benefits we get from the sun. To keep these ideas shining, he donated some solar lamps to the school. As he writes in his report, working on renewable energies is "a technical, ethical, and social learning experience all at the same time".



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H. Long-term Implementation Efforts



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1. Portugal

In the past years, there have been several solar workshops already in the Drave Rover Scout Centre, in the northern part of Portugal. Drave is recognised as one of the SCENES centres (Scout Centers of Excellence for Nature, Environment and Sustainability) which fulfil a list of criteria regarding sustainability and protection of the environment. In close collaboration with the National Environment Department of the Portuguese NSO, this centre will start offering activities about the Scouts Go Solar Challenge to their guests, as part of the normal programme. An important element in all this is the parabolic solar cooker that has been donated to this centre. This will be a big step to increase the participation of Portuguese scouts in the Scouts go Solar Challenge.

2. Portugal

Still in Portugal, the Scouts who are members of the environment departments of two different NSAs—the Fraternidade de Nuno Álvares (FNA) and the Corpo Nacional de Escutas – Escutismo Católico Português (CNE) – joined efforts in topics they have in common. The gathering was held from the 20th to the 22nd of June in Lagoa, in the very south of Portugal. The collaboration within the Scouts Go Solar program in Portugal was the starting point of this collaboration between the two entities. With several lectures and training sessions on environmental topics, they shared their knowledge, methods, and activities with each other to foster the dissemination of the Scouts Go Solar Challenge and other environmental initiatives within the two associations.



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TESTIMONIALS



Real stories of impact by the Scouts Go Solar Challenge



Through my participation in the solar energy training, I realized that nature has already given us clean and abundant energy sources that can sustain life with greater quality. With the knowledge and skills I have gained, I am committed to promote a culture of adopting clean energy so as to safeguard the environment and protect it for future generations, and inspire young people and communities in exploring solar solutions, and contribute to making renewable energy a reality in Yemen



ANFAL ALI, SGS AMBASSADOR, YEMEN

The Scouts Go Solar training in July was an inspiring and eye-opening experience. I not only learned practical ways to use solar energy but also discovered how powerful it can be when shared through Scouting activities. I look forward to bringing these skills back to my community, creating fun, hands-on projects that raise awareness about sustainability and encourage young people to see solar energy as part of their everyday lives.



AHMED BUSHIHA, SGS AMBASSADOR, LIBYA



I had an incredible experience at the Environmental Education Summit, learning about our Movement's commitment towards sustainability and how these efforts can be brought to our NSO's. The deliberations enhanced my understanding how our Youth Program can get enriched, ensuring the young people who go through it benefit and become active global citizens making a difference in their communities. These are lessons I will carry back to my NSO.



FRED MOSAISI, DEPUTY NEC, KENYA SCOUTS ASSOCIATION



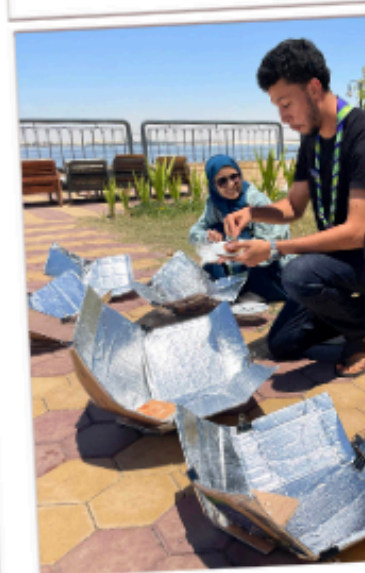


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ARAB REGION SGS AMBASSADOR TRAINING 2025





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Tribe Initiative supported by
Solafrica



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Have you done a solar activity and would like to see it published in the next Scouts Go Solar newsletter? Do you have questions about the project? Get in touch with us!

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