



# Completing Environmental Projects.

When we speak about environmental issues it is very easy to think of the big ones ... global warming, saving the whales, destruction of the rain forests. But each and every one of us has an impact on the environment. And more often than not this tends to be a negative impact. We all create waste, we all use forms of transport that pollute the atmosphere and we all use the planet's limited resources.

By taking on an environmental project you and your Patrol can have a positive impact on the environment and make the place in which you live a better place. Environmental projects come in all shapes and sizes. When thinking about what project to carry out you and your Patrol should consider some of the following:

- What types of things are likely to make the biggest impact in your area? Make a list and try to choose something from this list rather than going for the obvious.
- What are the interests of the Patrol members? A project is only likely to be successfully completed if your Patrol is interested from the start.
- What kinds of skills do your Patrol members have? It only makes sense to take on a project that you have the skills to compete. It might seem like a good idea to paint a mural on a wall, but if no-one in the Patrol can paint very well it's not going to look very good!

The following are some suggestions to help get you started when you are thinking about carrying out an environmental project. They are broken into a number of groupings.

## Visual Environment

- Plant trees and bulb flowers such as daffodils.
- Paint a mural.
- Clean up a local park.
- Paint local buildings.

## Recycling

- Set up a recycling collection point in your Scout Den for use by your Patrol members.
- Hold a 'recycled art' competition.
- Set up a composite pile and encourage members of the Troop to use it.



## Pollution

- Organise a car pooling plan for the members of the Troop who travel by car to and from Troop meetings.
- Clear an area of litter.
- Adopt a forest and watch out for illegal dumping.

## Animals & Wildlife

- Create a wildlife area on an existing piece of wasteland.
- Volunteer at an animal shelter.
- Set up bird feeding points in your Scout den for the winter.

## Natural Resources

- Start an energy conservation campaign in your Scout Den in relation to the unnecessary use of electricity (switching off lights, etc.).
- Carry out a water conservation campaign in the homes of your Patrol members.
- Carry out a survey on the availability of recycled products and encourage your Patrol members families to buy more of these.

A word about fundraising and environmental projects.

Raising money for an environmental project is certainly worth-while, but a more 'hands on' approach to environmental projects is to be encouraged. You will personally get a lot more from a project if you interact with other people or if you complete a physical job yourself. Only consider fund-raising if you need some money to complete your project. For example if you decide to plant trees in an area you may need to raise money to buy the trees.