



'Discovery' for UK Scouts of the World Award

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After more than twelve months of planning the first 'trial' Scouts of the World Discovery was held at Youlbury Scout Activity Centre near Oxford. Eight enthusiastic members of the Scout Network from across the country took part in the Discovery which had Environment and Sustainability as its theme, and The Woodland Trust as partners.

A full day of exploration was spent photographing and 'hugging' trees in the nearby forest to provide a practical introduction to the Ancient Tree Hunt project. Participants were also given training in a wide range of skills including project management, behavioural analysis, challenging prejudice, conflict resolution, and what it means to be a Scout of the World. Case studies of overseas service projects were examined, and input given by a team of experts including two members of Scouts et Guides de France. Finally, action

plans were drawn up to ensure this group will be the first British Scouts to achieve the SW Award which they must complete before their 25th birthday.

The participants will now move to the 'Response' phase of the SW Award, where supported by mentors, they will reflect on the Discovery and introduce environmental programmes to their local Scouting Communities.

The final component of the Award is the SW Voluntary Service where the participants will complete two weeks of community service in either the UK or abroad as part of a small team in this case with the focus on Environment. Following an evaluation the Award is granted and a very special badge presented.

A second trial Discovery in the UK will take place over two weekends early in 2009 with Severn Trent as partners. These two Discoveries have been supported by the Alcoa Foundation, as part of the overall partnership with WOSM to develop environmental education in Scouting. For information about how to register for the Scouts of the World Award and to apply for the next Discovery Scout Network, [members should contact the Scout Network Office at Gilwell Park](#)

If you would like to obtain more information about the Scouts of the World Award in your country please visit www.scoutsoftheworld.net.