



SCOUTS[®]
Creating a Better World

World Organization of the Scout Movement
Organisation Mondiale du Mouvement Scout
Всемирная Организация Скаутского Движения
Organización Mundial del Movimiento Scout
المنظمة العالمية للحركة الكشفية

**World Scout Bureau, Central Office
Bureau Mondial du Scoutisme, Siège**

Rue du Pré-Jérôme 5
P.O. Box 91
1211 Geneva 4 Plainpalais
SWITZERLAND

Phone (+41 22) 705 10 10
Fax (+41 22) 705 10 20
Email worldbureau@world.scout.org
Web scout.org

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To: International Commissioners

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Scouting and the Environment – opportunities for Scouts

Dear Colleagues,

In 2004, WOSM and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) so that both organisations could work together to strengthen the programme for Scouts in relation to the environment and sustainable development.

In February 2003, the Governing Council of UNEP adopted a long-term strategy for engaging young people in environmental activities and in the work of UNEP. The strategy was entitled the 'TUNZA Youth Strategy'.

The word "tunza" means "to treat with care or affection" in Kiswahili (a sub-regional language of Eastern Africa). The overall TUNZA concept, therefore, is built around this theme. It is an initiative that supports the development of activities in the areas of capacity building, environmental awareness, and information exchange; with a vision to foster a generation of environmentally conscious citizens, capable of positive action.

Part of this strategy provides up-to-date information and resources that support the environmental empowerment of young people. The resources and activities include an annual TUNZA International Youth Conference, the TUNZA Youth Advisory Council, the TUNZA magazine, and a book "A Time for Action".

Following the World Scout Conference in Tunisia, the Educational Methods Committee was formed as a sub-Committee to the World Scout Committee. Part of its task is to support the work on environment education and sustainable development identified in Tunisia. A Task Team on Environment Education has been created to take this work forward.

Through the partnership with UNEP and the work of the Environment Education Task Team, opportunities and activities that support environmental education for Scouts of all ages are being identified and promoted. Here is some information on the current projects.

UNEP International Children's Painting Competition

UNEP have been organising a children's painting competition for 16 years. The theme for this year's competition is 'Climate Change'. The competition is open to young people who are between the ages of 6 and 14 years old on World Environment Day 2007 (5 June). Entries should be sent to Regional offices of UNEP by 31 December 2006.

This is an opportunity to help young people learn more about climate change and use their imagination and creative skills to show their learning. UNEP has a series of web-pages on climate change targeted at this age-group.

Full information is available on the children's section of the UNEP web-site
<http://www.unep.org/tunza/children/>

Tunza International Youth Conference

The next TUNZA International Youth Conference will take place in Leverkusen, Germany from 8-12 September 2007. Scouts between the ages of 15 and 24 are encouraged to apply and UNEP will secure places for at least 2 Scouts per region. UNEP receive around 400-600 applications per year for around 150 places. Some financial support may be possible for Scouts to attend from developing countries.

Please see the TUNZA web-site <http://www.unep.org/tunza> for more details and application forms.

Global Youth Retreat

UNEP's Global Youth Retreat is one of the main platforms for cooperation and interaction between UNEP and its youth partners.

It is the vision of UNEP to "foster a generation of environmentally conscious citizens who will better influence decision-making processes and act responsibly to create a sustainable world".

The next Global Youth Retreat will take place from 1-4 February 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya. There will be one or two Scouts present who will have the opportunity to stand for the Youth Advisory Council. There are currently 3 Scouts from Africa on this Council; Anta Mbuya Mahunda from Congo, Harouna Oussein from Niger and Gueye Secka from Senegal.

Share your story

WOSM and UNEP are interested to hear of environmental projects undertaken by Scouts around the world. The stories should outline the reasons for undertaking projects and what was achieved. The following framework may help stories to communicate the essential elements. The following points should be covered: **What we achieved: Why we did it: How we did it: Our learning and Our plans for the future.**

Please encourage Scouts involved in environmental projects in your NSO to send their stories to WOSM: email "worldbureau@world.scout.org" or via the UNEP web-site http://www.unep.org/tunza/youth/Hear_from_you/Share_story

UNEP resources on environment education for young people

The UNEP web-site for children and youth (TUNZA) has a wide range of educational resources and activities targeted at children from 6-14 year and youth 15 – 24 years. These resources will be very useful for Scout leaders and Scouts who are looking to develop the environment aspect of their programme or who are seeking information to support projects on environmental issues.

You will be kept informed of new opportunities for Scouts in relation to the environment via newsletters, WorldINFO and the WOSM web-site as part of the MOU with UNEP. We hope this will be an active partnership, bringing new opportunities to Scouting as a Movement working to support development world-wide that is just and sustainable.

Yours sincerely,

Eduardo Missoni
Secretary General, WOSM