



New Youth Program – Special Interest Area **Environment**

The special interest areas are designed to encourage Scouts to try new things and expand upon their existing interests. Environment is one of the six special interest areas in the New Youth Program. Scouts are encouraged to come up with their own project or activity ideas, this resource has been put together to spark new ideas which can be further developed by an individual, Patrol or Unit.

Scouts will be involved in the Plan/Do/Review process for a project or activity and this will involve setting personal or group goals with support from others.

These ideas could be developed in a similar way to the old award scheme, by an individual with their own specific interest to complete an award. These ideas could also be developed with the whole Unit where the theme of 'Environment' could be used for the term. The New Youth Program is not prescribed like the old program and therefore it is important that the Unit Council is involved in the 'Plan' and 'Review' phase of the program as well as the 'Do' part.

More information can be found on the Scouts Australia website:

https://scouts.com.au/blog/2019/02/27/unpacking-the-special-interest-areas/?utm_source=Scouts+Australia+eNews&utm_campaign=77919d170a-Scouts+Australia+February+2019&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_58c38eacf2-77919d170a-262044301

Special Interest Area support documents and forms for planning your project can be found at:

<https://pr.scouts.com.au/achievement-pathways/>

Ideas for Environment projects and activities

Idea for project goal development	Different ways to develop	Support people and resources
Creating habitat in your local area for native animals and removing weeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Researching native plants in your area that attract animals and insects. - Research weeds in your area and put together ID or fact sheets. -Bush regeneration around your Scout hall or community, removing weeds. -Have a working bee with Scout families to plant trees. -build nesting boxes or native bee hotels and install them in local community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Local Bush regeneration group or local council. -Local landscape supplier -Bunnings - weed ID charts and fact sheets on council website - Men's shed
Recycling in your local community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Research what is recycled by your local council and where. -visit a recycling facility like Kimbriki, Mona Vale Rd, for a tour or workshop. -build a worm farm -conduct a household waste audit -How can we be more sustainable at home and recycle better? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Kimbriki Tip, Mona Vale Rd. Kimbriki Ecogarden workshop -Local council Waste Audit: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3mh1IMpuV5A
Build knowledge and create a database of native plants or animals in your area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Find a bushwalk with plant ID signs, Lane Cove NP or Kuringgai Wildflower Garden. -collect data, drawings, photos of plants identified, identify these plants in other local areas. - identify indigenous uses of plants in your area. - draw a food web of the plants and animals in your area -take parents on a bushwalk to share knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -NSW NPWS -Local council - Aboriginal Heritage Office https://www.aboriginalheritage.org - Lane Cove NP, Heritage Walk to Fiddens Wharf Oval. -Kuringgai Wildflower Garden, St Ives. - Frog ID app.
Bushfire in the Australian bush	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Research how the bush responds to fire. -Invite a NPWS ranger to come and talk about bushfire. -Collect seed pods such as Banksia, Hakea and Casuarina and watch them open on the fire. Plant seeds in ash to grow. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -NSW NPWS -Local council bushfire team -RFS or fire brigade

How healthy is the creek?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Research the Streamwatch and Landcare websites and look at ID sheets of animals found in creeks. -Catch, identify and record data on animals that live in the creek to determine if creek is polluted - collect litter from the creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Streamwatch website or local group - Resource available from https://greatersydneylandcare.org/resources-flora-fauna/
Pollution in the natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - investigate the water cycle and nutrient cycle and build a terrarium out of a 2L bottle, soil, small plants - investigate heavy metals in the soil, soil testing around the Scout Hall or your Vege garden. - Air pollution: Collect dust samples around the Scout hall or home and have tested at DustSafe -Water: identify pollution in a local creek, see above. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Bunnings - Vegesafe soil testing and DustSafe dust testing https://www.360dustanalysis.com https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/environment/waterways
Surviving the Australian Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - build a bush shelter from natural or reclaimed materials - Water filter from a 2L plastic bottle - Research traditional bush foods and medicine of local Aboriginal people -Mark on a map or GoogleMyMaps where you might find fresh water in your area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal Heritage Office https://www.aboriginalheritage.org Water filter https://science.lovetoknow.com/science-fair-projects/homemade-water-filter-science-project