



Environmental Projects

Your Patrol Environmental Service Project should be:

Challenging
Enjoyable,
Inclusive, and
Beneficial to the natural world.

Why organise an Environmental Service Project?

- It is a great Patrol Activity
- Scouts should be service and are committed to respecting the natural environment
- Discovery Award: Know the main elements of Leave No Trace
- Terra Nova Award: Get to know your Local Environment; and Participate in a Patrol based community project.
- Endurance Award: Participate in a Patrol or Troop environmental project.
- Polar Award: Plan, organise, and run a Patrol or Troop Leave No Trace project within your locality
- Special Interest Badge: Environment
- Chief Scout Award: Environment Area and Residential / Intercultural activity .
- Live the Scout Law and Promise.
- Follow the principles of Leave No Trace.





Schedule for an Environmental Project:

It takes a few weeks to organise an environmental. It starts with your patrol exploring environmental themes in your programme. You can then a relevant project which is benefit to the local community and natural world.

Exploring

- Use your programme to explore different environmental themes, such as clean water & air and natural habitats
- Carry out an audit of your locality by mapping different natural areas and amenities, such as recycling facilities

Plan

- Pick a project that you think is important
- Decide on an area in your locality or a theme you can work on as a patrol
- It might be necessary to work with another organisation or a local civic authority
- Make out a detailed schedule
- Assign roles to all patrol members
- Prepare for the project

Do

- When you are ready run your project
- Involve all the patrol, and other scouts and groups, if necessary
- Focus on reaching your objectives

Review

- Carry out a review of the project
- Scouts assess their role and how the project helped them make progress in their Crean Awards and the SPICES
- Have a celebration with everyone who was involved





Part of Patrol/Troop Programme

- The project should be a part of your normal patrol or troop programme.
- You can use your troop meetings to prepare for, plan, and review the project.
- You can run patrol meetings during troop meetings

Sample Timeline

Phase	Week	Activity
Exploring	1	Troop Meeting: Clean Air & Water
	2	Troop Meeting: Habitats
		Patrol Activity: Explore a local natural area
3	Troop Meeting: Recycling	
Planning	4	Patrol Meeting: Decide on a Project
	5	Patrol Meeting: Work with local group
	6	Troop Meeting: Final Arrangements
Doing	7	Troop Activity: Project
Reviewing	8	Patrol Meeting: Practical Review and Badgework Assessment
		Troop Meeting: Celebration





Exploring

You should run several Patrol or Troop meetings on environmental themes to help you understand the areas; with this familiarisation you can then plan an effective project.

Examples for Meetings and Activities:

- Environmental issues relating to water - goo.gl/l4uR8X
- Rubbish Bag Challenge - goo.gl/yik04s
- Travelling on durable ground (Leave No Trace) - goo.gl/kCkzEe
- Get to know your local environment (Terra Nova Award) - goo.gl/kCkzEe
- implement Leave No Trace in your Programme (Terra Nova Award) - goo.gl/qa6yu6
- Find out about Conservation in Ireland (Endurance Award) - goo.gl/WW2OT9
- Find out about Conservation internationally (Polar Award) - goo.gl/C0ODnX

Places to find other examples of activities:

- scouts.ie and scoutteam.org
- World Scout Environmental Programme
- Messengers of Peace, World Scouting
- Irish Girl Guides
- Scout Association, UK - Scout Community Week
- Scouts Canada's Good Turn Week
- NYCI – National Youth Council of Ireland
- Eco-UNESCO



Planning

Picking a Project:

Interest and Skills

Any project you pick should be of interest to your patrol. Using your exploration of environmental themes, what areas were most appealing to your patrol? All of the patrol should be able to actively participate in the project. It is important that you have the skills or can learn the skills to complete the project.

Simple and contained

Your project should have a clear focus and be completed in a limited amount of time. You should concentrate on a project that you can do in a day or weekend. It is better to have a successful simple project, rather than a more complicated project which doesn't work out. Also, be careful not to make commitments you can't keep.

Useful

Your project should make a clear difference to the environment. It should have a clear benefit for the natural world. One of the best ways to ensure this is to work with another group. Sometimes what we think as a good project may have already been thought of by another group. Ask your Scouters, parents, or friends about a community group you could work with. Also, plan a project which uses your skills, this is a good way to make a positive impact.

Challenging

The project should be a challenge for you and your patrol. While something like a clean up of an area is a good project for Beaver Scouts or Cub Scouts, a Scout patrol should do more. Maybe a clean-up and a renovation of an area, eg. plant trees and plants, install bird feeders, get your local authority to put in bins and recycling facilities. The project should need a least a day's work, or could be spread over a weekend or a few hours over several weeks.



Planning

Roles

You will all be involved in doing the project, but there are specific roles that will need to be done before, during, and after the event. For the Crean Awards, each scout should have a role to fulfil in the project. Make sure everyone has a job. The activity leaders, usually the Scouts doing their Crean Polar Award and Scouters, should support everyone in their jobs.

Here are some potential roles:

- **Activity Leader(s):** These scouts take the lead in organising the activity and work closely with the Scouters. They will more than likely be scouts doing their Endurance and Polar Crean Awards, or and/or their Chief Scout Award.
- **Financial Person:** Usually the Patrol Treasurer, who will look after the finances. They should work with a Scouter in planning a budget. They should plan all expenditure, collect all receipts, and keep detailed records.
- **PR Person:** This scout should publicise the project, especially if it needs support. Print posters, get a webpage, get in contact with local media.
- **Liaison Person:** If working with another group, you should have one person as a point of contact to ensure clear communications.
- **Quartermaster:** Organises patrol/troop and other equipment
- **Photographer:** Record events, especially for promotion and sharing later
- **First Aider:** Depending on the type of activity
- **Leave No Trace Officer:** The scout who makes sure the patrol is following the principles of Leave No Trace.





Planning

Partnerships: Working with Others

In some cases, it would be a good for the project to work with another group who work in the area in which you are interested in. You should talk to your Scouters about forming a partnership as they can offer advice and could help with making contact.

Some tips for working with other groups:

- Everyone is respected and involved
- You all contribute equally
- Consult each other before taking any decision
- Make decisions together at all stages of the project
- Both groups should learn from each other
- Address any issues as the arise in a positive way

Detailed Plan

Make out a detailed plan of action leading up to the project. This time line should list all the jobs that need to be done and who is responsible for each one.

When	What	Who
2 nd	Budget	Sarah & Mark
2 nd	Promotional Posters	Marie & TJ
4 th	Put up Posters	Marie & TJ
10 th	Get Equipment	Emily, John
10 th	Meet Treasurer	Sarah & Mark
10 th	Visit Local Paper	Marie & TJ
11 th	Collect other items	Darran



Doing

Checklist

Here is a short checklist to help you make sure everything is in place for completing the project.

Action

Everyone knows what that the project is

We can tell if we have succeeded

Everyone has a role and are being supported in their role

If working with a partner, they fully understand what is involved

Location

The location has been arranged

Everyone know where it is

Administration

We have a timetable

We have all bookings made

We have promoted the project

Finance

We have a well-planned budget

We have agreed us with our partners and Group Treasurer

Equipment

We have a full equipment list

We have all the equipment we need

We have checked and cleaned all the equipment

Training

We have the skills need for the project

We have someone on hand to advise us

There is a qualified First Aider on site

We know the limits of our skills

Emergency

We all know who to call in case of emergency

Reviewing

Practical Review

Patrol Corners:

You should have a quick patrol discussion of the activity highlighting some of the aspects which went well and others which could be improved. The Activity Leader or PL could ask:

- What did we achieve? Did we improve the situation? How does that feel?
- What was the best part of the project? What was the hardest?
- What could have gone better? What would you do differently? How will this help you with another project?

Patrol Leader's Council:

At the PLC, you can have a more detailed review of the project and how it went. The Activity Leaders and key people, like the Treasurer, should be involved in this. Focus on reviewing all of the project from the exploration through to the completion. Your main conclusions should be recorded to help you with planning any future events.

Crean Awards and other Badgework

Patrol Corners:

The patrol should talk about the project and see how it helped the scouts achieve sections of their Crean Awards, especially the Environment section. You can talk about the role someone had and anything else they did. If the PL/APL and scout are happy that the scout completed that requirement they mark the date on the Personal Journey Review sheets.

Patrol Leader's Council:

The PLs/APLs assess their personal progress in the Crean Awards with each other and with the Scouters. It should focus on their role in organising and leading the event.

