

THE WORLD SCOUT ENVIRONMENT AWARD (WSEA)

Venturer Scout & Rover Scout Badge Requirements



VENTURER SCOUTS / ROVER SCOUTS

Introduction:

The World Scout Environment Award (WSEA) is an international award, which means that Scouts in other countries are also working to earn it, even though they may be working on slightly different requirements. All Scouts around the world will wear the badge on the uniform to demonstrate Scouting's concern for, and active stewardship of, the environment.

The World Scout Environment Award badge shows Antarctica — the only collectively managed continent in the world and one of the most at risk from climate change — at its center. The other landforms create a “world” image — not showing any one particular continent or country, as Scouts are encouraged to look beyond their own borders and think of the world. The colours of blue, green and white are commonly associated with nature and the purple of World Scouting is blended with these. The Sun which brings life to our world is reflected in the water.

VENTURER SCOUTS / ROVER SCOUTS REQUIREMENTS

NOTE: The Company/Crew is required to develop their own specific program ensuring that WSEA objectives are met in each of the 6 areas outlined below. The program needs to include discovering local concerns, finding out how the Company/Crew and its members impact the problems and solutions, showing that the Company/Crew understands and cares about the issues, and to plan and execute an environmental project — one with lasting effects.

Suggested ways to tackle each of these 6 areas is outlined below.

1. People and natural systems have clean water and clean air.

1. Discover a local concern involving clean water or clean air, finding out how the Company/Crew and its members impact the problems and solutions and show that the Company/Crew understands and cares about the issue.

Examples:

- a) Visit your community's water treatment facilities. Determine the sources of clean water in your local community and understand the actions that your community takes to ensure clean water supplies.
 - b) Research the air quality in your local community. Is it affected by sources of contaminants? Why is clean air important? How does your community manage air quality?
 - c) Explore your community looking for ways that people and individuals in the local area affect the availability of clean air and clean water. How does this reflect what takes place on a regional, national and global level?
2. Creatively report your findings by: developing a poster or presentation for your Company/Crew or community; or creating a photographic record of your experience; or sharing your opinions using social networking (ie. blog).



2. Sufficient natural habitat exists to support native species.

1. a) Visit an appropriate natural area and remain outside for 36 hours. Observe the changes that take place over this period by keeping a log of weather, light, sounds, smells, animals, birds, etc. Discuss your log entries with other members of your Company/Crew or a Scout patrol.
b) Creatively report your findings (ie: poster; photographic record; blog).
2. Walk through a natural area of about 1 hectare, noting how the plants and animals are inter-connected. Reflect on, and discuss, how society and your personal actions impact such habitats and native species.
3. Choose a global conservation issue. Compare and contrast with a similar local conservation issue. Discover how these issues are affected by your personal actions and those of your community and discuss with your Company/Crew?

3. The risk of harmful substances to people and the environment are minimized.

1. a) Observe and create an inventory of the chemicals commonly used in your community. Include sources and uses of household chemicals and investigate if your community uses any industrial chemicals on highways, railways, rights of way, and other private and public lands.
b) Explore the impact of harmful substances to local people and the broader environment and what can be done by individuals, groups and the community to reduce the risk. Discuss how this differs from other Canadian communities and globally.
2. Creatively report your findings.

4. The most suitable environmental practices are used.

1. a) Identify and visit a local site of environmental controversy (such as a development site, pollution source, mine, dump, etc.). Assess which actions could or should be taken and reflect on how your community is affected by such issues.
b) Explain how our choices of action and responsibility as an individual, group, community and country can affect the environment.
2. Meet with and discuss the experiences of a local group or individual who “thinks globally and acts locally”. Reflect on their actions and their role in society.

5. People are prepared to respond to environmental hazards and natural disasters.

1. Complete one of:
 - a) Brainstorm with your Company a list of natural landscape and weather hazards in your community. Describe how these landscapes or events might lead to an emergency and how you and your community prepare for them.
 - b) Explore with your Company how changes to the environment can influence environmental hazards and natural disasters.
2. Complete one of:
 - a) Investigate how Scouts Canada contributes to local community agencies that prepare for emergencies and what training is required by these community agencies.
 - b) Learn about specialized training that emergency preparedness organizations undertake and take a basic level course of this training.
 - Emergency first aid
 - 72-hour emergency kits
 - Search and rescue
 - Provincial emergency measures
 - Wilderness first aid.

6. Complete an environmental project.

1. Complete one of:
 - a) Select a local environmental issue that relates to a previous learning and to your local environment. Plan and execute an environmental project that has lasting effects (i.e., make a change that makes a difference to the community).

Share with others how the project has and will affect Scouting in your community and how it connects to local community, regional and global issues.

- b) Find out more about the Scouts Canada Climate Change badges. Undertake training, and share your learnings with a younger section by facilitating the completion of the badge with a Cub Scout or Scout section.

