

One World, One Promise

– Can Canada make a difference?

by Julian Celms

If all the Scouts around the world did the same thing, would we have an impact? The answer of course is yes. Scouting, with the Scouting program in 155 countries, has a huge impact worldwide through its 28 million members. At the recent World Scout Conference two themes were constantly discussed and promoted – peace and the environment.

And what if Canada can contribute to this? What if all Scouts across the world paid attention to the dangers of climate change? This is a story of the first steps in making a world of difference.

First Step

In 2004, Scouts Canada and our partner in climate change, the Delphi Group, partnered with the South African Scout Association to develop a South African climate change program. With funding assistance from

the Canadian International Development Fund (CIDA), Jennifer Harwood from Delphi and I visited the South Africans in Capetown in October 2004. We wanted to share the Canadian experience and see how well our program could be adapted. True to Scouting spirit, we were heartily welcomed and impressed with the hospitality of our hosts.

There were a number of challenges in building this new program. Much like Canada, the South African Scout Association has a very diverse membership, spread across small rural

communities to larger urban centres. The program had to be easy to understand and produced on paper as internet access is not stable. In contrast to the Canadian school system, there is less of an emphasis on global warming and its environmental effects.

Using the Canadian program as a starting point, we all agreed there was a lot that could be transferred over to the South African program. We were also conscious that a different emphasis and approach was required. As a result of our research, three core themes became the focus of the program:

Night Safari
A Camping Adventure

- > Wildlife Show
- > Night walk in zoo
- > Accommodations & supper included

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Senior Scouts in Africa recycling a gas can into an effective stove.

Photos courtesy of the South African Scout Association

- ☞ General education about climate change (the causes and the impact of climate change),
- ☞ Mitigating greenhouse gasses (use of electricity, recycling, renewable energy use), and
- ☞ Adapting to changes in the environment through climate change (water security and food security).

The program was developed for Cubs and Scouts (the South African Scout program has two programs – Scout Craft for 11 – 14 year olds, and Scout Interest for 14 – 18 year olds). Four easy to read booklets were developed:

- ☞ A Cub Activity Booklet – 8 – 12 pages with emphasis on pictures to allow for self-instruction.
- ☞ A Scout Jr. Booklet – still many pictures, but with more text.
- ☞ A Scout Sr. Booklet – even more text oriented.
- ☞ An Adult Program Booklet – with program materials designed to provide resources for leaders to aid youth in completing badge requirements as well as general climate change theme program ideas for program meetings. The booklet covered all three programs for the various age levels.

Two innovative programs

Testing started in 2005 in all 9 provinces in South Africa. All of the partners were impressed with the enthusiasm and positive feedback from test groups. The South African Scout Association is now working to fully implement the program.

Scouting now has two innovative climate change programs to share with the world. We hope to continue to share our experience and our pro-

grams with other countries. At the World Scout Conference in Tunisia this year, many countries expressed interest in the two climate change programs and how they might adopt a similar strategy.

Think of the slogan 'One World, One Promise'



Does the program you run on a weekly basis relate to Scouts across the world? This story is an example where you can say 'yes'. As you can with the World Conservation badge. As you can with the values of Scouting. Think of the slogan 'One World, One Promise'. As a citizen of the world, when you help our members understand and practice peace and environmental stewardship, we play a role in shaping the largest youth movement in the world. Keep on building the leaders of tomorrow.

– *Julian Celms practices Climate Change at the National office as part of the Outdoor program.*

COOL ACTIVITIES IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN PROGRAM

- ✓ innovative ways to recycle tires and produce plant pots, doormats
- ✓ recycling old gas cans
- ✓ egg trays filled with soil for starting plants
- ✓ using plastic bags as a watering bag
- ✓ using gray water to water gardens
- ✓ filtering water using 2L pop bottles
- ✓ starting a compost pile and turning it into the family garden
- ✓ making wax paper balls to cook food
- ✓ using 2L pop bottles to start plants
- ✓ ideas to catch rain water

To many Canadians these may seem like simplistic ideas. For many South Africans, these are useable ideas that can be effective in active Scouting communities.

Photograph (centre) courtesy of the South African Scout Association

MINI GREENHOUSE ACTIVITY

This simple activity is used in both the Canadian and South African Climate Change program. To find directions for this (page 34) and more resources, pick up a copy of the *Climate Change Resource Book* available at Scout Shops.



SOUTH AFRICAN SCOUTING

The association has three Programs – Cubs, Scouts and Rovers. The South African Scout Association has developed two landmark programs to support their membership.

1. An HIV/Aids program – where understanding of the spread and prevention of HIV/Aids is mandatory in parts of the program (the World Health Organization states that 21.5% of the South African population is HIV positive). Watch for more on this in future *Leader Magazines*.
2. A Food Security program, providing effective and relevant techniques in sustainable agriculture.

These two programs, and their new climate change program, are three great fantastic examples of how Scouting makes an impact in the world we live.

