



St. Georgs Gildene i Norge

Tilsluttet International Scout and Guide Fellowship

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Proposal for the World Conference in Madrid 2020

Please find enclosed a proposal for the World Conference in Madrid, in which we propose that ISGF appeals to NSGFs to initiate and support projects that aim at protecting the environment. As will be seen, the proposal is presented by The National Scout and Guide Fellowship of Norway, and supported by the NSGFs of Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden.

Best regards

Knut Jorde
International Secretary
SGGN (The Scout and Guide Fellowship of Norway)

PROMOTION OF PROJECTS TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

1. PROJECT PROPOSAL

We propose that ISGF appeals to NGFS to initiate and support projects that aim at protecting the environment. Projects should, where possible, be run in co-operation with the national scout and guide associations. Where possible, much of the active work should be performed by scouts and guides, while the role of Fellowship members should be to facilitate the work e.g. by instruction, help with logistics, or similar support. Where suitable, Fellowship members should also participate actively in the practical work, thereby demonstrating our active interest and solidarity with the purpose.

The projects should preferably have a concrete, well defined purpose such as cleaning local beaches of garbage brought in by the ocean, cleaning the banks of a local river, or another purpose that has a clearly defined and easily observed advantage to the local environment.

Each project should have a defined time limit (e.g. half a year), and should result in a brief summary report, ideally illustrated by photographs or other items that highlight the project results. Successful projects may, however, be continued beyond the time limit, if the participants want to continue the work.

2. PROJECT AIMS

- Contribute to improving the local natural environment
- Increase interaction between Fellowships and Scouts and Guides' associations
- Increase the visibility of Fellowship and Scouts and Guides in the community
- Highlight the importance of environmental work through publishing descriptions of project efforts and results on NSGF and ISGF websites and other social media

3. ARGUMENTS FOR THE PROPOSAL

Our planet's environment is currently being seriously harmed by a number of factors. Some of these are clearly caused by human activities, such as large amounts of garbage being dumped in the rivers, the ocean and other parts of nature. Others have partly natural causes, and are partly influenced by human activity, such as soil erosion, increasing nitrogen run-off from cultivated land, or the reduction in wildlife caused by changing pristine nature into cultivated land and the spread of urban land usage. There has been controversy over in what degree the most serious factor, global warming, is a result of human activity.

While people have previously largely overlooked the effects of the negative changes in the environment, we now observe a significant increase in people's concern about these issues, especially among young people. During the last years, young people have increasingly expressed their frustration that the older generation does not pay sufficient attention to the problem, nor does it make sufficient efforts to reduce it.

The concept of promoting projects to protect the environment aims at utilising young people's (i.e. scouts and guides) concern to participate in projects that attempt to reduce the negative forces – and support and stimulate this by more actively and visibly involving the older generations (i.e. Fellowship members).

Each such project may have a limited effect on the local environment, However, if sufficient projects can be initiated, both the practical and the symbolic effects can provide significant improvements. Also, the positive results of projects may increase other people's awareness of the problem, and awareness that active efforts can make a difference.

Also, such projects, would constitute concrete examples of fulfilling the intentions behind the statement that BP left behind as his appeal to all scouts: "Try to leave this world a little better than you found it and when your turn comes to die, you can be happy in feeling that at any rate you have not wasted your time but have done your best."

Hopefully, we shall all have quite a few years left of our lives, but the earlier we start to try to improve the world, the more we can accomplish – and the better we can leave it.

Tryg Waldemar Kinnund NP Norway

Supported by

Bjarne Jønsbo 15 Denmark

~~Leif Stenroos~~ 15 Finland

Álfhildur Þórunn 15 Iceland

Marianne Ceder 15 Sweden