

# EXTREMELY ENTERTAINING ENVIRONMENTAL EXERCISES FOR ENGAGING ENTHUSIASTIC EXTRAORDINARY ENVIRONMENTALISTS; AKA – **The Fun Stuff!!**

BY JULIAN CELMS AND IAN MITCHELL

**S**ay that title five times quickly. Whew! For this environmental issue of *Scouting Life Magazine*, we put together the following potpourri of great stuff for your next meetings. Oh, by the way, “What do you get when you stick your tongue out at a tornado?” ANSWER: A tongue-twister!! Get it? So let’s have some fun “Creating a Better World”.

## Enviro Jokes

*(Jokes and Riddles by Martha Bolton)*

Why is the fog denser in the morning?  
**Because it hasn’t gone to school yet.**

What did the hurricane say  
to the other hurricane?  
**“I’ve got my eye on you.”**

What makes a meteor shower?  
**Good hygiene habits.**

What do bees say on hot days?  
**“Swarm isn’t it?”**

What do a tornado and a politician  
have in common?  
**They both go around in circles.**

**Anchorman:** How long do you think this rain  
will be coming down?

**Weatherman:** Until it hits the ground.

## Scouts Canada’s Position Statement - Environment

- 🌱 Scouts Canada believes that environmental stewardship is critical for future generations.
- 🌱 Scouts Canada’s programs develop environmental stewards.
- 🌱 Through progressive experiential opportunities youth develop and practice sound environmental ethics.
- 🌱 Active participation in our programs enables members to minimize their impact on the environment.

## Enviro Songs

### The Pollution Song (South African Scouting)

*Tune: O Dear, What can the matter be?*

Oh dear, what can the matter be?  
Rivers polluted and litter all scatterly,  
Air that is stinking from Sunday to Saturday,  
What have we done to our world?

Our rivers are reeking with filth and detergent,  
The sea is so oily, the seals are insurgent,  
The fish are expiring, the problem is urgent,  
What have we done to our world?

Our streets are all littered with paper and plastic,  
Our highways with bottles and cans, it’s fantastic!  
The muck on our beaches just makes you feel gastric,  
What have we done to our world?

The air all around us is laden with gases,  
In our bigger cities, it’s choking the masses,  
It’s often so thick that it looks like molasses,  
What have we done to our world?

Our soil is a-washing downstream to the ocean,  
When we’ve lost all our land, there will be a commotion,  
And what we will eat, we just haven’t a notion,  
What have we done to our world?

Our flora and fauna are fast disappearing,  
 The buck and the zebra will soon stop careering,  
 The song of the birds we'll no longer be hearing,  
 What have we done to our world?

## It's an Insect Covered World

(Leader Magazine '89)

Tune: *It's a Small World*

It's a world of centipedes,  
 A world of moths,  
 It's a world of katydid's,  
 A world of wasps,  
 There's so much that we share  
 That it's time we're aware,  
 It's an insect covered world.



Chorus: It's an insect covered world (4x)

It's a world of beetles,  
 It's a world of fleas,  
 A world of caterpillars,  
 And a world of bees,  
 In this world that we know,  
 There's so much we can show,  
 It's an insect covered world.



Chorus:

## Leave No Trace

There are seven principles of Leave No Trace:

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors.

## Enviro Games and Craft

The following games and craft are from the *Climate Change Resource Book* (available in Scout Shops). You can also access the *Climate Change JUMPSTARTS* on Scouts Canada's web site by clicking on For Scouters, Climate Change (check out the Resources sidebar).

## Beavers: Garbage Sort Relay

### Objective:

Introduce the Beavers to the difference between garbage and recycled or reusable items and why recycling is important.

### Background Information:

Recycling items generally takes less energy than producing new items. Some greenhouse gases, which cause climate change, are created when the energy is produced. If we use less energy there will be less climate change.

### Equipment:

- 1. A mixture of at least five clean garbage items (unrecyclable plastics, plastic wrap, mixed material products), and five recycling items (pop cans, milk jugs) and reusable items (rags, shoes, old toys etc.). You will need two of each type of item for the game (depending on how many Beavers you have). The items that are recyclable will depend on the recycling programs in your community. Please contact your municipality if you are unsure which items can be recycled locally.
- 2. A recycling container
- 3. A garbage can
- 4. A cardboard box for reusable items.

### Instructions:

- 1. Put one of each type of item in the garbage bag.
- 2. Pretend you are a garbage man – carrying a heavy garbage bag.
- 3. Sit the Beavers in a semicircle in front of you.
- 4. Say how you can't believe what people throw away! And how heavy the garbage cans are!! And how big the city's landfill is!!!
- 5. Dump the garbage bag out on the floor in front of the Beavers.
- 6. Pick out one item at a time and ask the youth whether this can be recycled or reused. Sort them accordingly into the recycling container (recycle), or cardboard box (reusable) or the garbage can (garbage).

### Game

- 1. The object of the game is to see if the Beavers can put the items in the right recycling or garbage bin.
- 2. Split the colony into two groups. Form into relay formation and sit down.
- 3. Place a garbage can, a recycling can and the cardboard box at the other end of the room at equal distances to the teams.

## 2009 Enviro Dates To Note

Earth Hour: .....	<a href="http://www.earthhour.org/">http://www.earthhour.org/</a> .....	March 28
National Wildlife Week: .....	<a href="http://www.nationalwildlifeweek.ca/">http://www.nationalwildlifeweek.ca/</a> .....	April 5 – 11
Earth Day: .....	<a href="http://www.earthday.ca">http://www.earthday.ca</a> .....	April 22
Pitch In Canada: .....	<a href="http://www.pitch-in.ca/Pitch-In.php">http://www.pitch-in.ca/Pitch-In.php</a> .....	April 20 - 26
Jamboree on the Trail (JOTT): .....	<a href="http://jott.org/">http://jott.org/</a> .....	May 9
Great Wilderness Cleanup: .....	<a href="http://www.wildernesscleanup.com/">http://www.wildernesscleanup.com/</a> .....	May 9 - 10
Oceans to Rivers Week: .....	<a href="http://www.riverstoceansweek.ca/">http://www.riverstoceansweek.ca/</a> .....	June 7 - 13
TD Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup: .....	<a href="http://www.vanaqua.org/cleanup/home.php">http://www.vanaqua.org/cleanup/home.php</a> .....	September 19 - 27
Waste Reduction Week: .....	<a href="http://www.wrwcanda.com/">http://www.wrwcanda.com/</a> .....	October 19 – 25
Scoutrees: .....	<a href="http://www.scouts.ca/">http://www.scouts.ca/</a> .....	(Spring - varies by council.)

Let us know if we've missed any important Enviro dates.

# "Try to leave this world a little better than you found it and, when your turn comes to die, you can die

- ④ Place a garbage bag with identical objects inside it in front of each team.
- ④ Upon "Go," the first player takes an item out of the bag, runs to the other side of the room and decides whether it should go in the recycling bin, cardboard box or garbage can. They then run to the back of their team. When they reach their team, the next player takes an item from the bag and runs with it to the bins.
- ④ At the end, review the items in the garbage can to see if any of them can be recycled.

## Cubs: Build a Solar Cooker

### Objective:

To understand the potential of using solar energy.

### Background Information:

Solar cookers have been around since the 1700s. They make use of the sun's energy by redirecting the sunlight to concentrate on an area and then converting it to solar radiation. Large sophisticated solar cookers can get up to 500 degrees F. The three basic types of solar ovens are box cookers (good for cooking large quantities), panel cookers (panels concentrate sunlight on a pot inside a plastic bag or glass bowl) and parabolic cookers (concave disks focus light onto the bottom of a pot). Our version is an adapted parabolic. There are several plans available for a pizza box stove in the links below that are easy to make.

[http://www.re-energy.ca/t-i\\_solarheatbuild-1.shtml](http://www.re-energy.ca/t-i_solarheatbuild-1.shtml)

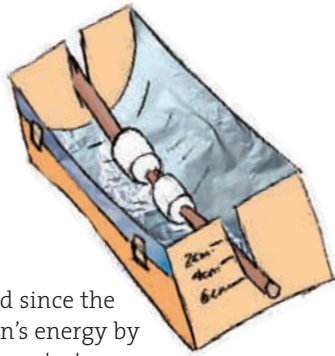
<http://solarcooking.org/plans/>

### Equipment:

- ✦ Scissors
- ✦ Tape
- ✦ Empty shoe box without lid (one per Cub)
- ✦ File folder - letter size (one per Cub)
- ✦ Straws (two per Cub)
- ✦ Aluminum foil (to cover folder and sides of the shoe boxes)
- ✦ Marshmallows
- ✦ Diagram (See the web links above for the plans.)

### Instructions:

- ✦ Cut a slit in the ends of the box in the middle about one cm wide and six cm deep (leaders may need to help with this).
- ✦ Tear or cut the file folder in half along the fold.



- ✦ Line the folder with aluminum foil with the shiny side showing. Try to make the surface as smooth as possible.
- ✦ Place the folder in the shoe box so that it curves into the shape of a tube cut in half lengthwise. Secure the file folder into the box with tape (see diagram).
- ✦ Push the end of one straw into the other straw.
- ✦ Dip a marshmallow in cocoa powder. Push two marshmallows (one with and one without cocoa powder) onto the straws so they are in the middle. Put the straws in the slits of the box.
- ✦ If it is sunny outside, put the cooker in a sunny spot and tilt it so that the focus of the sun is on the marshmallows. Leave the cooker for 10 minutes, then move it out of the sun and touch the marshmallows. Determine if they warmed up and which warmed up more. Enjoy the marshmallows.
- ✦ If it is not sunny outside, encourage the Cubs to take their cooker home and try to cook the marshmallows on the next sunny day, or take them on the next camping trip. Solar cookers can work in winter as well!

Source: "Build A Simple Solar Cooker". *Climate Change Toolkit: Teacher's Guide*. Saskatchewan Science Centre.

## Scouts: Multi-Mode Relay Race

### Objective:

To demonstrate in a fun way that multiple modes of transportation can be used to reach a destination. This game is best played outside and requires equipment to be brought in for each team. It is suggested that each Scout bring in their own equipment and safety gear. Alternatively, play in the winter with a focus on winter modes of transport (sleds, skis, snowshoes, etc.).

### Equipment:

- 🚲 Equipment for several modes of transportation. Each team will require one of each mode, such as bikes and in-line skates with safety gear.
- 🚌 One cut-out cardboard picture of a bus (approx. 1 metre long, 1/2 metre high)
- 🚲 Scouts should come dressed for physical activity with proper footwear
- 🎒 One knapsack per team stuffed with newspaper/ clothes/other filler material
- 🚲 Markers for each mode-change station.

### Instructions:

1. Set up a course with different stations where modes of transportation will be switched. The course could span across a neighbourhood, park or field. For example, start by biking to a designated station, running to the next, taking the "bus" to the following station, walking to a fourth station, in-line skating to a fifth, etc. Transportation modes can be repeated as desired.
2. Each member on each team selects a transportation mode and station. Have all necessary equipment at the station with each Scout.
3. Give the backpack to the person at the starting station.
4. Signal the relay to begin. If, for instance, biking was the first mode of transportation, the Scout races to put on safety gear and backpack, get on the bike and reach the next station as fast as he/she can. Once reaching the station, he/she will take off the backpack and pass it to the next

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Scout on the team. He/she then puts on the backpack and any gear related to their mode of transportation and continues on to the next station.

5. Continue the race until the last Scout from the last station reaches the finish line. First there wins for their team.

**Discussion:**

- 1. What did all the modes of transportation have in common? (They are good options to reduce air pollution and climate change.)
- 2. What are the benefits/drawbacks of each one? (Biking is fast, but there must be a place to lock up your bike; running is good exercise but makes you sweaty, etc.)
- 3. Ask Scouts to think of all the places they go to during the week in the car.
- 4. Could they use one of the modes in the relay instead of the car?
- 5. How hard would it be to switch?

**Enviro Prayers**

**Giving Thanks**

(Prayers for use in the Brotherhood of Scouts):

We thank thee for all the blessings thou hast given;  
 For the glory of the earth and the sky and the sea;  
 For the sun and the wind and the rain;  
 For the bright splendor of the moon and stars,  
 and for the birds joyful singing;  
 For health and youth and strength;  
 For good fellowship and clean laughter;  
 For our prayers together, and thy presence in our midst;  
 Be with us still;  
 Reveal to us thy love and mercy in days to come,  
 and bring us all together.  
 Amen.

**When you walk through the woods**

(Anonymous)

When you walk through the woods, I want you to see  
 The floating gold of the bumblebee,  
 Rivers of sunlight, pools of shade,

Toadstools sleeping in mossy jade,  
 A cobweb net with a catch of dew,  
 Treetop cones against the blue,  
 Dancing flowers, bright green flies,  
 And birds that put rainbows in your eyes.

When you walk through the woods, I want you to hear  
 A million sounds in your eager ear:  
 The scratch and rattle of wind-tossed trees,  
 The rush as a timid chipmunk flees,  
 The cry of a hawk from a distant sky,  
 The purr of leaves when a breeze rolls by,  
 Brooks that mumble, stones that ring,  
 And birds that teach your heart to sing.

When you walk through the woods, I want you to feel  
 That no mere human could make this real,  
 Could paint the throb of a butterfly's wing,  
 Could teach a wood thrush how to sing,  
 Could create these wonders of earth and sky,  
 There's something greater than you and I.  
 Amen.

**Most Excellent Scouting Resources**

Surf to [www.scouts.ca](http://www.scouts.ca), select For Scouters, and you will see the following quick links on the left of the page.  
**Leave No Trace** – activity ideas for leaders to use with youth.  
**Program Builder** (did you know there are 36 activities and ideas that come up under the search for “environment” on the Program Builder Online!)  
**Climate Change** – JUMPSTARTS for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts; activity ideas for Venturers and Rovers.

**Other Enviro Resources**

- The Pembina Institute - [www.pembina.org](http://www.pembina.org)
- Get To Know - [www.gettoknow.ca](http://www.gettoknow.ca)
- Canadian Wildlife Federation - [www.cwf-fcf.org](http://www.cwf-fcf.org)
- Nature Watch - [www.naturewatch.ca/english/](http://www.naturewatch.ca/english/) Includes FrogWatch, IceWatch, PlantWatch and WormWatch
- Yellow Fish Road - [www.tucanada.org/TUC\\_YellowFishRoad.shtml](http://www.tucanada.org/TUC_YellowFishRoad.shtml).

**"God has given us a world to live in that is full of beauties and wonders and He has given us not only eyes to**

## Scoutrees – Our Enviro Program

# The Future Without Trees



**C**an you imagine a treeless camp in a treeless world?

We arrived at this camp on a Friday evening and set up our tents (with metal pegs, of course). It is quiet – no birds chirping or flying around, no squirrels scurrying back and forth. No branches being swayed by the gentle breeze that would normally cause a rustling of leaves nearby. Campfire tonight will be a lantern but would we have wooden or paper matches to light it – oh well, a lighter will do.

It's now Saturday – can't do any pioneering without trees. A hike through the open fields perhaps but what can we sit under for shade in the heat of the day? No acorns or pine cones to collect or throw around. Still no birds and very few other small animals. Perhaps it's spring, maybe summer or even fall but so little seems to change – no buds, no luscious greens, no vibrant reds or golds. No pile of leaves to jump in.

Even the main lodge looks strange – steel walls and aluminum fixtures – nothing but stark metal tables and chairs – no fireplace, no woodbox, no place we can even pin up a poster of trees if we wanted to.

Another evening without a campfire after a day of meals cooked in pots and pans over camp stoves. Whatever happened to foil dinners or roasting marshmallows on sticks?

Sunday dawns a nice warm day. At Scout's Own the reference to God's bountiful and beautiful world seems somehow hollow without even apples to enjoy. Later we decide to go to the river for a swim. What a change! Large chunks of riverbank have eroded without roots to hold the soil. The once-blue water runs muddy brown and there won't be any swinging tires to jump from.

When we get home, newspapers and TV guides are more scarce than they used to be. Metal furniture again everywhere. The house is so hot and stuffy without the shade trees it used to be sheltered by.

*Enough* – there IS a reason for Scoutrees!

**NOTE:** Scouting in other countries also benefits as a result of the funds collected for the Canadian Scout Brotherhood Fund: [www.scouts.ca/dnn/International/TheCanadianScoutBrotherhoodFund/tabid/113/Default.aspx](http://www.scouts.ca/dnn/International/TheCanadianScoutBrotherhoodFund/tabid/113/Default.aspx).

## Scoutrees and Climate Change – Celebrating Our Legacy

BY JENNIFER HARWOOD

The Scoutrees program is a tremendous accomplishment of which we can all be proud. It demonstrates the major commitment from Scouting councils and groups to the continued

health of Canada's air and ecosystems. Scoutrees also helps reduce climate change, since trees play a considerable role in absorbing greenhouse gases.

### What is climate change?

Climate change is caused by the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. These gases trap heat similar to the glass in a greenhouse, causing temperatures on earth to rise. Scientists are predicting an increase in the average earth temperature of one to three and a half degrees Celsius over the next century. Temperatures will vary across the earth - Canada could experience a temperature increase of as much as five to ten degrees Celsius.

Human activities, particularly the use of energy to heat our homes and power our cars, are a primary source of greenhouse gases. However, scientists also attribute the loss of forest cover to increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

### Trees are important!

Tree planting is an important contribution Scouts Canada can make in reducing climate change. This is because forests remove carbon dioxide, a main greenhouse gas, from the atmosphere through photosynthesis. Trees absorb carbon through their leaves and release oxygen. (Oxygen is the "dioxide" part of "carbon dioxide". Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas; oxygen isn't.) This makes trees "storage vessels" of carbon and one of the pieces of the puzzle to reducing the impact of climate change. With almost 10% (over 400 million hectares) of the earth's forests in Canada, Canadians bear a large responsibility for forest stewardship. The other places where carbon can be stored are oceans, soil, other plants, and in geological formations deep within the earth's crust.

Canada plans to promote management of forests and agriculture as one means of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions. This will include creating new forests, reducing the permanent loss of forests through land-use change and improving forest management practices.

### Making your Scoutrees project work for climate change

Through Scoutrees, two million trees are planted each year. This already makes an impact on the amount of forest cover available in Canada to absorb carbon dioxide and reduce climate change. Over the 30 year life of the program, it is estimated that Scoutrees has removed approximately two million tonnes of carbon dioxide. That is the equivalent to absorbing all the carbon dioxide emitted through energy use by 7.7 million single detached homes in Canada or 275,000 cars every year!

There are a few things you can do to improve the contribution and effectiveness your Scoutrees project can make to climate change. During your preparations, find out if the trees you will be planting will be protected in the long-term. This will enhance the effectiveness of your Scoutrees project.

Forest management practices can affect the amount of carbon that any one forest stand can absorb. What are the forest management practices of your Scoutrees planting site (if applicable)? Reducing soil disturbances, or improving forest regeneration after fire, insect infestation, outbreak of disease or large-scale harvesting all help forests absorb and store more carbon. Before and on planting day, take measures to help your

see them but minds to understand them, if we only have the sense to look at them in that light." – Lord B.-P

section be prepared for low-impact tree planting by reducing their disturbances to soil and other vegetation to the greatest extent possible.

We will not be able to completely reverse climate change. This must be kept in mind when thinking about the long-term potential of your Scoutrees project. Canada will be significantly affected by warmer temperatures, resulting in a greater frequency and intensity of storms and droughts, and a higher incidence of forest fires, disease and insect infestations. These impacts will be most significant in higher latitudes (45°N to 65°N) and the interior of continents, and will affect forests. Scientists predict a shift northward of animal and plant species, including forest lines.

The bottom line is that we have to be prepared to adapt to the changes we will experience. Not only is this important for humans, it is important for the natural world as well. For instance, forests will become more vulnerable in the future due to increased temperature, a drier (or wetter) climate and greater incidence of insect infestation and disease triggered by climate change. How hardy are the trees you will be planting? Find out what types of impacts are predicted from climate change for your province. If drier conditions are predicted, are your species resistant to drought? If wetter, can they handle a lot of moisture? What temperature range can they tolerate? (An excerpt from the *Climate Change Resource Book*.)

**Why Scoutrees was Created**

Our national environment project was designed to:

- ❑ Reforest Canada and reclaim waste areas;
- ❑ Involve youth with the outdoors, developing an awareness of conservation;
- ❑ Provide a program of instruction in conservation and forestry for Scouts;
- ❑ Be a beneficial outdoor program to reinforce Scouting's programs and badges;
- ❑ Give Scouting a strong public image.

**International Enviro Experience**

Are you part of a company or crew looking for an international experience?

Canada World Youth is now offering specialized environmental projects. Teams of young volunteers work on projects developed with Canada World Youth's partners in Canada and overseas; for example, participation in tree-planting and eco-tourism projects in Alberta and Bolivia. You'll be paired up with young volunteers from another country.

For more info visit: [www.canadaworldyouth.org](http://www.canadaworldyouth.org).

**Stay green!** X

– Julian Celms and Ian Mitchell are national program directors, responsible for all of Scouting's programs and the outdoors. Between them, they have over 50 years of experience!

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