



Scoutrees

Helping tomorrow...*TODAY!*

BY IAN MITCHELL

Hundreds of thousands of trees will be planted in Canada this year by members of Scouts Canada participating in Scoutrees. All members involved will receive practical training in conservation and reforestation, as well as a free campfire blanket crest.

Scoutrees is a Canada-wide environmental program designed to give all members of Scouts Canada the opportunity to demonstrate, through action, their concern for the environment.

It is our hope that in all provinces and territories, Scouting's members will express their concern for the future of their country by planting trees. The results of this program, both immediate and long-term, will be a more beautiful Canada, with cleaner air, and a land which is less susceptible to flooding.

But wait. Scoutrees is also a fundraising project. Although most of the funds stay in the community, a very important 15% is forwarded to the Canadian Scout Brotherhood Fund. These funds assist Scouting members in developing countries run self-help and community betterment programs that are adapted to local needs and conditions. Brotherhood monies contributed to these projects only pay for construction materials or equipment costs; no travel costs are covered.

Back to Madagascar

Last July, Iain Tait, Bernie Avery and Rob Tuer (Tri-Shores Council) travelled to Madagascar to meet with the villagers of Ambato Boeni, the local Scouts and those helping with the project. They were able to sit down and really learn about the needs and the views of the village. Three priorities were identified: fresh water, education for youth, and electricity. It's a tall order: life, learning and light, but you cannot put a price on human dignity.

In July of 2009, the Madagascar International Development Project will dig a well, build a classroom building that will double as a cyclone shelter and provide an alternative source of energy in the village of Ambato Boeni.

To become involved in this community development project, all you need to do is take part in Scoutrees. Pretty neat eh; youth not only do a "Good Turn" for Canada and the environment but also help out needy Scouts in other countries.



Fast Facts

In Ambato Boeni, only 45% of youth will ever see the inside of a classroom. Although primary education is free in Madagascar, materials and schools are not.

In March, 2007, Tropical Cyclone Indala left 88 people dead, 30 missing and 30,000 homeless in northeast Madagascar. With cyclone shelters, communities will be protected from this ever-more frequent natural disaster.

Water pollution, mostly due to sewage and runoff, is a significant problem in Madagascar. Only 31% of all people living in rural areas have access to clean water. Due to climate change and deforestation, even this small amount of fresh water is disappearing.

A First

In 2009 we are inviting all groups/sections that participate in Scoutrees to forward a group/section badge (**but only one!**) to us. Upon completion of the community classroom/cyclone shelter building in Ambato Boeni, Scouting will present all the badges to the local Scouts to show who helped to make possible the construction of the building.

Don't be left out. Encourage everyone to participate. Add your group/section badge to the presentation by participating in Scoutrees 2009! Forward your badge to:

Scouts Canada
Madagascar Project
1345 Baseline Road
Ottawa, Ontario
K2C 0A7

Scoutrees is a program concerned with tomorrow — a tomorrow which will be better because communities supported Scouts in this program today! Be sure to see your council for details. X
— Ian Mitchell is the national Program Director for Scouts, Venturers and Rovers.

Scoutrees Resources

Scoutrees is a national environmental program of Scouts Canada. The benefits are many. As they grow, the trees planted by our Scouts will help prevent flooding, produce clean air, provide shelter for wildlife and become a source of raw materials to meet our future needs. All of our community will benefit through your support. For more information see the Council Kit at: www.scouts.ca/media/documents/Scoutrees06Eng..pdf.