



SCOUTS GO SOLAR NEWSLETTER

SECOND EDITION 2025





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MEMBER SUPPORT

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World Scout Bureau - Africa Support Centre

Rowallan National Scout Camp Opp. ASK Jamhuri Showground

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INTRODUCTION

The Global Scouts Go Solar project (SGS) is an environmental partnership between World Scouting and Solafrica, a Swiss-based NGO, aimed at engaging and empowering young people to champion the adoption of solar energy as a solution to climate protection and ensuring a sustainable energy supply. Solar energy, among the renewable energy options, is the most appropriate for the learning-by-doing scouting method and very practical for community awareness. Scout leaders are trained to implement practices on solar energy in their contexts and champion the adaptation of the Scouts Go Solar Challenge in their NSO Youth Programmes. Since the first training in 2014, we have trained over 140 Scouts Go Solar Ambassadors, and this newsletter highlights the inspiring and impactful projects they have been implementing in their NSO's.



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“Every local action on renewable energy implemented by Scout Go Solar Ambassadors is a spark of hope and proof that young hands can power a sustainable future!”

Ivy Murugi
Junior Manager, Education and Impact,
World Scouting.



“Solafrica’s support ensures that young people don’t just learn about solar energy, they lead the way in making it’s use a reality”.

Martin Wanner
Project Manager Scouts Go Solar,
Solafrica.

140+
Scouts Go Solar
Ambassadors
Trained

GLOBAL UPDATES

Scouts Go Solar Manual and Action Kit

We are excited to share that we are currently developing a Scouts Go Solar resource, similar to the other challenge manuals from the Earth Tribe initiative. This manual will provide an overview of renewable energy, highlight the knowledge and skills Scouts gain by taking part in the challenge, and outline the process for earning the Scouts Go Solar badge and becoming a member of the Earth Tribe. It will also include sample activities that NSOs can adapt to their context, helping Scouts explore and understand solar energy as a renewable energy option.

Keep an eye out for updates, we will launch and share the manual as soon as it's ready. We are thrilled about this resource and look forward to seeing how it will enrich Scout experiences while supporting our contributions toward the SDGs.

REGIONAL UPDATES

Africa

Scouts Go Solar was proudly present at the 19th Africa Scout Conference, held from 18th to 21st of September 2025 in Antananarivo, Madagascar, which brought together over 300 leaders from 42 National Scout Organisations (NSOs). One of the interactive breakout sessions, the WOSM Marketplace, provided a space to showcase WOSM services and guide NSOs on where and how they can access support for different aspects of Scouting.

Within this space, the Scouts for SDGs booth featured the Scouts Go Solar initiative under the Earth Tribe programme. The booth attracted around 150 participants, who explored interactive virtual questions and games to understand how these initiatives can be integrated to enrich their youth programme, and to learn where to access guidance and support. Several NSOs specifically identified with the Scouts Go Solar challenge, highlighting the readily available solar resource and the benefits of using it as a sustainable alternative to non-renewable energy sources.

Alongside the Africa Scout Conference, we also hosted a breakout session titled "WOSM's Environmental Sustainability Agenda," presented by Scouts Go Solar Expert Pacomme Koffi. In this session, participants explored and deepened their understanding of the current global climate landscape, the scale of challenges being experienced, and how Scouting programmes can be enriched to engage young people. The session emphasized how Scouts can become active global citizens, intentionally making a difference in their communities and contributing, in their own small way, to a more sustainable world.



SOLAR PROJECTS WORLDWIDE

1. JOTA-JOTI

Every October, the Jamboree on the Air / on the Internet (JOTA/JOTI) connects an incredible number of Scouts from around the world without them having to leave their spaces.

As the largest Scouting event of the year, it is always a major highlight, and this year, Scouts Go Solar participated through an online live session and a virtual game.



A. Scout Go Solar Exhibitions at Regional, National and International events

During the live session, solar expert Michael "Mitch" Götz introduced participants to solar drying and walked them through the key steps of the process in an (almost) real-time demonstration. Many were surprised to learn that solar drying is not only for fruits like apples and mangoes, but it can also be used for vegetables, meat, fish, herbs, mushrooms, grains, and much more. For Scouts living in sunny regions, building and testing a simple solar dryer can be a fun and practical project to try at home.

The virtual game challenged participants to match the names and functions of different solar system components, exploring questions such as: What is a battery used for? What does a charge controller do? And how do the parts work together?

Watch the recording of the live session here [HERE](#)





2. Libya

In August, the Scouts of Libya celebrated their 5th National Jamboree in Jouddaym Forest, located in the north-western part of the country near the Mediterranean coast. Scouts attended from across Libya, alongside participants from Jordan, Algeria, Tunisia, and other Arab countries.

The event was especially meaningful for three newly trained Solar Ambassadors, Ahmed Bushiha and Malek El Mabrouk from Libya, and Adam Ben Arbia from Tunisia, who worked together to set up a “Solar Games Station.”

Through this station, around 350 Scouts had the chance to take part in hands-on activities such as the Solar Cricket Race, Solar Mario, and the Energy Card Game. Participants also contributed to a collaborative art piece created using magnifying glasses and sunlight, alongside several other engaging challenges.

Reflecting on the experience, Ahmed Bushiha shared one key takeaway: “Most importantly, I saw how fun and play can inspire young people to think about renewable energy as a real solution for the future.”

You can find more pictures and information and even a TV interview with Ahmed Bushiha (in Arabic) here [on the SDG Hub](#) and here [on Youtube](#)



3. Thailand

From 3rd to 9th of December, about 3,500 scouts gathered for the 22nd National Scout Jamboree of Thailand. The participating scout groups had the opportunity to pass through the seven stations of the

Scouts go Solar stand and learn more about cooking, water heating, water disinfecting, playing, producing art, and doing many other things with the power of the sun. The most remarkable characteristic of the stand was that it was led not only by adult scout leaders and Solar Ambassadors, as usually is, but also by five young scout leaders who have been trained for this and proudly turned from ‘receivers’ into ‘givers’. As it says in the report: “They truly showcased the potential of Thai youth as future environmental leaders”, and that the Scouts Go Solar activities at this Jamboree did more than teach renewable energy, that they cultivated environmental consciousness.

4. India

Under the theme “Grand Finale Diamond Jubilee,” the 19th National Jamboree took place from 23rd to 29th of November in Lucknow, in northern India. The event brought together approximately 35,000 Scouts and Guides from across the country.

Many participants also visited the Scouts Go Solar station, which was featured within the camp’s SDG Hub. Through a wide range of engaging experiments, including solar disc art, a solar campfire, and solar car racing, among others, Scouts, Guides, and leaders explored practical ways of how solar energy can be used in everyday life.

Reflecting on the experience, Solar Ambassador Karthik Ramachandra noted in his report:

“The Scouts Go Solar station received positive feedback and played an important role in inspiring young Scouts and Guides to adopt renewable energy solutions and become responsible citizens committed to a sustainable future.”

5. India

In December, another major Scout camp followed: the 29th Karnataka State Jamboree. Held every four years, the event took place from 27th of December to 1st of January, with the city of Belagavi in south-western India hosting this edition.

Around 5,000 Scouts and Guides from districts across Karnataka State gathered under the theme “Unlock the Future.” This provided a perfect opportunity to set up a Scouts Go Solar station within the camp’s SDG Hub, helping participants build awareness and practical understanding of solar energy and other renewable resources.

As Solar Ambassador Karthik Ramachandra shared in his report: “The Scouts Go Solar station served as an impactful educational platform, reinforcing the commitment of the Scouting Movement towards environmental protection and sustainable development.”



B. Capacity Building Workshops





1. France

Early October in the city of Montpellier in the far south of France, Solar Scout Daniel Kamdem organised a Scouts Go Solar workshop for his Scout group.

Besides enjoying games such as the Grasshopper Race and Solar Art, participants also had the chance to build a Solar Beep and experiment with solar lighters. Unlike Solar Art, which uses a magnifying glass, a solar lighter uses a curved mirror to concentrate sunlight into a single small point, much like a miniature but powerful parabolic cooker. With a small branch or a piece of paper placed at the focal point, Scouts can light a fire as soon as the sun comes out.

2. India

On 12th of October, the Solar Ambassador Chandan Jyoti Kalita co-organised a full-day workshop at Guwahati Public School in Assam, in the far east of India.

Together with a colleague, he delivered a combined Scouts Go Solar and First Aid workshop for the school's Scout group. During the Scouts Go Solar session, participants explored the different ways solar energy can be used in everyday life and learned why renewable energy solutions are so important for a sustainable future.





3. Palestine

From 2nd to 4th of October, the Scout group of An-Najah National University held its 31st Scout training camp, focusing on the global initiatives Earth Tribe and Messengers of Peace. As a special guest, they welcomed Solar Scout Hashim Ghanem, who delivered a session on renewable energy and the Scouts Go Solar programme.

Under the title “Energy and Green Energy for a Better Future,” he introduced participants to different renewable and non-renewable energy sources, highlighting their advantages and disadvantages, and exploring how these issues connect to Scouting and responsible citizenship.

One question sparked particularly lively discussion: “Why can’t we put solar panels in the desert and power the whole world?” The session included both, a presentation and an interactive discussion, encouraging Scouts to think critically about energy solutions for the future.

4. Cote d’Ivoire

Earlier in 2025, two weekend workshops were already held for leaders of Scout and other youth groups under the Eco Hubs initiative in Côte d’Ivoire. On the last weekend of November, a third cohort of leaders joined the programme.

Solar Ambassador Clavaire Arnold Kouakou Koffi, known for his strong commitment and energy, facilitated several sessions during the training. These included modules on Scouts Go Solar and raising awareness around renewable energy, project planning for community initiatives, setting up recycling hubs, and practical ways to upcycle plastic waste.

The training strengthened participants’ understanding of their role as youth leaders and equipped them with concrete knowledge and tools to design and implement ecological projects within their own communities.

5. Cote d'Ivoire

From 13th to 14th of December, the fourth cohort of Scout leaders and leaders from other youth groups took part in the Eco Hubs project.

This time, the training was held in Grand-Bassam, in the south-eastern part of the country, not far from the capital Abidjan. As with the previous cohorts, Scouts Go Solar was a key component of the programme, and Solar Ambassador Clavaire Arnold once again played an essential role as a trainer.

Working alongside two other facilitators, he shared both the theoretical foundations and hands-on practical activities linked to Scouts Go Solar, helping participants build confidence to apply renewable energy education within their own communities.



6. Malaysia

On the third weekend of October, while the global JOTA-JOTI activities were taking place online and on the radio, several on-site activities were also held around the world. In Malaysia, a large event took place at SMK Taman Desa National Secondary School in Seputeh, Kuala Lumpur.

Around 800 Scouts of different age groups participated in a range of hands-on activities, including solar cooking, solar art, and soldering small solar-powered LED lamps.

Solar Ambassador Jimmy Teh Chee Giap was among the organisers of the event. The solar activities provided a practical and engaging complement to the virtual sessions and online experiences offered through JOTA-JOTI.

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7. Libya

On 23rd of October, a group of Rovers gathered at an innovation and start-up hub in Tripoli, in the north-western part of Libya.

There, they were introduced to the Scouts Go Solar programme by the newly trained Solar Ambassador Malek El Mabrouk. Participants explored various ways to use solar energy in everyday life and got hands-on experience by soldering a solar lamp.

Who knows, perhaps some of these 18–19-year-old Rovers were inspired to start their own solar-focused ventures in the future.

8. Oman

In Oman, JOTA/JOTI provided the perfect opportunity to run a solar workshop for Scouts of all ages. Newly trained Solar Ambassador Alshaima Marhoon set up a Scouts Go Solar stand as part of the broader JOTA/JOTI programme.

The workshop combined background information on the various ways solar energy can be used with hands-on experiments, like a particularly challenging solar beep (see the picture—would you be able to get through it without a beep?).

Alshaima noted: “What participants liked the most was the practical and interactive aspect of the activities, as it allowed them to learn through experience rather than theory.”

9. Zimbabwe

In the north-eastern part of Zimbabwe, in the capital Harare, Solar Ambassador Sydney Mayerwa and his team organised a solar workshop for Scouts from the Cold Comfort Junior School. A group of 44 Cub Scouts and 19 youth and adult leaders spent a full day exploring different aspects of solar energy.

The day began with discussions about the advantages and disadvantages of solar energy, then moved on to hands-on activities such as making solar-powered sunglasses, experimenting with solar toys, and observing how solar panels convert sunlight into electricity. During a demonstration of a solar-powered water fountain, leaders connected the concept to familiar setups for the children, such as fish ponds and community boreholes.

Solar energy has proven practical in the region. For example, last year, a solar-powered water pump was installed at a Scout centre in the same province to provide drinking water.

Reflecting on the workshop, Sydney Mayerwa said: “Through engaging, practical, and age-appropriate activities, Cub Scouts learned about solar energy, its applications, and its importance for a sustainable future.”



10.Thailand

In order to expand knowledge about solar energy and its everyday applications across Thailand, promoting the initiative and training trainers is key. To support this, the Scouts Go Solar team organised a three-day training for local coordinators from various provinces in central Thailand (similar sessions for the North, East, and South are planned for 2026).

At the Bangkok Scout Camp, participants received an introduction to Safe from Harm and Dialogue for Peace, but mainly focused on the content, methods, and activities of Scouts Go Solar.

By learning the background, practicing how to present and run the activities, and trying them out firsthand, these local coordinators were well-prepared to organise their own solar workshops and project initiatives within their Scout groups.



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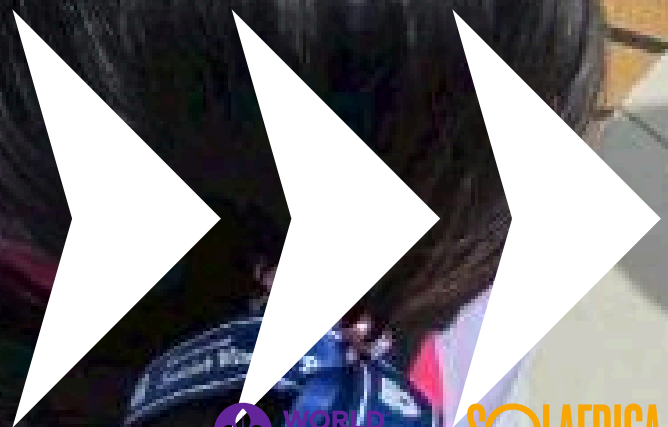
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Through 2,720,244,454 service hours, millions of young people worldwide are creating a better, more peaceful and sustainable world.



C. Advocacy Efforts



1. Malaysia

The “Now and Future Conference and Exhibition” in Kuala Lumpur was a major four-day fair focused on sustainable development and regional cooperation in South-East Asia. Economic and political leaders, as well as delegates from various countries, gathered to present ideas and discuss pathways toward “A Better Future,” the event’s theme for this year.

A key participant in the event was the National Scout Organisation of Malaysia, which contributed nearly 100 Rovers and showcased how Scouts can turn knowledge into action and ideas into real impact. The Scouts set up information booths on ten different topics and initiatives, including one dedicated to Scouts Go Solar.

Here, Solar Ambassadors Ts. Dr. Manivannan Rethinam, Jimmy Teh Chee Giap, and their team engaged over 1,000 visitors, including politicians, leaders, and Scouts from other countries, on the importance of renewable energy and the vital role young people can play in addressing this global challenge. It was a tremendous honor when even the Prime Minister of Malaysia visited the Scouts Go Solar booth.

Dr. Manivannan notes in his report: “This visit highlighted the national recognition of Scouting’s role in community development, environmental education, and youth leadership. It was a powerful reminder that young people and their ideas deserve a place at the table where decisions are made.”

Check out the video summary of day 4 of the event, highlighting the involvement of the Scouts: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPR21YnCQv8>



2. Kenya

International Youth Day, celebrated every year on 12th of August, is a major event in many countries. In Kenya, the Siaya Scouts Centre took part in organising youth-focused activities.

The team, led by Solar Ambassador Jactone Abdallah Swaleh focused on raising awareness about renewable energy, showing how Scouts can contribute to climate action and innovation, while also engaging young people in hands-on, skill-based learning. The activities drew not only Scouts and children but also community members, County Assembly representatives, and officials from the Siaya County Government.

As Abdallah notes in his report, through Scouts Go Solar, the participating Scout group “demonstrated that Scouting is not only about character building, but also about practical solutions, service to humanity, and sustainable development.”

3. Thailand

What began in Bangkok in 2020 as the “Thailand Sustainability Expo” has grown into the largest sustainability exposition in South-East Asia, according to the organisers. It was therefore a great honour for the Solar Ambassadors Chansak Sanguankiattisuk, Chairat Leejoy, and Phichainarong Suwanmayura and their team to participate in this year’s edition, held under the theme “Sufficiency for Sustainability.”

They were given a dedicated workshop slot for Scouts Go Solar, where they discussed the importance of renewable energy, explored the many ways solar power can be applied in everyday life, and offered visitors the chance to try out hands-on solar experiments.



4. Malaysia

The Baden-Powell Fellowship is part of the World Scout Foundation and unites people who are very involved in supporting Scouting and scout projects, mainly financially. Once a year, these “Fellows” are invited to an event somewhere in the world, where they meet, discuss and get to know how Scouting works in the respective country.

This year, it was Malaysia that hosted this event. Several examples of where Scouting has an impact were presented, and among them was a stand about Scouts Go Solar! Some young Scout leaders from Malaysia proudly presented hands-on experiments, shared their experiences and showcased different uses of solar energy to the “Fellows” from all over the world.



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D.Virtual Engagements



Thailand

Have you ever heard of the International Youth Chef Jamboree? 'Cultural exchange by cooking together' sounds like an interesting approach, doesn't it?

In 2020, the international SCENES Framework (not to be confused with the SCENES Centres that we know from Scouting, but the Sustainable Cultural Education for Nature, Environment and Society Framework) founded the International Youth Chef Jamboree as a yearly event that is moving from one part of the world to another, bringing together people from different countries and taking food as a universal medium of dialogue to talk about food security, responsible consumption, climate action and cultural heritage.

For their Facebook page, the Solar Ambassador Phichainarong Suwanmayura from Thailand was invited to do a live session about solar cooking. First, he did a step-by-step instruction on how to build a Copenhagen cooker, so the audience could follow his example. And afterwards, he shared practical advice and his own experiences about solar cooking.

Maybe in the next edition of the International Youth Chef Jamboree, there will be groups using solar cookers to prepare their meals...

Have a look at the live session here:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/1057525193118370/permalink/1117799873757568/?rclid=Sz6JV6LLI4J9zhyw&share_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2Fshare%2Fv%2F15sN4qwsj1%2F

E. Community Engagements



Seychelles

Right at the end of the year, on 15th and 22nd of December, the Solar Ambassador Emma Dodin and her team organised a two-day workshop on renewable energy for non-Scout children.

Over 70 children aged 3 to 9 explored topics such as renewable energy and solar power through songs, storytelling about the sun, learning how solar panels work, and building sunglasses in their own design.

By adapting the Scouts Go Solar concept for this young age group, Emma and her team successfully sparked curiosity and interest, giving the children a fun introduction to the importance of environmental and climate protection.



F. Solar Camps

France

In the Hérault province in the far south of France, a solar commission called “SUN Hérault” works to promote the use of renewable energy, especially solar power, within and beyond the Scout Movement. To support this mission, from 29th of May to 1st of June, they organised their first national mini-camp focused on these topics.

Nearly 45 Scout leaders from across France attended, learning about solar cooking, photovoltaics, and how to build and use solar devices in Scouting activities.

The participants gained a wealth of new knowledge and had plenty of fun along the way—and are now ready to share their solar expertise with their Scout groups.





The Scouts Go Solar Educational
Challenge is part of the Earth
Tribe Initiative supported by
Solafrica

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Have you done a solar activity and would like to see it published in the next Scouts Go Solar newsletter? Do you have questions about the project? Get in touch with us!

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