



# Go green



**Time** | 30 mins

**Cost** | Free

**Location** | Outdoors

**Group size** | Everyone

**Find out about becoming a Green Champion and choose your theme.**

## You will need

- Pens or pencils
- A4 paper
- Sticky tape
- Buckets, containers or hoops
- Access to outdoor space or natural materials (for example, leaves, twigs, feathers)

## Learning outcomes

### Value the outdoors

Enjoy being outside, feel comfortable in nature, and feel connected to the natural environment.

### Communicate

Learn to express your own views, listen to others, and understand what they're trying to tell you.

## Before you begin

- Find out everything you need to know about our Green Champions programme on the Scout Adventures website.
- Make a label for each bucket, container, or hoop. You'll need one for each theme: birds, bugs and bees; growing green; and plastic pollution.
- If you can't meet outside, you could bring in some natural items for this session. We've also put together some ideas for other ways to vote.
- Use a safety checklist to help you plan and risk assess your activity. Additional coronavirus-related controls to think about may include:
  - Set up a hand washing station that you can use throughout the session.
  - Make sure people wash their hands before and after using any shared equipment or resources.
  - Remind everyone to stay a safe distance apart at all times. If it works better for you, people could do this activity individually, rather than in pairs or small groups.

## Choosing your Green Champions theme

Time	Activity	Guidance	Equipment
10 mins	1. The person leading the activity should explain what the Green Champions programme is all about.	They should help everyone understand that it's about enjoying the outdoors, connecting with nature, and getting stuck into making a real difference to your environment.  Your group can sign up to take part in activities, then use what they've learned to take action in their community. They'll develop some great skills and earn their Community Impact Staged Activity Badge.	
	2. Everyone should chat about each of the themes. Which one would they like to take action on?	The person leading the activity could ask questions about what's important to the local area or remind people about what they've done before. The Green Champions programme is a great chance to try something new.	
2 mins	3. The person leading the game should place the three labelled containers around the space.	You should have one for each theme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Labelled containers</li> </ul>
10 mins	4. Everyone should find a natural item, such as a leaf, twig, pebble, or feather.	They shouldn't take anything that's attached to a living tree or plant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural materials</li> </ul>
5 mins	5. Everyone should choose which theme they'd like to take action on and vote for it by putting their natural item in its container.		
	6. Everyone should wash their hands.		
5 mins	7. Once everyone's had their say, the person leading the activity should count the items. The theme with the most items is the winner.	If there's a tie, run the vote again, but just use the themes that were tied for first place.	

### Other ways to vote

If you're not able to get outdoors, people could vote by throwing a ping pong ball, bean bag, or a scrunched up ball of scrap paper into a container. They could also write or draw their vote on some scrap paper, make a paper plane, and launch it through a hoop. Remember to recycle any paper you use.

If you've got some toy building bricks use them to build a tower for each theme. Everyone should add their brick to the tower for their favourite theme – the theme with the tallest tower wins.

If you're not meeting face-to-face at the moment, you could do an online poll at your next online meeting. We've set up a way for you to get votes from young people digitally – you can find it on the Green Champions page on the Scout Adventures website.

# Theme introductions

## Birds, bugs, and bees

This theme is about understanding how wildlife works together with plants, the weather, and the landscape to form a bubble of life called an ecosystem. In this theme, you'll explore why animals are useful and what they need to live.

You'll get stuck in by improving local habitats (places that animals and plants live) to make sure lots of different plants and animals can live there happily.

You can focus on birds, bugs, or bees – it may depend on where you do your sessions.

## Growing green

This theme is about understanding how plants work with animals, the weather, and the landscape to form a bubble of life called an ecosystem. In this theme, you'll explore which plants are good for nature. You'll also find out about invasive species: when people introduce new plants or animals that harm an ecosystem.

You could get stuck in by planning, growing, and caring for your own plants, or you could help out at a local nature reserve.

## Plastic pollution

This theme is about understanding how the items we use in everyday life affect the world. In this theme, you'll explore what happens to items after they stop being useful to us.

You could get stuck in by finding out about recycling in your local community, taking part, and encouraging others to get involved.

This may be a good theme to choose if you want to stay close to home but don't have a lot of green space nearby. You'll still get to spend time outdoors as much as possible.

## Adjustments

### Change the level of challenge

- You could split into three groups and give each group a theme. The groups could chat about it and then pitch it to the rest of the group – can they persuade them to choose their theme?
- You could add an extra element to the activity by hiding the labels or containers around your meeting place. Everyone will have to work together to find them before they can vote.

### Make it accessible

- If anyone finds reading difficult, make sure you read everything out. You could also add images to the labels.
- Make sure the activity is set up so that everyone can reach all of the items.

## Reflection

Time	Activity
5 mins	In this activity, everyone worked together to discuss the themes. Why was it useful to discuss the themes with other people? What influenced the way people voted? Did other people's thoughts and ideas help anyone make a decision? Did learning a bit more about each theme help? Would people have voted any differently if they'd only seen the titles of the themes?

## Take it further

You could take it further by trying to identify the natural items that everyone collected. Does anyone know what sort of trees the leaves and twigs are from? You could use the Woodland Trust's Tree ID app or their nature detectives ID spotter sheets to help you figure it out.

## Youth shaped guidance

This activity gets everyone involved in sharing their thoughts and planning what they do in their programme. Try to make sure that everyone has their say.

### Safety

All activities must be safely managed. Use the safety checklist to help you plan and risk assess your activity. Do a risk assessment and take appropriate steps to reduce risk. Always get approval for the activity and have suitable supervision and an InTouch process.

### Outdoor activities

You must have permission to use the location. Always check the weather forecast and inform parents and carers of any change in venue.

### Gardening and nature

Everyone must wash their hands after the activity has finished. Wear gloves if needed. Explain how to safely use equipment and set clear boundaries so everyone knows what's allowed.

