

Twin your scout group

Scouts make contact with scouts in another part of the world, either just once-off or for a longer twinning arrangement

Section: All
Time: 1 hour to establish
Where: Home, Den

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



PLAN

The aim of this activity is to link the scouts with scouts of their own age in another part of the world, giving them an opportunity to hear first-hand about the experiences of others. To maximise the value of this engagement, work with the scouts to choose a country or region where the people face a different set of challenges in relation to the SDGs. This decision needs to be made after an amount of research by the scouts. Finding a country where there is an active scouting community will make it easier to find a link.

DO

It will be up to the scouters to follow through and make contact with a suitable group in the chosen country. Try searching online or seeking help from your national office. Try to find a group which has youth members of the same age, this will increase the chances of your scouts being able to relate well to them. Arrange to share messages between the two groups of scouts, and possibly set up online group calls or similar for them. In all contacts between the scouts, take full account of child protection policies and other rules which might govern the interactions in both jurisdictions.

Meeting scouts from other countries is one of the many benefits of scouting, so allow for lots of chatter. However, the focus of this activity is on learning about the challenges facing other countries in relation to the SDGs, so maybe set a task for the scouts in this area. In identifying the country, the scouts probably already identified some more obvious issues, such as poverty or access to water. Their discussions with the other scouts might confirm this, or prove them totally wrong! Consider other issues around sustainable development, and be open to the possibility that they had misconceptions about the other country.

REVIEW

After there has been a round of contact between both groups of scouts, bring your own scouts together to discuss what they found out. What did they find out that surprised them? What issues are those scouts facing which might be resolved when the Global Goals are met? Can the scouts imagine what it must be like for their fellow scouts – can they empathise with their situations? Could they offer any advice? As the conversations will have been two-way, did the scouts find that this mirror showed them some of the challenges here at home? If the scouts enjoyed the process, would they like to maintain contacts at a section or group level? Is there interest from both sides to extend this to a broader twinning and continue the conversation?



In a nutshell...

- Scouts decide on another country to talk to scouts there about sustainability, amongst other things!
- The scouters make a safe formal arrangement and the scouts get chatting.
- The scouts learn about the issues facing their own age group in a different situation.



Follow-on

Extending the process into a group twinning could open up a whole range of opportunities for the scouts. Making an initial arrangement for maybe one scouting year would allow both groups to assess the benefits before renewing for another year, and make it easier for group members to buy in.



SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals

SDG 17 aims to encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships. Scouts can reach out hands of friendship and start to understand and support others to better equip them to face shared challenges in the future.



Find out more!

Visit - www.betterworld.ie
 Contact us - sustainability@scouts.ie

Produced by the Scouting Ireland Sustainable Scouting Team