

WORLD SCOUT ENVIRONMENT BADGE
PROGRAMME ACTIVITY RESOURCE



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Quick Energy Debate

Aim 4

Scouts are working towards a world where the most suitable environmental practices are used.

Educational objectives

Explain how our choice of action and responsibility as an individual, group, community and country can affect the environment.

Understand how we can change our actions to improve our impact on the environment.

Demonstrate how local solutions can impact global issues.

Age range

15+

Summary

A quick thinking game to test your Scouts ability to think under pressure and their powers of persuasion.

Aim

To think about energy issues from all points of view.

Equipment

Stopwatch, whistle or bell

Preparation

None

Duration

Thirty minutes

Setting

Scout meeting place

Background

There are lots of environmental issues associated with energy. This game asks the Scouts to think about them from all points of view. The participants may have to argue a point that they don't agree with and the true skill in this game is being able to do so convincingly.

Step by step guide to activity

1. This activity assumes that the Scouts already have some knowledge of issues relating to energy production and use. It may be necessary to do an introductory activity to remind the Scouts of what they know.
2. Select two Scouts to compete in the debate and one to be the timekeeper. The rest of the Scouts are the judges.
3. Give each contestant one of the topics provided. This should be done secretly so the contestants don't know their opponents subject. Give the contestants 30 seconds to think about what they are going to say. They then get 30 seconds each to state their argument. After both contestants have talked for 30 seconds they then get a further 15 seconds each to respond to what the other contestant has said. The judges then decide who was the most convincing and declare them the winner. The winner of each debate is the contestant who has shown the greatest skill in presenting their argument. The judges must forget their own opinions on the subject matter and judge purely on the debating skill of the contestants.
4. Repeat the game with the next two Scouts and continue until everyone has had a go. The winners can then compete against each other until there is an overall debating champion. If you have a lot of Scouts, you can split the group into two.

Evaluation

1. At the end of the competition discuss the debates with the Scouts. Some ideas for discussion are given below.

Which subjects were easy to debate and which were difficult?

Did knowing more about the subject make it easier to present an argument?

Was arguing against what you believe difficult?

Was it easier to argue for what you believe in?

2. Think about the issues that the debates brought up. Discuss with the Scouts their true feelings on energy production and use. Some ideas for discussion are given below.

Where does energy come from?

How does energy production harm the environment?

How can energy be produced with less impact on the environment?

What can individuals do to help energy production have less impact on the environment?

How do you save energy in your daily life?

What are the Scouts already doing and what do they want to do in the future?

Further activities

1. Visit a renewable energy facility in your local area.
2. Make your own renewable energy, for example, a solar oven, a wind turbine, a water mill.
3. Explore how energy is produced in your country. Is it non renewable or renewable?
4. Learn about the environmental problems associated with using non renewable energy, for example, climate change, air pollution, nuclear waste disposal, water pollution from mining, problems associated with offshore oil platforms.
5. Decide how your Scout group would find the worlds energy. Pretend that you have control over all the resources of the Earth. Think about all the different ways of creating energy, all the different things we need energy for and also all the different ways we could save energy. You can do this activity as a debate or as a competition.

Debating subjects

Coal is great
versus
Coal is bad

I love solar power
versus
I hate solar power

I think wind farms are ugly
versus
I think wind farms are beautiful

Global warming is very important
versus
Global warming is not important

It will be good if temperatures rise
versus
It will be bad if temperatures rise

Solar power is the best form of energy
versus
Wind power is the best form of energy

We should use nuclear power
versus
We shouldn't use nuclear power

We need to reduce our energy use
versus
We don't need to reduce our energy use

Everyone should know how to grow
vegetables and basic foods
versus
Food production should be left to the
professionals - farmers

Urbanisation is good
versus
People should be encouraged to stay in the
countryside

And for a bit of light relief, try these crazy subjects...

Green is the best colour
versus
Red is the best colour

Bananas are the worst fruit
versus
Apples are the worst fruit

You should only wash once a week
versus
You should wash every day

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