

Green Young Leaders' Scheme

The Green Champions programme

You will learn

The project at a glance

What is Generation Green? Who are Green Champions? How do I become a Green Young Leader?

A deep dive into the programme

Learn about the three themes of the programme, the five steps and how to access our digital resources.

You will need

- A smartphone, tablet or laptop computer.
- Internet access



What is Generation Green?

Generation Green is a project funded by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) through the Heritage Lottery Fund. It's being delivered by organisations working together – you'll hear this called a consortium. The consortium is led by the Youth Hostels Association and includes Scouts, Guides, the Forest Stewardship Council, Outward Bound, and the 10 English national parks.

People must complete the project by 31 of March 2022. By then, the project aims to engage 100,000 young people in activities that help them connect with nature, with at least half of its opportunities reaching young people who are traditionally underrepresented in the outdoors. This includes young people who:

- live in communities that are relatively more deprived (communities that are in levels one, two, and three of the government's Index of Multiple Deprivation)
- are Black, Asian or from another ethnic minority group
- live in urban and coastal communities
- are disabled.



Who are Green Champions?

Green Champions are young people from Scout or school groups who have completed a five step programme that makes a positive impact in their community. As part of the programme, they'll improve habitats for birds, bugs, and bees; learn about the importance of trees and plants; or take positive steps towards recycling and reducing waste.

Participants take part in a programme led by our green volunteers. After this, they have three months to complete a short project that will have a positive impact in their community. We'll support you to help them achieve this. When it's done, we'll award them a certificate and stage one of their Community Impact Staged Activity Badge to recognise their efforts to improve the place they live.



How do I become a Green Young Leader?

A Green Young Leader is an Explorer Scout Young Leader who has completed a two night residential course that gives them the skills to lead the Green Champion programme for a section they support.

The Green Champions programme has three themes to choose from:



Birds, bugs and bees

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

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 Pollutions

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.



Each theme has five steps

Each theme has five steps, which line up with the five steps of the stage one of the Community Impact Staged Activity Badge.

1. **Identify need.** Investigate what issues and challenges exist in your chosen community – it could be local, national or international.
2. **Plan action.** Decide what issue your section should take action on and what you want to change. Talk to your section about what actions you would like to take.
3. **Take action over three months.** You should:
 - spend at least four hours personally taking action on your chosen issue. You can achieve more impact by spreading your time out over a month, instead of doing it all in one go.
 - Involve others in the action. Work in a team with your section and preferably people in the community you are trying to help.
4. **Learn and make more change.** Discuss with your section what you've learned, how you have made people's lives better, how taking action has developed you, and what you could do to help even more people in your chosen community.
5. **Tell the world.** Help other people to understand why the issue you took action on is important, what you did and how they can help.

There are at least ten activities for each theme (two for each step)

You can access them as digital resources and they're also available as PDF files.

- [Birds bugs and bees](#)
- [Growing green](#)
- [Plastic Pollution](#)

