SCOUTS GO SOLAR NEWSLETTER

A collaboration between World Scouting and Solafrica

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WORLD SCOUTING

SOLAFRICA

EarthTribe

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MEMBER SUPPORT
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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, that engages and empowers young people to champion solar energy as a solution for climate protection and a sustainable energy supply. Among renewable energy options, solar energy best fits the learning-by-doing Scouting method and is 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 145 Scouts Go Solar Ambassadors, and this newsletter highlights the inspiring and impactful projects they have been implementing in their NSO's.

Remark: Participants in the Regional Solar Ambassadors training in Egypt in 2025 had about six months to implement the solar projects they developed as part of the training. As they presented their reports this year, some of the activities mentioned in this Newsletter are from 2025.

CONTENT

1. REGIONAL UPDATES
2. SOLAR PROJECTS WORLDWIDE
   - A) SGS Exhibitions at Regional, National and International events
   - B) Capacity-Building Workshops
   - C) Advocacy Efforts
   - D) Virtual Engagements
   - E) Solar Camps
   - F) Community Engagements
   - G) Long-term Implementation Efforts

REGIONAL UPDATES

Africa

South Africa hosted the 2nd African Scout Moot from 1 to 8 August. Scouts from across the continent and other countries gathered for this event. As part of the programme, Scouts Go Solar hosted a workshop stand at the African Development Village. Led by Solar Ambassador Amboara Rabe-Harinoro from Madagascar, participants tried different experiments. Solar Art was among the highlights. As Amboara shared: "A special shout-out also goes to the World Scouting's Secretary General, David Berg, who took part in the Scouts Go Solar activities as well. His participation alongside the young people reflects the importance of youth engagement and the promotion of renewable energy."



Europe



Every year, one world region hosts a training where scout leaders from this region are trained to become Solar Ambassadors. This time, fourteen Scout leaders from ten European countries came together from 16 to 23 June at the Kandersteg International Scout Centre (KISC) to learn the basics of solar technology, how to share this knowledge with different age groups, the links and connections with Scouting, and project management. Participants from Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, Greece, Italy, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Spain, and the United Kingdom worked together, ran tests, planned communication strategies, and worked on their solar projects. In addition to the work, there was plenty of fun and an exchange of experiences from different contexts. We will report on the progress of these solar projects in upcoming editions of this newsletter.

SOLAR PROJECTS WORLDWIDE

A) SGS Exhibitions at Regional, National and International events

1. India

In the second week of January, the Bharat Scouts and Guides held their first Rover Ranger Jamboree, bringing together about 13,000 Scouts from across India. Held in Raipur in the country's central region, the camp featured a Global Development Village, including a Scouts Go Solar stand. The activities ranged from demonstrations of solar cookers and solar water fountains to solar racing cars and the solar campfire, among others. The organisers said: "These activities effectively showcased the use of solar energy for cooking, lighting, motion, and creative purposes."



2. Thailand

The Scouts Go Solar team in Thailand has been very active this year. They started with a solar workshop at the 30th Suankularb Scout Jamboree, held at the Vajiravudh Scout Camp in Chonburi province. About 4,500 Scouts and Scout leaders from 11 schools across the country participated in the event, held from 6 to 9 January. Solar Ambassadors provided support, while trained Scouts ran activities at seven workshop stations. As the report stated: "The image of [these] students taking on the role of mentors—explaining and demonstrating solar energy applications to their peers and juniors across the school network—perfectly reflected strong leadership potential."



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3. Switzerland

Every year on 1 August, which Scouts around the world celebrate as World Scout Scarf Day, The Kandersteg International Scout Centre (KISC) organises a large event that includes workshops and a flag procession. Alongside other national and international initiatives, Scouts Go Solar was at the Global Goals tent, offering a broad range of solar experiments and project information. Scouts from Portugal, the United Kingdom, Spain, Italy, Norway, and many other countries visited the stand to learn more and become inspired by solar activities.

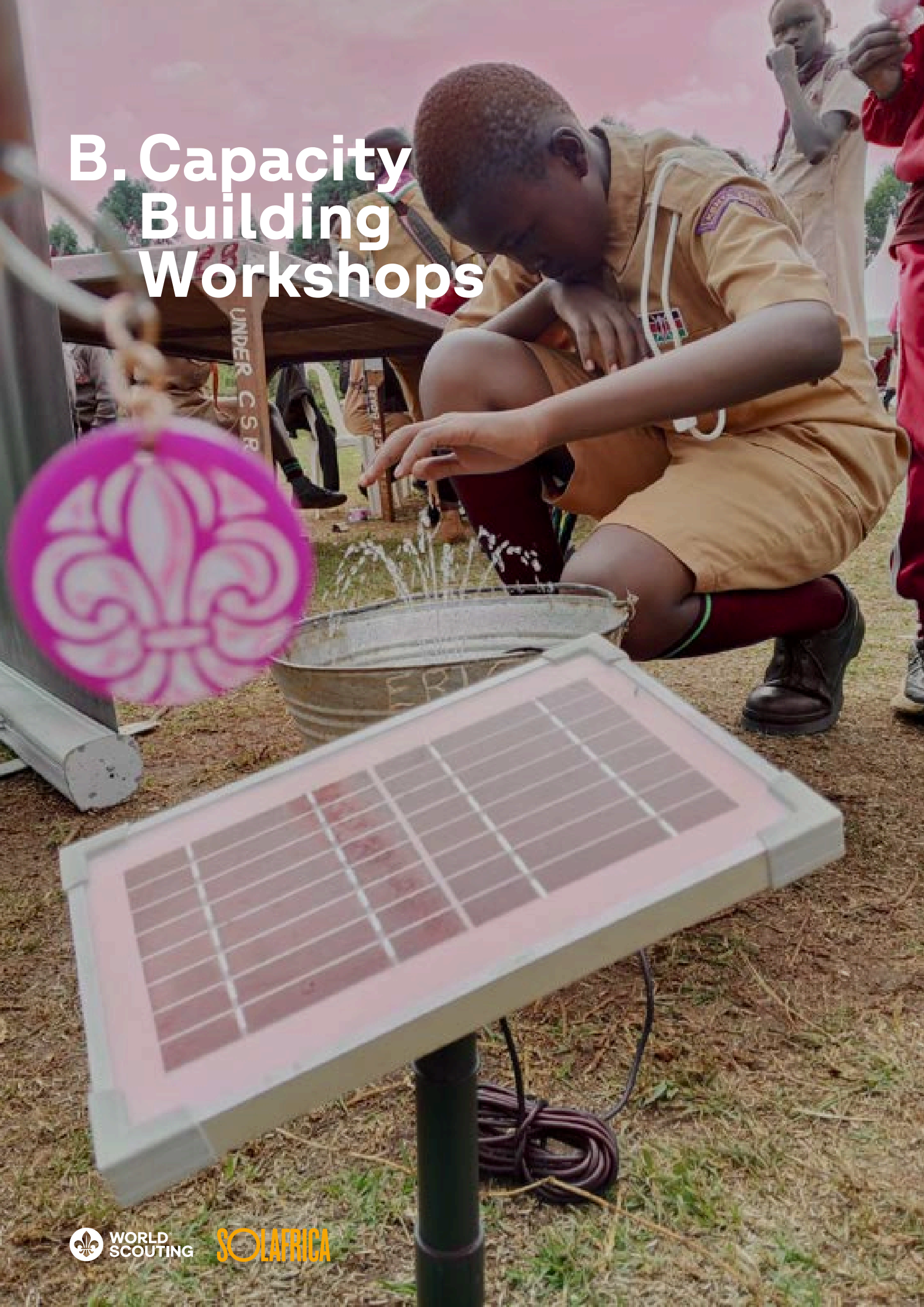
4. Philippines



The Maybunga Rainforest Park in Pasig City, next to the capital, Manila, hosted the 2nd National Capital Region (NCR) Rover Moot. From 10 to 14 May, more than 400 Scouts and Scout leaders from the NCR gathered for the event. Activities included a solar roadshow, with highlights such as a solar grasshopper race and solar sumo. For this second activity, using a mirror to reflect sunlight on the back of a solar-powered “bug”, participants aimed to push other “bugs” out of a specific area.



B. Capacity Building Workshops



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1. Tunisia

After being trained as a Solar Ambassador in Egypt in 2025, Adam Ben Arbia returned to his home country, Tunisia, and began sharing his knowledge with different groups, including the Rovers in his Scout group, Kalla Kebira. For this, he had defined three main goals: 1) raising awareness about renewable energies and energy consumption; 2) introducing practical knowledge about photovoltaic systems; and 3) showing the participants how they could use Scouts Go Solar for concrete projects within their Scout group. The 35 Rovers joined an interactive presentation and quiz that analysed their energy consumption with the Energy Card Game, debated the energy transition in the Tribunal Game, and took part in several solar experiments. From this workshop, an idea emerged to upgrade the garden at the local Scout facility with a solar-powered automatic irrigation system.

2. Thailand

When the Nawaminthachinuthit Suankularb Wittayalai Pathumthani School in the capital, Bangkok, held its “Open House” event on 6 February, Scouts were there. Under the leadership of Solar Ambassador and teacher Phichainarong Suwanmayura, a team of trained Scout leaders gave about 500 students the opportunity to engage with solar energy. They did this through playful learning with solar toys, solar car races, solar art, and solar darts, along with some background knowledge about these topics. To showcase Scouting as an international movement and inspire children and young people to participate in international initiatives and events, a booth featured badges and memorabilia from the last World Scout Jamboree in South Korea. Phichainarong reflected, “The project successfully achieved its objectives. Participants actively engaged in the activities and gained a better understanding of solar energy. At the same time, the Scout facilitators enhanced their leadership, communication, and teamwork skills.”



3. Cameroon

Solar expert Daniel Sadefo Kamdem and his team brought together about 60 Scouts of different ages and Scout groups from the Wouri district in western Cameroon to implement the “Solar Day of Wouri”. In the morning, the focus was on photovoltaics, experimenting with how the sun’s rays make solar planes and solar cars move. To better understand a solar system, its components, and how they relate to each other, the team prepared schematic pictures of each component. The participants then had to put them in the right order to make sure the electricity could flow. The afternoon focused on the thermal use of sunlight, such as solar cooking or solar art.

4. Thailand

On 20 March, Thai Solar Ambassador Phichainarong Suwanmayura and his team set up a stand at an “Open House” event at Watboa Nantawittaya School, near Bangkok. School children explored different stations to discover the wonders of sunlight, such as using sundials to tell time, preparing popcorn and scrambled eggs in a parabolic solar cooker, and powering devices like solar cars. It was a sunny day, and the children had a lot of fun – and even tasted solar-cooked food!

5. Bolivia

The Group Scout Alemán San Pedro Potosí organised a solar workshop for Cub Scouts. They created solar art with magnifying glasses, built a solar cooker out of a shoebox, and used it to melt chocolate. These and other experiments helped the young Scouts experience the sun’s power. As they wrote in a Facebook post: “Our Cub Scouts keep discovering that the sun gives us not only light and heat… it also gives us new forms of learning, creating and taking care of our planet!”







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6. Kenya



Celebrations around Founder's Day, on 22 February, offer opportunities to organise special Scout activities. That's what the Solar Ambassador Julius "JuliTech" Wambugu did in two different schools. The first was at the Kikuyu Boys High School in Kiambu County, north of the capital, Nairobi. With theoretical inputs and fun solar games, he highlighted the importance of renewable energy and discussed with participants how we should change our practices to help conserve our environment.

The second workshop was at the Lenana School in Nairobi. Highlights included the various difficulty levels of the solar beep and assembling a small solar system to power a fan.

7. Thailand

Solar Ambassador Chansak Sanguankiattisuk and his team led a workshop on 23 January at Nong Saeng Wittaya School in Saraburi province, central Thailand. Around 80 participants explored different stations, including one where they learnt about disinfecting and sterilising water using sunlight with simple tools such as plastic bottles and a towel, as well as solar cooking. They also took part in other experiments, such as creating solar art in teams.



8. Mauritius

During a camp, the different age groups of the 12th Scout Port Louis, St. Matthew Scout Group, from Mauritius' capital, experienced many aspects of solar energy. The Cub Scouts participated in a quiz, built their own sunglasses, and assembled a solar-powered “lunar rover”. Older Scouts analysed their energy consumption at home, boiled eggs in a high-tech vacuum-tube solar cooker and assembled a more complex multifunctional solar-powered robot. The Scouts wrote in a Facebook post: “Apart from offering fun and hands-on activities, this programme enabled the young people to stimulate their scientific curiosity and creativity, understand the importance of renewable energies in everyday life, and develop their team spirit and sense of environmental responsibility.”



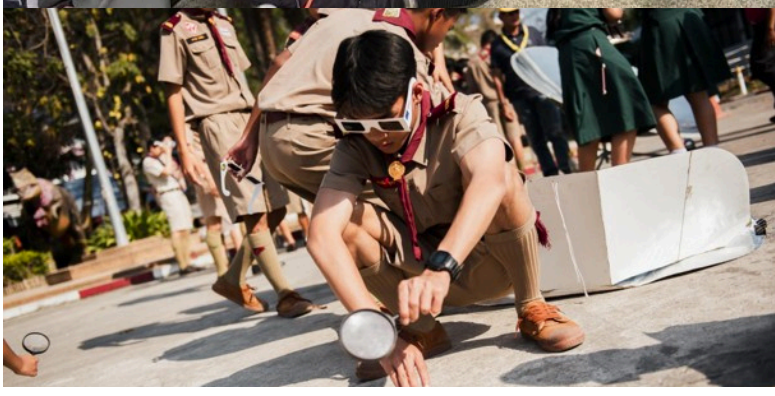
9. Brazil

In Bragança Paulista, southern Brazil, the local Cub Scout branch organised a solar workshop. Throughout the day on 23 May, the Cubs discovered, discussed, and experienced different aspects of the sun's power. They talked about light and shadow, cooking and drying food, indicating time, powering a solar car, and much more.



10. Thailand

In February, Scouts Go Solar was showcased through workhops in at least four schools in Thailand, with more than 1,200 participants. Trained Scouts, who had previously completed a national coordinator training, supported the team of Scouts Go Solar Thailand. Through theoretical inputs and interactive practical experiments, the students learned a lot about solar energy. In a post on the SDG Hub, the organisers wrote: “The project enhanced environmental awareness, while also strengthening leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving skills among Scout youth. It also demonstrated the effectiveness of youth-led, peer-to-peer learning in promoting sustainable practices.”





11. Côte d'Ivoire

Over the last two years, Solar Ambassador Clavaire Arnold Kouakou Koffi has trained Scout leaders and leaders from other youth groups as part of his project "Eco Hubs". With the fifth cohort, trained from 30 January to 1 February, this project came to an end. As in earlier trainings, he worked with solar experts and Scout trainers to introduce participants to EarthTribe and Scouts Go Solar. As Clavaire wrote in a report: "We concluded this last cohort with great satisfaction, having seen among the participants a genuine desire to learn and take action, particularly in relation to initiatives from World Scouting, such as Green Competences for Everyone."



12. Mexico

In the city of Tlalnepantla, the Scout Group 50 Tlalnepantla-Atizapán organised a solar workshop for groups ranging from Cub Scouts to Rovers. Depending on their age, Scouts took part in different solar experiments, such as analysing how colour affects heat absorption, building solar cookers from cardboard boxes, and making sunglasses. They also tried their hands at "light in a bottle", where they put tap water in a plastic bottle, added specific chemicals, and it started reflecting the sunlight. When you install such bottles in a roof (or a cardboard box, in this case), sunlight from the outside brightens the room inside.



13. Tunisia

At the summer camp for Al-Khansa Guides, from 26 July to 4 August 2025, Solar Ambassador Adam Ben Arbia led a three-hour workshop on Scouts go Solar. He combined building and using a Copenhagen cooker with a brainstorming activity ("The sun does...") and solar games. With the four cookers they built, they prepared apple puree. To finish the workshop, they held open discussions around measures the group could take to switch from non-renewable to renewable energy sources and reduce their energy consumption.



14. Bolivia

Solar workshops at university? Why not! The Juan Misael Saracho Autonomous University in Tarija, southern Bolivia, opened its centre for architecture and urban planning to the Scouts. Using an online simulation and practical experiments like sundials and solar cookers, the Scouts learned a lot about what the sun can do for us. The solar cooker they used was not a typical parabolic cooker, but one made from hundreds of small mirrors to concentrate the sunlight on the cooking pot.

15. Thailand

From 21 to 22 February, the Scouts Go Solar Thailand team travelled to Khon Kaen Province to implement a solar training for about 600 participants. With a wide range of activities at different stations, such as sundials, solar art, and colours of the sun, the team had something for every age group. Using solar cooking, the team made crêpes served with different toppings.



16. Switzerland

A team of trainers went to KISC to train the volunteers who will implement Scouts Go Solar workshops during the centre's summer season. For many years, KISC has offered Scouts Go Solar workshops as part of its programme. To ensure the workshop leaders, who work there for three months, are up to date and well equipped, they receive a full-day induction on the topic. The nine participants, coming from Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Kenia, Mexico, Nigeria, Portugal, Romania, and Tunisia, learnt about the programme and tried different experiments, enabling them to lead the workshops in the future. Among those attending the training was Maram Mahrouk, a Solar Ambassador from Tunisia, trained in 2025, who currently volunteers at KISC.



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C. Advocacy Efforts

Brazil

Which topic would you choose if your teacher asked you to set up a stand on sustainability at your school's science fair? A young Scout from Brazil and his friends chose solar energy. To prepare, they researched different types of solar panels, how much solar energy Brazil already generates, the cost of a solar system, etc. Then, they designed a poster to combine the information with visual elements. On top of this, they built a small village using cardboard, wood, and other materials, with houses that have solar panels on the roof.



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D. Virtual Engagements

Thailand

Solar Ambassador Chansak Sanguankiattisuk and his team hosted a webinar for Scout leaders from the Asia-Pacific Region, where one of the main topics was Scouts Go Solar. Drawing on a wealth of experience, Chansak shared best practices from Thailand, including the regional Solar Ambassador training held there in 2024. We're excited to see how this regional cooperation continues and what initiatives come out of it.



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E. Solar Camps



Chile

A summer camp held from 18 to 22 February saw Cub Scouts from the Santa Cecilia Scout group in Biobío, central Chile, focus on Scouts Go Solar. They built and tested Copenhagen solar cookers, built a greenhouse from a shoebox, and, as an innovative way to play the solar quiz, combined it with a race. The young Scouts had to run, pick up folded pieces of paper with questions, and answer them as a group. If they answered correctly, they could keep the piece of paper.

F.Community Engagements

1. Malaysia

From 18 to 19 July, Titiwangsa Stadium in the capital, Kuala Lumpur, hosted walk-in activities with solar experiments. Solar Ambassador Jimmy Teh Chee Giap and his team offered different experiences for interested visitors, including solar cooking and solar art. For the solar art, they didn't use normal magnifying glasses, but a powerful Fresnel lens, which combines many lenses at slightly different angles to concentrate sunrays, resulting in much higher temperatures.



2. Australia

The Withcott Scout Group, in eastern Australia, received solar lamp kits sponsored by a foundation. Cubs and Scouts, supported by the adult leaders, assembled these lamps to send to people in need. The Scout Group wrote in a Facebook post: “The smiles on the kids’ faces say it all — so much fun, creativity, and pride! And if you look closely, the concentration on the adults’ faces tells a story too... we had just as much fun! ... Our Scouts also wrote heartfelt letters to the children who will receive these lights, making the experience even more meaningful.”



3. Thailand

Kids from Changphueak Kindergarten in Bangkok took part in a solar workshop offered by the Scouts Go Solar team from Thailand. In total, 33 kids and 9 teachers tried out different experiments like solar darts and solar art. They also prepared food using a solar cooker!



4. Bolivia

Who says that solar technology is always technical and expensive? A Scout leader from the city of Potosí, in southern Bolivia, built a simple solar dryer using a plastic basket with sides covered in black plastic bags and a top covered with transparent film. With this setup, she dried tomato slices using nothing other than sunlight, and she shared the food with her Scout Group and others to show how easily the sun's power can be used in everyday life. She wrote in a social media post: “I have learnt that a solar dryer not only contributes to sustainability, but also that sunlight helps us preserve food and improve our everyday routines without having to spend a lot of money.”

5. Malaysia

On 11 August, 84 students from Jalan Empat Bangi Secondary School in Bandar Baru Bangi, Selangor, were surprised when their STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) class turned into a hands-on workshop on Scouts Go Solar! Solar Ambassador Jimmy Teh Chee Giap, supported by the school’s principal, the school coordinator, and three teachers, conducted a practical workshop for the students. They covered the theoretical and practical aspects of solar cooking by building two different kinds of solar cookers, discussed the advantages and dangers of the sun, and experimented with DIY sunglasses. The students appreciated the hands-on approach and had a lot of fun.



G. Long-term Implementation Efforts

1. Libya

The first national Scouts Go Solar camp for Scout leaders from across the country took place in April in Sabha, central Libya. Solar Ambassadors Ahmed Boshiha and Malek El Mabrouk from Libya, and Adam Ben Arbia from Tunisia, led the on-site training sessions. Other Solar Ambassadors from the Arab region supported online sessions held the week before, including Mostafa Atef El-Sayed from Egypt, Wala'a Mohammed from Yemen, and Jad Anwar Slayman from Lebanon. Participants learnt more about solar energy, how to plan and implement solar projects and other topics, as well as hands-on skills around constructing a solar cooker and solar beeps.

With the gained knowledge and the experiments built, the scout leaders returned to their places and will implement their own solar workshops or projects now.

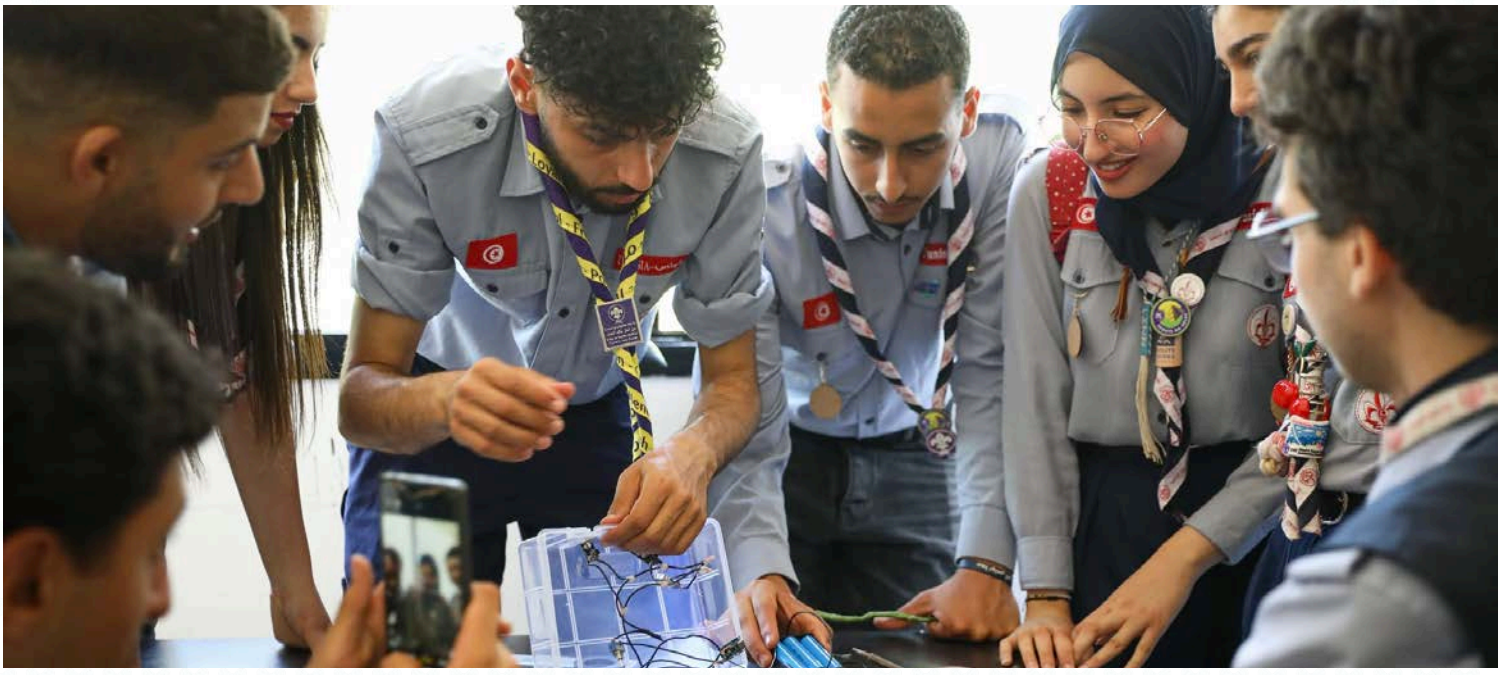
2. Malaysia

From 17 to 19 July, Solar Ambassadors Jimmy Teh Chee Giap and Dr. Mustaffa Ibrahim set up a Scouts Go Solar training for 34 Scout leaders. The training covered a wide range of topics, including experiments, safety, and preparation and evaluation of different stations. Participants learned to solder solar-powered LED lamps and build solar cookers from cardboard pipes (chips containers), as well as run experiments with wind and water turbines to generate electricity. The participating Scout leaders are now well prepared to run their own renewable energy workshops with their Scout groups.



3. Tunisia

From 29 to 31 May, the National Scouts Go Solar Training took place in Borj Cedria, near Tunis. Under the leadership of Solar Ambassadors Maram Mahrouk and Adam Ben Arbia and their team, 47 Scouts from across the country learnt about Scouts Go Solar through a mixture of technical, methodological, and practical sessions. They form the basis of a national network of Solar Scouts, sharing knowledge about the importance and everyday uses of renewable energy across regions and Scout groups. Participants were not just there to listen and learn, but also to plan, pitch, and implement their own solar workshops for a real public audience! As a community initiative, they delivered four solar workshops for local residents in the city centre. As Adam resumes it in his report: “I consider this public activity one of the strongest parts of the training. The participants were able to move from learning → designing → pitching → facilitating, and the public response showed that the activities could create interest beyond the Scout community.”



Supported by:

The Scouts Go Solar Educational Challenge is part of the Earth Tribe Initiative.

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

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