

# tide turners plastic challenge

SCOUTS  for SDGs



be prepared

## **introduction:**

Plastic pollution and a clean, healthy planet.

Anything that sounds too good to be true probably is. Plastic is no exception. Cheap, durable, and light, plastic has made its way into every country, every society, and every lifestyle. You are probably using a lot of plastic: for food and drink packaging, dishes and cutlery and even the material you need for your outdoor activities, like tents and ropes, are made from plastic.

Plastic makes life easier for you in lots of ways. The materials you have to carry on your hike or to your camp are lighter, and food and drink are protected so they stay fresh longer. But here's the downside: the production and consumption of single-use plastics and the inability to manage plastic waste sustainably have led to a massive pollution problem. Marine litter and micro plastics are flooding our oceans and is hurting marine ecosystems and human health on an unprecedented scale.

The solution does not lie at sea, though. It lies on land with us, the ones who started the problem.

From cutting back on our use of single-use plastic, to recycling more effectively to finding sustainable alternatives to plastic, solutions to plastic pollution are within our grasp.

When starting the Tide Turners Plastic Challenge, young people are going to learn a bit more about the problem, what possible solutions are and how they can play their part in them through smaller activities. These activities will give them an idea on how they can get active and inspire others to join them in acting against plastic pollution.

We're fortunate to have as beautiful a place as planet Earth to call home. And let's not forget, we share this home with wondrous plants and animals, all of whom are doing their part of keeping the planet healthy and beautiful. Let's do our part too. Let's keep our oceans, forests, rivers and roads picture perfect and plastic-free.

## **about the challenge:**

### **What is it?**

The Tide Turners Plastic Challenge is a global initiative developed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), adopted by the World Scout Organization as an integral component of its Earth Tribe Initiative.

The Tide Turners Plastic Challenge will help young people to understand the impact humans have in the world when it comes to plastic use and consumption and how you can promote a clean, healthy planet that will contribute to a more sustainable world.

The Tide Turners Plastic Challenge supports the development of a specific set of competencies in young people to adopt responsible behaviour towards the

environment in the area of a “Healthy Planet”. This set of competencies is complementary to many others that Scouting recognises through the Earth Tribe Programme and aligned with Education for Sustainable Development Goals.

So, by taking up the Tide Turners Plastic Challenge, young people develop their knowledge, skills and attitudes essential for supporting the Sustainable Development Goals.

## healthy planet

Preventing and recovering water and land ecosystems from pollution

*Young people thrive towards creating a better world for others and themselves. Understanding how pollution impacts the planet, identifying and challenging practices conducive to increasing pollution, and how to reduce its effects, implementing waste management is one learning aspect of this path. Land ecosystems, lakes, rivers, and oceans provide food and water for all of us, but are heavily impacted by careless pollution, and young people will work with the community, local organisations and partners to reduce, reuse and recycle single-use plastics.*

## What are the objectives of this challenge?

The Tide Turners Plastic Challenge aims to:

- Encourage young people to have the knowledge, skills and attitude to be responsible toward daily consumption, in particular with plastic, and find environmentally friendly alternatives.
- Understand what plastic is and how plastic is threatening life in oceans and on land.
- Understand how the global community is tackling the issue.
- Understand and act to reduce your personal use of single-use plastics.
- Inspire your friends, family, school and community to reduce, reuse and recycle single-use plastics.
- Take the lead on a wider scale to create lasting change in your region or community related to the use of single-use plastics, marine litter and micro plastics, specifically in preventing and recovering water and land ecosystems from pollution.
- Take part in the Earth Tribe global network of young people across National Scout Organisations and other institutions that are actively aware, involved in environmental education, specifically in plastic reduction, and collaborate with the community, partners and key actors involved.

## Who is it for?

This challenge is designed for all young people from 7 years and above, to educate young people about plastic pollution and encourage them to play a part in resolving pressing environmental issues, specifically related to plastics, plastic waste, and plastic pollution.

## Resources:

To assist in undertaking this challenge, a number of activity ideas are available in the Tide Turners Plastic Challenge Action Kit. Programmes-on-a-plate are also available.

## About the badge:

Young people can obtain the Tide Turners Plastic recognition badge according to the development and age of each individual. For each age, there is specific knowledge, actions and attitudes to develop through activities and community projects.



From 7 to 10



11 to 14



15 and above

## Badge requirements:

### ***Cubs (7 to 10):***

1. Complete a self-assessment (see page 15 of Toolkit).
2. Complete the plastic audit quiz (see page 19 of Toolkit).
3. Complete five of the following activities (see pages 24 – 33 of Toolkit):
  - Audit your plastic habit (mandatory activity)
  - Movie night
  - Play to kill the ocean
  - Bottle cap mosaic art and craft
  - Plastic beginnings (plastic then and now)
  - Plastic resolution
  - Upcycling art
  - Learning by doing
4. Plan and carry out a community service project.

### ***Scouts (11 to 14):***

1. Complete a self-assessment (see page 16 of Toolkit).
2. Complete the plastic audit quiz (see page 19 of Toolkit).
3. Complete four of the following activities (see pages 34 – 46 of Toolkit):
  - Identify alternatives to plastic
  - Needs and wants
  - When do they degrade
  - Bottle planters
  - Changing Minds
  - Biggest plastic footprint

- Segregation at source
- Poster campaign

4. Plan and carry out a community service project.

### **Scouts/Rovers (15 and above):**

1. Complete a self-assessment (see page 17 of Toolkit).
2. Complete the plastic audit quiz (see page 19 of Toolkit).
3. Complete four of the following activities (see pages 47 – 57 of Toolkit):
  - Audit your plastic habit and find out where your waste goes
  - Litter, why does it matter?
  - Litter blitz
  - Regulating the use of plastics
  - Making a poster on marine pollution

4. Plan and carry out a community service project.

### **After your journey in the Tide Turners Plastic Challenge**

Now tell us your story:

The next step is to consolidate what has been learnt from taking part in this challenge and write a short story or make a video that helps us understand what changes were made in your life and others. What part was most fun? What did you realise that you didn't know before? What were you able to teach others about? Where do you think you had the biggest impact?

Please send your stories/videos to [tideturners@scouts.org.za](mailto:tideturners@scouts.org.za)

### **How do you get involved?**

If you are interested in turning the tide on plastic, please register your Group by sending an email to [tideturners@scouts.org.za](mailto:tideturners@scouts.org.za).