



Canadian Traditional
Scouting Association

20-Dec-2024

CTSA Environmental Focus 2025

Youth involvement in environmental stewardship is paramount in safeguarding the planet's future. As the custodians of tomorrow, young people possess the passion, creativity, and energy needed to address pressing environmental challenges. Engaging youth in stewardship activities instills a sense of responsibility and connection to nature and fosters critical thinking skills and leadership abilities. By empowering youth to act, we cultivate a generation of environmentally conscious individuals equipped to tackle complex issues such as climate change, pollution, and habitat destruction. Furthermore, youth involvement ensures diverse perspectives and innovative solutions, driving meaningful progress toward a sustainable and thriving future for all life on Earth.

The United Nations Action Council on Environment has identified that municipal solid waste is a critical component in changing the environmental impact of people around the globe. In North America, our cardboard and food wastes represent over 70 billion tonnes of waste per year. Cardboard waste can be reduced through improved recycling programs; however, we can also recycle cardboard by making our own paper and encouraging manufacturers to make smarter choices in their packaging materials (reduce excess packaging). Food waste can be reduced through home composting, and understanding what actual waste is, versus what organic components can help neighbors.

Recent developments in Biogas generation have demonstrated that a household can generate enough biogas (60% methane) which a family can use to fuel a stovetop with only 1.6 gallons or 6 L of biomatter per day.

Carbon footprint offset has been the talk of many countries for many years now, and reducing power consumption, using smarter appliances, and smarter methods for power consumption are continuing to be important parts of an environmental strategy.

CTSA has an opportunity to encourage families to identify new ways to reduce their environmental impact. For 2025 we would like to direct our association efforts in these three areas.

1. **Forest Restoration Project:** Partner with local environmental organizations or forestry agencies to organize a forest restoration project. Youth participants aged 6 to 18 can engage in activities like tree planting, invasive species removal, trail maintenance, and habitat restoration. Provide educational sessions on the importance of forests for biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and ecosystem services. This hands-on experience allows youth to directly contribute to the health and resilience of local forest ecosystems while fostering a deeper connection to nature and a sense of stewardship towards these vital habitats.
2. **Stream Monitoring and Cleanup Initiative:** Launch a stream monitoring and cleanup initiative where youth aged 6 to 18 can learn about the importance of freshwater ecosystems and threats, such as pollution and habitat degradation. Provide training on water quality testing, aquatic biodiversity surveys, and litter collection techniques. Organize regular monitoring outings to local streams or rivers, where youth can collect data on water quality parameters, identify aquatic species, and remove trash and debris from the waterways. This project raises awareness about the importance of protecting freshwater habitats and empowers youth to take active roles in monitoring and conserving local streams for future generations.
3. **Improve local community recycling** through awareness campaigns, collections, and demonstrations of how plastics can be reused/recycled at home. Advocate to the Provincial Government to restore bottle and can return versus blue box recycling (This is regional in Ontario for can and bottle recycling but may also apply in other areas).