

our heritage

national challenge 2025

SCOUTS

guidelines



"Sometimes, it falls upon a generation to be great.
You can be that great generation. Let your greatness blossom."

- Nelson Mandela -



be prepared

SCOUTS South Africa has adopted '**Our Heritage**' as the **National Challenge for 2025!** According to UNESCO, "Heritage' is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations. Our cultural and natural heritage are both irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration." The 2025 National Challenge aligns with the UNESCO World Heritage Education Programme and with World Scouting's Scouts for SDGs initiative.

Every day Scouts around the world contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the Scouts for SDGs initiative. The SDGs are a call to action to end inequality and poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that everyone has access to health, justice, and prosperity. Scouts for SDGs is the world's largest coordinated youth programme that ensures and enables young people to take local actions that contribute to solving global challenges. (<https://sdgs.scout.org/>)

Embracing "Our Heritage" drives the SDGs in several ways, including deepening our understanding of one another, honouring our shared customs and traditions, and building a more inclusive and united future for the South African Scout Movement.

SCOUTS South Africa's volunteers operate all around the country bring together people from all walks of life. Increasing awareness, cultivating knowledge, understanding and mutual respect will enable a generation that embraces cultural diversity and can contribute to supporting sustainable development in South Africa in the near future.

The SDGs the programme addresses include:

- **SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.** **Target 7 of SDG 4** calls for young people to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, equality, a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.
- **SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.** Inequality threatens long-term social and economic development, harms poverty reduction and destroys people's sense of fulfilment and self-worth. **Target 10 of SDG10** calls for the promotion of social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.
- **SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.** **Target 4 of SDG 11** calls for strengthening efforts to protect cultural and natural heritage. (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals/>)



As the 'Rainbow Nation', South Africa is known for its wealth of diversity, uniting a vast array of nationalities under a single cultural umbrella. The country's symbolic moniker was first coined by Archbishop Desmond Tutu in 1994, recognising the many customs, histories, and languages which call South Africa home. (<https://www.africaoutlookmag.com/industry>)

This year's National Challenge - Our Heritage will encourage our young Scouts to think about what they would like the world to be, and the heritage they would like to create.

The **National Challenge 2025 - Our Heritage** focuses on local cultural heritage, intercultural awareness, and dialogue.

- **Discover:** Encourage Scouts to explore and learn about their local cultural heritage, including traditions, historical sites, and practices unique to our community.
 - **Connect:** Facilitate intercultural dialogue and connections between Scouts from different backgrounds. This could include joint activities with other Scout Troops, exchange programmes, or community events that highlight diversity.
 - **Action:** Empower Scouts to take concrete steps in preserving and promoting our heritage. This could involve community service projects, awareness campaigns, or creating educational materials that can be shared with the wider community.
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notes & guidelines:

It is suggested that the Court of Honour meet to discuss how the Troop tackles the **National Challenge 2025 - Our Heritage**, completing each of the tasks as a full Patrol (preferred) or a combination of Patrol and/or Individual Scout activities.

The Patrol is the unit in all Troop activities. All the *Our Heritage Challenge* activities, particularly the Community Service Project, can and should be done as a Patrol wherever possible as this will count towards the Star Patrol Award.

Once the COH has decided on the direction, the Patrol Leader should have a Patrol-In-Council (PIC) planning session with the Patrol to discuss the timing and execution of the *National Challenge 2025*.

For all the individual tasks completed, the Scout will need a letter from a Parent / Guardian to give to their Patrol Leader / Troop Scouter confirming that they have completed the Our Heritage tasks, Discover, Connect, Action.

- A minimum of 50% of Scouts in the Patrol will need to complete all the *National Challenge* activities for the Patrol to include the National Challenge 2025 as a qualifying criterion for the Star Patrol Award 2025.

The theme of the Our Heritage Troop Programme-On-A-Plate is **Africa Scout Day: Out in the African Bushveld** - Celebrating African Heritage and the impact of Scouting across the African continent and includes an interactive quiz that encourages Scouts to explore Africa's Scouting's history, achievements, and cultural diversity.

The Africa Scout Day Troop night programme provides an opportunity to celebrate *Africa Scout Day* together by exploring, learning, and sharing during the month of March 2025.

the challenge:

Complete **FOUR** of the following **National Challenge 2025** activities, **at least ONE** from **each section**: **Discover**, **Connect**, **Action**. Scouts may complete a combination of both Patrol and Individual activities.

Participation in the *National Challenge 2025 - Our Heritage Africa Scout Day Troop Meeting Programme* is mandatory.

task 1: discover

Task 1: *Explore and learn about local cultural heritage, emphasizing the importance of quality education (SDG 4) in understanding and preserving heritage.*

Troop Task: *Participate in the Our Heritage Troop Meeting Programme-on-a-Plate. The Court of Honour (COH) / Troop Scouter must ensure that the mandatory **Africa Scout Day Troop Meeting Programme** is executed at a Troop meeting in March 2025 - to coincide with the Africa Scout Day celebrations, which will be held in Madagascar, 14 to 16 March. Find the *National Challenge 2025 Our Heritage, Scouts programme-on-a-plate* [here](#) (Ctrl+ click to follow link)*

Task 1A: Discover my own heritage

Patrol Task: *During a heritage-themed Patrol Meeting, Scouts will explore and share elements of their personal heritage, fostering cultural awareness and respect within the Patrol.*

- Each Scout should bring an item, a piece of cultural clothing, family Coat of Arms, jewellery, or a special family artifact that holds personal or cultural significance.
If your family does not have such items, design a personal Coat of Arms to express what you would like your future family to aspire to.
- Scouts must present their item to the Patrol, explaining its meaning, origin, and any family / cultural traditions associated with it.
- After each presentation, the Patrol Leader facilitates a discussion on common values or themes noticed in the items shared.
- Each Scout reflects on how understanding diverse heritage can contribute to unity within the Patrol and broader community.

OR

Individual Task: *Earn the [Genealogy Scout Interest Badge](#) (Ctrl + click to follow link)*

- Alternatively, Scouts may choose to complete the *Genealogy Scout Interest Badge*, involving researching family history to discover ancestors, family stories, and significant family events, as well as compiling a family tree or timeline of family history and learning about the regions and cultural practices that shaped their heritage.

Task 1B: Discover my country's heritage

Patrol Task: *On a Patrol outing to a local heritage site, Scouts will explore and gain appreciation for a heritage site within South Africa, understanding its historical and cultural significance and sharing insights with their Troop.*

- Plan an outing to a local recognized World, National, or Provincial Heritage Site with your Patrol. Examples include national parks, monuments, museums, historical battlefields, or cultural heritage sites.
- Before the outing, during a Patrol Meeting to plan the activity, Patrol members must research the site's history, significance, and any conservation efforts associated with it.
- At the site, Scouts participate in a guided tour (if available) or use a self-guided method to gather information about the site's history, cultural importance, natural features, and role in South Africa's heritage.
- Scouts are encouraged to document their experience with notes, photographs, or sketches to support their understanding and subsequent reporting.
- After the outing, Patrol members must prepare a brief report to be presented to the Troop Scouter, or to the whole Troop at a Troop Meeting. The report may be presented as a verbal presentation, a visual display (e.g. poster or photo collage), or a short video.
- Scouts reflect on why preserving heritage sites is essential, discussing what they learned. Patrol Leaders to get feedback from the Patrol and report their findings to the Troop in plenary session.

OR

Individual Task: *Earn the [Heritage Scoutcraft Badge](#) (Ctrl + click to follow link)*

- Alternatively, Scouts may choose to complete the requirements for the *Heritage Scoutcraft Badge*, which may include activities like visiting heritage sites, museums, or cultural centres to learn about South Africa's history and traditions, understanding the importance of preserving cultural heritage.

task 2: connect

Task 2: Promote intercultural awareness and dialogue, fostering connections between different cultural groups to reduce inequalities (SDG 10).

Task 2A: Connecting with Scouts and Scout Troops across the country

Patrol Task: *By participating in a joint Troop meeting, Scouts will build connections with peers from different Districts / Regions / Cultures, gaining insight into the diversity of backgrounds and practices within SCOUTS South Africa.*

- Arrange a joint Troop meeting with a Scout Troop from a different District, Region or cultural background, either in person or virtually, to allow Scouts to connect across distances.
- Prior to the meeting, each Troop prepares to share a unique aspect of their community's culture or local Scouting traditions (e.g. songs, dances, customs, or special skills).
- During the meeting, Troops showcase elements that represent their own culture and heritage, such as:
 - Local songs or chants
 - Traditional clothing or stories from their community
 - Unique Scouting activities, games, or practices specific to their Troop

- Scouts can engage in a "Q&A" session, facilitated by the Troop Scouters, where they ask each other questions to learn more about each other's backgrounds, experiences, and challenges.
- After the meeting, Scouts reflect on what they learned about other Scouts' cultures and how Scouting unites diverse groups with shared values. Patrol Leaders to get feedback from the Patrol and report their findings to the Troop in plenary session.
- Each Scout shares one takeaway from the experience with their Troop Scouter and discusses how understanding diversity enhances their role within their Patrol and Troop.

OR

Individual Task: *Alternatively, Scouts may choose to gain cultural awareness and build local Scouting friendships by corresponding with a local Scout from a different cultural background.*

- Connect with a Scout from a different culture, from a different District / Region, and communicate with them for a minimum of three months.
- The Scout must communicate at least twice monthly, discussing Scouting experiences, shared interests, cultural traditions, and/or cultural diversity, and share aspects of each other's lives, to learn about one another's cultures and Scouting experiences.
- A record of correspondence (emails, screenshots, photos) must be kept and, after three months, a summary presented to the Troop Scouter, highlighting what has been learned.

Task 2B: Connecting with South African cultures through traditional cooking

Patrol Task: *Scouts will explore South Africa's diverse cultural heritage by preparing and tasting traditional dishes, fostering appreciation for the country's culinary diversity.*

- During a cooking-themed Troop Meeting, each Patrol selects and prepares a simple, traditional South African dish representing a different cultural heritage (e.g. bobotie, pap, samp and beans, chakalaka, vetkoek, or bunny chow, milk tart, malva pudding, potjie kos, etc.).
- Patrol members collaborate in preparing the dish, learning about its origins, ingredients, and any unique preparation methods.
- After cooking, Scouts taste dishes from each Patrol, discussing the flavours and cultural significance of each meal.
- Scouts ask questions about each dish's background and share what they've learned about the different South African cultures represented.
- Back in their Patrols, each Scout reflects on the experience, highlighting their favourite dish, what they learned about the culture behind it, and how it broadened their understanding of South African heritage.

OR

Individual Task: *Alternatively, Scouts may choose to experience cultural diversity by attending a meal with a family or group from a different cultural background.*

- With prior approval from their Troop Scouter and legal guardian(s), the Scout must arrange to attend a meal with a family or group from a culture different from their own.
- During the meal, the Scout should observe the food, dining customs, and social practices, paying attention to the differences and similarities to their own cultural traditions.
- After the meal, the Scout must share their experience with their Patrol / Troop Scouter, highlighting the cultural differences they observed and what they learned about the traditions and values of the culture they visited.

task 3: action

Task 3: *Empower Scouts to take concrete steps in preserving and promoting our heritage. This could involve community service projects, awareness campaigns, or creating educational materials that can be shared with the wider community.*

Task 3A: Take action for South African heritage preservation

Patrol Task: *Scouts will actively contribute to the preservation and awareness of South Africa's heritage by participating in a community service project at a local (provincial, national, or world) heritage site.*

- The Patrol must identify a cultural, local, provincial, national, or World Heritage Site within their community that requires attention; whether it's preservation, restoration, beautification, or raising awareness about its significance.
This could involve cleaning, repairing, or helping with an educational campaign.
- In coordination with site authorities or local community leaders, the Patrol must plan and execute a service project at the site that can be completed within six hours.
- The project may include activities like:
 - Cleaning or maintenance work at the site.
 - Planting indigenous trees or creating a small garden to enhance the site.
 - Organizing a guided walk or presentation to educate the community about the site's cultural and historical importance.
- After successful completion of the project, the Patrol should reflect on their experience and the impact of their efforts. Each Patrol / Scout must report back to their Troop, explaining the project's significance, the challenges they faced, and how their contribution has helped preserve or raise awareness of South African heritage.

OR

Individual Task: *This task can also be completed individually, but it must be carried out as a Scout.*

Task 3B: Take action for South African heritage awareness

Patrol Task: *Scouts will raise awareness about South African heritage sites by researching and sharing information on the challenges these sites face and how communities can help.*

- Each Patrol selects three unique heritage sites from across South Africa. Sites could include cultural landmarks, natural reserves, or historical locations with national or local significance. One of these may be their own Scout Group.
- The Patrol members research their chosen site, focusing on the main challenges it faces, such as environmental threats, lack of funding, vandalism, or declining visitor engagement. Scouts also investigate ways that local communities, visitors, or organizations can contribute to the preservation and support of the site.
- The Patrol compiles their findings into a collaborative project, creating awareness materials such as a blog post, poster series, scrap book, or social media content. Scouts can use photos, historical facts, and action steps for readers to get involved in supporting these sites.
- The Patrol shares their project on Troop or community sites, local libraries, school newsletters, or through social media. They may also present it at a Troop meeting or community event, inspiring others to learn about and support South Africa's heritage.

OR

Individual Task: Scouts will learn about and raise awareness of the challenges faced by a heritage site.

- The Scout must visit a cultural, local, provincial, national, or world heritage site to learn about its significance and identify key challenges it faces in preservation.
- The Scout then designs a poster that highlights the importance of the site, its challenges, and ways the public can help.
- The poster must be presented and explained to their Patrol and, with permission, displayed in their school or a community area e.g. public library, to further raise awareness.

registration

Troop Scouters are requested to register their Troops for participation in the *National Challenge 2025 - Our Heritage* by clicking on the **National Challenge 2025 registration link [HERE](#)**. (Ctrl + Click to follow link). It's simple quick and will only take two minutes!

Please register your Troop for participation in the National Challenge 2025 by the latest 15th February 2025.

deadline

National Challenge 2025 deadline for completion is 30th November 2025.

All entries are to be submitted online, or to your Regional Team Coordinator: Scout Programme, by Monday, 15th December 2025.

national challenge 2025 badge

On completion of the National Challenge 2025, the participating Scouts who successfully completed all of the *Our Heritage Challenges* will be awarded a National Challenge 2025 badge. The Scout Troop will be awarded a special National Challenge 2025 certificate.

risk assessment

There are always potential risks that need to be considered when planning a Patrol Activity or Patrol Community Service Project. It is important that a risk assessment should be undertaken before the activity or service project starts and approval must be obtained from both the Troop Scouter and Parents.

activity permits

Please ensure that the necessary permissions, parent consent forms and SCOUTS South Africa Activity Permits are acquired prior to undertaking any Patrol Activities and Community Service Projects.

note to scouts

We invite you to become more aware of your heritage by accepting the SCOUTS South Africa **National Challenge 2025 - Our Heritage**. We hope that you enjoy yourself whilst discovering your own and our country's heritage, connecting with South African culture and diversity, and taking action with your Patrol in making a positive difference within your community to preserve our heritage.

Please make sure that you have your parent's permission when you go out and keep your Troop Scouter fully informed as to what you are doing.

Also, please remember that you can help SCOUTS South Africa enhance our public visibility by embracing the PR value of the National Challenge 2025. Please take advantage of the PR opportunities and (with parental consent) post your **Our Heritage** activities and photographs on social media.

Suggested hashtags: #OurHeritage #NationalChallenge2025 #scoutssouthafrica #scoutssa #Scouts #Skills4Life #YouthEmpowerment #Scouts4SDGs

appendices:

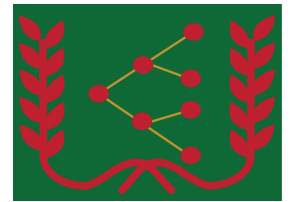
Heritage Scoutcraft Badge requirements:

1. Explain to the examiner what UNESCO defines as heritage, give examples of different heritage types.
2. Provide evidence of your visit to at least **TWO** of the following sites that have been declared a:
 - World heritage site.
 - National heritage site.
 - Provincial heritage site.
3. Explain to the examiner why the sites visited have the status of heritage sites.
4. Explain to the examiner why it is important to protect heritage and what would happen to heritage sites and heritage items if there were no laws in place to protect them.
5. Learn the history and heritage of Scouting in South Africa and your Scout Troop. Then retell the history to your examiner explaining why your Troop has a different heritage to other Scout Troops in your area.
6. Contact an old member of your Troop and talk to them about their time with the Troop.
7. Do the following:
 - Explore the cultural heritage of two non-family members (where their family come from, language(s) they speak, cultural background, and the way they interact with their culture).
 - Ask them to bring a cultural heritage item to a Scout meeting and discuss with your Patrol the significance of their heritage item.
 - Report back to the examiner:
 - What you have learnt about their different cultural heritage.
 - How you can best protect your cultural heritage.
8. Explain to the examiner why it is important for South Africans to acknowledge each other's cultural heritage and celebrate it on Heritage Day.



Genealogy Scout Interest Badge requirements:

1. Explain the meaning of genealogy and genealogical resources.
2. Make a pedigree chart of your family. Fill it in as far as you can at the beginning, and add additional names, dates, and places to it as you obtain further information.
3. Show yourself as a child on a family group record form and show one of your parents as a child on another family group record form.
4. Interview an older relative to obtain information about your family. This interview may be in person, by telephone, or by email. Add any information obtained to your pedigree chart and family group records.
5. Obtain at least one genealogical document showing proof of some information on your pedigree chart or family group records. This document may be located in your home, an archive or library, etc.
6. Tell how you would evaluate genealogical information.
7. Do ONE of the following:
 - Do a timeline for yourself or a close relative.?
 - Keep a journal for six weeks, writing in it at least once weekly.
 - Write a short history of yourself or of a close relative.
8. Do ONE of the following:
 - Record the headstone inscriptions on a small farm cemetery.
 - With other Scouts, record the headstone inscriptions in a town cemetery.
 - Assist in recording a Complete Birth, Marriage or Death register at your local church.
9. Tell where you would find current information about genealogical records and research methods.



Note: The Genealogical Society of South Africa has requested that all recorded information be passed on to them, and all Scouts doing the badge are encouraged to do so. Their website address is <https://genza.org.za/index.php/en/branches/branch-libraries>.