

National Scout Community Day 2024

Celebrating Founders Day – 22nd February 2024

Background

22nd February is celebrated by the scouting world as the Founder Day, in remembrance of our founder Lord Baden Powell who, through his vision, continues to equip young people with life and leadership skills to improve their communities and create a better world.

Keeping in true to one of the key educational objectives of the Scout Youth Programme: Scouts as Active Citizens –creating positive change in their communities, since 2019, the Scout Association of Maldives (Association) has been celebrating Founder’s Day (22nd February) as the National Community Service Day where we celebrated Scouting through various acts of community service. Unlike previous years, this year, we will be celebrating Founder’s Day as National Community Day, paying homage to not only community service but to community involvement in a more wholesome manner.

Understanding Community Involvement

Community Involvement is an essential element of the Scout method as it connects all learning opportunities with the community. In Scouting, we consider active exploration and commitment to one’s community as a great learning opportunity for Scouts. In general, Community Involvement is about conducting our activities in such a way that we engage with our communities through them. It is about conducting Scouting with the community and for the community.

With the Community: This means conducting scouting events and activities in a manner that the community gets to be involved in the activity.

For the Community: Working for the community is about creating positive impact to the community through our actions and activities

Through such interactions, community involvement can be a great way to showcase our presence in the community. It can also be a great way to showcase what scouting is, what we are about and our impact on the community and gain support from the community to the movement.

National Scout Community Day – How?

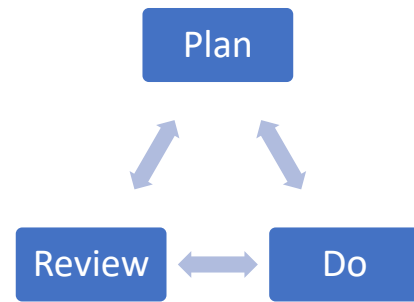
Scout Groups are encouraged to organize activities in the community involving and partnering with different segments of the community. The Association urges all Scout groups to take this opportunity to celebrate the National Community Day and Founder’s Day at the group level through simple and creative activities that can be conducted in collaboration with different community partners and for the benefit of the community. Youth Members are encouraged to use the Plan>Do>Review approach in carrying out a community activity to mark the National Scout Community Day supported by adults and other community partners, during the period 20th – 29th February 2024.

Objectives:

- Providing opportunities for youth members to engage in activities that promote community engagement and service.
- Providing youth members an opportunity to understand local community issues and needs, and how as young people they can contribute in bringing positive change in their communities.
- Promoting the positive impact of Scouting in communities.

Using the Plan > Do > Review model in carrying out community activities:

Plan > Do > Review is a simple model that allows youth members to engage in design thinking through planning an activity, implementation and doing a follow up through a review to understand; what went well, what didn't go well and what needs improvement in future. Scout Leaders are encouraged to introduce the simple Plan > Do > Review model to youth members, support and engage them in organizing a activity addressing a challenge faced in the community.



Here are some activities that can be carried out by Scout Groups in the Community:

The following are some activities that can be carried out by Scout Groups:

Plan:

1. **Community Needs Assessment:** Scouts can conduct surveys or interviews to identify the needs and interests of different segments of the community.
2. **Goal Setting:** Based on the needs assessment, scouts can set specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) goals for their community engagement activities.
3. **Activity Planning:** Scouts can brainstorm ideas for community engagement activities, considering factors such as resources, logistics, and potential impact.
4. **Resource Mobilization:** Scouts can plan how to gather the necessary resources, whether it be materials, volunteers, or support from local organizations.

Do:

1. **Community Clean-up:** Organize a clean-up event in the beach, or neighborhood. Engage other non-scouts in these activities and promote environmental consciousness. Collaborate with local council and other stakeholders in the community.
2. **Community Garden Project:** Start a community garden to provide fresh produce, beautify the area, and educate others about sustainable agriculture. This can be an initiative to start on National Scout Community Day and continue for a longer-term. Engage with local community members in continuing the project – collaborate with local council.
3. **Senior Citizen Outreach:** Visit elderly at their homes to spend time with elderly, play games, or organize entertainment activities. Or organize an evening for the elderly with activities and games for the elderly.

Review:

1. **Evaluation:** Reflect on the success of the activity by assessing how well it met its objectives and whether there were any areas for improvement.
2. **Feedback:** Gather feedback from participants, volunteers, and community members to gain insights into their experiences and suggestions for future activities.
3. **Celebration:** Recognize and celebrate the achievements of the scouts and other stakeholders who contributed and the impact they've made on the community through their efforts.
4. **Documentation:** Document the process and outcomes of the activity through photos, videos, or written reports to share with stakeholders and inspire future initiatives. Share on Social media.

Please keep in mind that these are just examples, and we urge to use creativity while brainstorming activities for the day, ensuring that both a learning experience is provided while a positive mark is also made on the community.

