



Boy Scouts of the Philippines

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NATIONAL OFFICE MEMORANDUM

No. 15 Series of 2019



TO : National Office Directors and Executive
Heads of Offices and Operating Units
Regional Scout Directors
Council Scout Executives
Officers-In-Charge
All Others Concerned

SUBJECT : BSP SUPPORTS THE 2019 EARTH HOUR CELEBRATION

1. **Background and Rationale.** Nature not only provides us with all the things we need to live - from the air we breathe to the water we drink, and from the shelter we need to the economy we rely on - but also makes our lives better. However, its growing loss puts this all under threat. For the past 10 years, people around the world have come together every Earth Hour to support efforts to tackle climate change. And, together, we have created a powerful movement that helped deliver strong global commitments to tackling this threat. Climate change remains a big challenge for us all. But another urgent threat now demands our attention: the loss of nature. These two combined threats mean we must act - and now.
2. **Aim and Objectives.** The event aims to crease the level of awareness among people in the communities and be able to tackle and adapt to climate change. Learn to switch to clean sources of renewable energy, start practicing sustainable development in communities and be able to send a clear message to our society to take positive action against global warming.

The **Earth Hour** is a global grass-roots movement under the **World Wildlife Fund** (www.wwf.org) for the planet to engage massive mainstream community on broad range of environmental issues. The event is held worldwide towards the end of March annually, encouraging individuals, communities, households, businesses, government agencies and private corporations to **turn-off their non-essential lights for one (1) hour** as a symbol for their commitment to save and protect the planet.

3. **Take Action.** You can join us and take action. Scouts and Non-Scouts, Youth and Young People from different groups and association are enjoined to witness the symbolic **Switch-Off Event** for the **2019 Earth Hour Celebration** on **30 March 2019** at the **Circuit Events Grounds, Ayala Malls, Circuit in Makati City** from **08:30 to 09:30 PM** local time.

We are encouraging all Regional Offices and Local Councils nationwide to plan and organize your Local Switch Off Event through our Sponsoring Institutions and see to it that Scout Troops, Senior Scout Outfits and Rover Circles are well informed and aware of this annual event.

Local Councils within National Capital Region, especially those located near the Switch-Off Event in Makati City are enjoined to organize Senior Scout Crews and Rover Scout Teams to witness and participate in the event. There are series of learning sessions and activities related to environment education that has been prepared for all Scouts and participating non-Scouts by the event organizer including Film Showing, Slogan and Poster Making Contest and Spoken Poetry.

There are also similar events nationwide through various **SM Malls and Ayala Malls**. Local Councils may coordinate with the one nearest you and make sure our Scouts are counted to make a difference and promote nature and environment for the future generations.


Earth Hour event has been included as part of the **WSEP Take Action** requirements to accomplish the **World Scout Environment Badge** as adopted by the BSP.

4. **Tell Us Your Stories.** This year marked the **10th Year of Active Participation** of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines in this annual event. It has been further strengthen by the official partnership signed between the Boy Scouts of the Philippines and the **Kabang Kalikasan in Pilipinas Foundation Inc.** also known as the **World Wildlife Fund Philippines** to ensure strategic initiatives and more youth-led engagement were prioritize in taking action to save, conserve and protect the environment with more Scouts and young people at the forefront.

Inspire and motivate others to take action. Keep your stories on various social media newsfeed on top by using the following official hashtags: **#Connect2Earth; #AyokoNgPlastik; #Scouts4SDGs; #Scouts #BetterWorld; #MessengersofPeacePh**

Do not forget to log-on to www.scout.org and make your **2019 Earth Hour Event** as part of your **Community Service Project**. Make a commitment to protect and conserve the environment by avoiding to use plastics in our day-to-day activities such as plastic straws, cups, wrappers, bottles and alike as it has been tremendously polluting our seas, oceans and inland water ways.

5. Learn more about Earth Hour at <https://www.earthhour.org/> or join our Facebook event at [bit.ly/EarthHourPH2019](https://www.facebook.com/EarthHourPH2019)
6. Should you have further queries, you may refer them directly to **Mr. Zeon L. Valdez**, Program Assistant and World Scout Environment Coordinator at 02 527 83 17 loc. 151 Telefax at 02 527 5112 or via email at zeonvaldez100781@gmail.com
7. Enclosed herewith is the **EARTH HOUR 2019 Campaign Overview** for your easy reference.
8. For information, guidance and widest dissemination of all concerned.


ROGELIO S. VILLA, JR.
Secretary General

FOD.SDH.yfs

**THIS
EARTH HOUR**
#CONNECT2EARTH



SWITCH OFF AT
30 MARCH 2019
8:30PM



WWF's Earth Hour 2019 Campaign Overview

A new role for Earth Hour

Starting as a symbolic lights out event in Sydney in 2007, WWF's Earth Hour has grown to become the world's largest grassroots movement for the environment. It's been more successful than we ever imagined - inspiring individuals, communities, businesses and organizations and reaching more than 180 countries and territories in 2018.

While climate change remains a vital issue for our planet, we believe the spotlight must also focus on the accelerating loss of nature and the threats this poses to us all. We need a new deal for nature and people, to generate and galvanize attention in a similar way to what was achieved with the 2015 Paris agreement on climate change. And we need the Earth Hour movement to play a key role.

This Earth Hour, we will invite our hundreds of millions of supporters and global networks to spark never-before-had conversations on the loss of nature around them. We need to reach more people than ever, helping them to understand why nature is so vital for their health, well-being and prosperity, and why we need urgent action.

Over the past decade, Earth Hour has helped bring climate action to the top of the agenda. Now is the time for us to build on this to create a broader movement for nature.

A journey to reverse the loss of nature

The journey to reverse the loss of nature starts here.

We will have a tremendous opportunity to influence the future direction of some of the world's most important policy instruments for sustainable development in the year 2020: the Paris Agreement, Sustainable Development Goals and UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). We need policy makers to reset the agenda so that by 2030 the loss of nature starts to reverse.

We believe that if people better understand what nature gives them - that it is not a 'nice to have' - they will try harder to protect it. Our global network is joining together to help connect people to the benefits and values of nature (and the danger of its loss) - a vital first step in building support for the global policy changes needed to reverse nature loss.

Earth Hour is one of the key opportunities for us to drive awareness, conversations and actions in the public and media to spotlight on this issue. We've partnered with the UN Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD) to achieve its Aichi Biodiversity Target 1 so that hundreds of millions of people understand

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the importance of biodiversity, which plays a critical role in protecting both people and nature.

'Nature Matters'

Nature not only provides us with all the things we need to live - from the air we breathe to the water we drink, and from the shelter we need to the economy we rely on - but also makes our lives better. However, its growing loss puts this all under threat. This Earth Hour, join millions around the world to turn off the lights and speak up about why nature matters. #Connect2Earth

For the past 10 years, people around the world have come together every Earth Hour to support efforts to tackle climate change. And, together, we have created a powerful movement that helped deliver strong global commitments to tackling this threat.

Climate change remains a big challenge for us all. But another urgent threat now demands our attention: the loss of nature. These two combined threats mean we must act - and now.

No Plastic in Nature Initiative

The Philippines is the 3rd biggest plastic polluter of oceans in the world. Single-use plastics (SUPs), which are used on an average of 7 minutes, take more than 100 years to decompose. Worse, they break up into smaller pieces called microplastic. These can be ingested by fish, and make it up the food chain to humans.

In its continuing effort to conserve the environment, the WWF network launched the "No Plastic in Nature Initiative" which aims to stop plastics from entering nature through: elimination of unnecessary plastic; doubling reuse, recycling and recovery; and ensuring remaining plastic is sourced responsibly by 2030. Adopting this initiative, WWF – Philippines targets to work on three work streams: (1) cities to push for local policies and legislations on SUP reduction, recycling, and waste management; (2) businesses through the Sustainable Journey to eliminate SUPs in the supply chain and to establish a circular economy path; and (3) general public through the #AyokoNgPlastik movement to spearhead individual actions to reduce and eventually eradicate single-use plastics in the country. Together with other vital partners, WWF-Philippines aims to achieve a long-term solution to this environmental problem that significantly contributes to nature loss.

To achieve its goal of eliminating plastic waste in the Philippines by reducing plastic waste leakage in the oceans by 80 to 100% by December 2030, WWF-Philippines believes that the way to end the plastics crisis is for the businesses, government, and consumers to work together.

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Creating a Better World with the Boy Scouts of the Philippines

This year, WWF has partnered with the Boy Scouts of the Philippines to further engage the youth in addressing pressing environmental problems such as the issue of plastic pollution. In line with the “*Scout for SDGs*” of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, Earth Hour is the beginning of a partnership that goes beyond the hour with the goal of creating a better world and a future where both nature and humans thrive.

It all starts with Earth Hour 2019

WWF’s Earth Hour 2019 is an amazing opportunity for everyone to #Connect2Earth and declare #AyokoNgPlastik as a way to start changing the planet for the better. As one nation, we can join millions around the world to switch off the lights and shed a light on the issue of single-use plastics and why we need to address it to help reverse nature loss. Nature matters and so do our voices. Let’s all raise awareness and help change mindsets and habits when it comes single-use plastic usage towards our ultimate goal of mobilizing public support for legislations on plastic waste management.

For more about WWF’s work in helping to reverse nature loss, visit panda.org/connect2earth.

To engage in conversations on plastics, join facebook.com/groups/ayokongplastik.