



Boy Scouts of the Philippines

National Office

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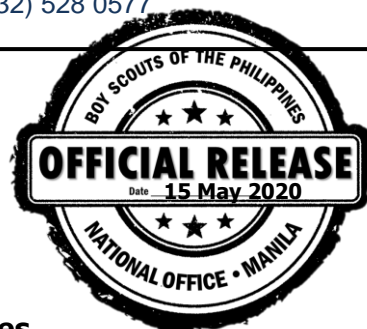
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15 May 2020



NATIONAL OFFICE MEMORANDUM

No. 34, s. 2020

TO : National Office Directors and Executives
Regional Scout Directors and Executives
Council Scout Executives and Officers-In-Charge
Commissioners at all Ranks and Levels
Lay Leaders and Members-at-Large
Unit Leaders, Parents and Guardians of Scouts
All Others Concerned

SUBJECT : Urban Agriculture Project (UAP) under the "Ahon Lahat, Pagkain Sapat Kontra Sa Covid-19 (ALPAS Sa Covid-19)" between the Department of Agriculture (DA), Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) and the Boy Scouts of the Philippines (BSP)

1. As the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Global Pandemic affects the normal course of crop and food production and distribution in the country, especially in the National Capital Region, including the Highly Urbanized Cities (HUCs) in nearby provinces, the Department of Agriculture has conceptualized and developed the "Urban Agriculture Project" under the "Ahon Lahat, Pagkain Sapat Kontra sa COVID-19" or more commonly known as "ALPAS sa COVID-19". The project aims to ensure **food availability** and **economic gains** (through an alternative source of livelihood) in Metro Manila and other selected cities and provinces especially during COVID-19 crisis where community quarantine is being implemented.
2. The Boy Scouts Philippines (BSP), in pursuit of its mandate, which is to "promote and encourage, through organization and cooperation with other agencies, the ability of boys to do useful things for themselves and others, to train them in Scoutcraft, and to inculcate in them patriotism, civic-consciousness and responsibility, courage, self-reliance, discipline, and kindred virtues, and moral values", ...(*Sec. 3 of Sec. 1 of R.A. 7278*), expresses its full support to the DA-BPI's Urban Agriculture Project under "ALPAS sa COVID-19" through a partnership with the Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Plant Industry.
3. The BSP deems the project timely and relevant, as gardening also encourages **waste reduction** (through the use of recyclable containers such as pots and the use of kitchen wastes as organic fertilizers), **prevents pollution** (since no chemicals will be used) and promotes **good health and wellness** (gardening as an outdoor exercise and stress reliever).
4. Last 06 May 2020, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) has been signed by both parties at the Office of the Department of Agriculture in Quezon City. No less than the National President Roberto M. Pagdanganan and DA Secretary William D. Dar were present during the inking ceremony. This undertaking is one of the BSP's major contributions to R.A

11469, "The Bayanihan to Heal as One Act" signed into law last March 25,2020, by our Chief Scout, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte.

5. Under the Urban Agriculture Development project,

5.1 The Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Plant Industry, shall implement the program, through the following acts:

- a. Provide initial agricultural inputs such as seeds, plastic sheets, nets for greenhouse, and knapsack sprayer, including Urban Agriculture garden modules and technical assistance for barangay community/school/university/public office gardens;
- b. Provide starter kits that will include seeds of common vegetables suited in the area, soil, and polyethylene bags to start their own container or home garden;
- c. Lead in the advocacy campaign for Urban Agriculture;
- d. Provide Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials and trainings on UA techniques, in coordination with Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), through offline or online courses including social media ie. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Youtube Livestream, etc.;
- e. Provide technical assistance to barangay community/school/university/public office garden in the maintenance and sustenance of the site; and
- f. Conduct semestral monitoring of the barangay community/school/university/public office gardens.

5.2. The Boy Scouts of the Philippines, on the other hand, shall implement the program, through the following acts:

- a. Provide the required area for the establishment of the garden;
- b. Assign people who will manage the garden and identify professionals and volunteers who will be trained as trainers;
- c. Attend DA-BPI capability building interventions;
- d. Ensure availability of water supply and ensure the security of DA personnel providing the technical assistance;
- e. Promote Urban Agriculture through social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Youtube Livestream, etc.;
- f. Maintain operation records: production and sales/utilization data, technologies developed/shared farm activities undertaken, farm visitors and trainees served, problems encountered and other relevant accomplishments including photo documentation;
- g. Submit quarterly accomplishment report to DA-BPI; and
- h. Sustain the operation of barangay community/university/school/public office/household gardens.

6. The project is open to all Scouts and Scout Leaders who are interested to benefit from the Urban Agriculture program at homes, communities, churches, schools, offices, camps, etc. in cities and provinces near the following BPI centers:
 - a. Bureau of Plant Industry (**Manila**)
692 San Andres Street, Malate, Manila
(02) 8525-7857
 - b. **Baguio** National Crop Research Development and Production Support Center
Guisad Valley, Baguio, 2600, Benguet
 - c. **Los Baños** National Crop Research Development and Production Support Center
Timugan, Los Baños, Laguna
 - d. **La Granja** National Crop Research Development and Production Support Center
6130 La Granja, La Carlota City, **Negros Occidental**
 - e. **Guimaras** National Crop Research Development and Production Support Center
San Miguel, Jordan, Guimaras
 - f. **Davao** National Crop Research Development and Production Support Center
Brgy. Bago Oshiro, Tugbok, Davao City, 8000
6. Those who are interested to participate in this project must coordinate directly to the Field Operations Division Office, thru **Ms. Sophia U. Castillo**, BSP Go Green and Plant & Nurture Trees Coordinator, via email address sophiecastillo@gmail.com or through her mobile number +69 98 594 0157.
7. Kindly share your inspiring stories, videos, pictures and narratives to our Public Relations and Communications Office, thru **Mr. David Dominic M. Lanuza**, Public Relations Officer, via the following email addresses: ddml.bsp@gmail.com, prco.bsp@gmail.com and scouts.ph@gmail.com.
8. Please make use of our official hashtags #ScoutsAgainstCOVID19, #ScoutsPH #LagingHandaPH, #ScoutsStayHomePH, #UrbanAgriculture, #MessengersOfPeace, and #Scouts4SDGs to keep track of our online engagement, reach and impact. You may visit our official website at www.scouts.org.ph and official social media accounts @boyscoutsPH in Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.
9. For information, guidance and widest dissemination.


ROGELIO S. VILLA, JR.
Secretary General