



# Topics for Discussion

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7th APR Scout Youth Forum  
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## TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

The Planning Committee of the 7th APR Scout Youth Forum has created an online discussion site at <http://7apryouthforum.proboards.com/>. The list of the proposed "topics for discussion" are listed below, according to the number of views it received, as follows:

### **1. Bridging the gap with less privileged communities**

As the world progresses in education, health and economy at a rapid pace, there are societies or communities struggling to reap the benefits from these 'developments' happening around them. As Scouts are deeply involved in community development, what can be potential roles of Scouts in uplifting the lives of these people?

This topic is related to Youth Involvement in the community, which is the third area of work for young people to be fully involved in decision-making in the Movement (The Youth Involvement Toolbox, 2005). This topic is also related to is one of the four priorities set by the World Scout Committee for the triennium 2011-2014 - "Youth for Change." This topic can also cover "Scouts of the World Award and the "Messengers of Peace" Project.

Young people can discuss and identify the impact they have in the world in order to encourage them to take active role in their communities. Young people in the Youth Forum could come up with some ideas for actual programs that NSOs could support.

### **2. Bridging people and the environment**

Nature has inspired the human civilization to innovate with brilliant ideas and progress. Yet, the physical environment is being sacrificed the most for paving the way for development. Without the sustainability of 'Nature' the existence of the human race is impossible. What can we do to protect the environment from being depleted?

Most NSOs have "A Scout Cares for the Environment" as one of the points of the Scout Law. How does this particular law manifest at the unit level and what concrete activities take place to fulfill this law?

Looking at the World Scout Environment Programme, young people at the Youth Forum could call upon themselves to put together recommendations on how they will actively participate, enhance and promote the WSEP. Furthermore, the Youth Forum can also make recommendations on how to make an impact during the Earth Hour, Clean Up the World, and the World Environment Day.

### **3. Bridging the digital divide**

With the economic disparity comes the disability to connect to the digital world, which is a major reason for some communities to prosper at a slower pace than others. In fact, according to a Penn State telecommunications researcher, technology is helping communication companies merge telephone, television and Internet services, but a push to deregulate may leave some customers on the wrong side of the digital divide during this convergence. Technology convergence may widen the digital divide.

How can we contribute to connect the unconnected communities? How do we harness technology to aid and ensure the effective implementation of the Scout Method at the grassroot level? Is this possible considering recurring costs?

NOTE:

*The above topics are pre-selected topics chosen based on the feedback from the online discussion board. These topics are sent to Youth Forum Participants, well in advanced so that they may be able to study and prepare before the Youth Forum. Coming prepared to the Youth Forum is very important so that participants actively participate in the discussions and eventually, come up with good recommendations which the conference may pick up as a conference resolution.*