



World Association
of Girl Guides
and Girl Scouts

Association mondiale
des Guides et des
Eclaireuses

Asociación
Mundial de las
Guías Scouts

MEDIA RELEASE

Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world Vote Earth!

London, 16 November 2009 – Eighteen Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from around the world will attend the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 7 to 18 December as part of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) delegation.

These young women will convince world leaders at the conference about the need to put youth at the centre of efforts to combat climate change as it is their future most at stake. The delegates will be involved in the pre event Conference of Youth (COY), they will contribute to the outcome statement of the conference, they will lobby national delegations and they will speak out at WAGGGS and partner events to raise awareness about the issues.

To ensure that girls and young women around the world are aware of the issue of climate change and are equipped to take action against it, WAGGGS has partnered with the FAO and WWF to produce climate change campaigns and several education resources. One of them is the new Food Security and Climate Change Challenge Badge, which will make young people aware of the issues of environmental protection and food security and inspire them to be an active part of solving the problems. The curriculum can be downloaded from the WAGGGS website.

WAGGGS is partnering with WWF on its Earth Hour Lantern Project, where children around the world will assemble paper lanterns and send them to the Danish capital inscribed with their personal message to world leaders. Every lantern received by 10 December will be paraded in front of world leaders during the Earth Hour Copenhagen event on 16 December. Girl Guides and Girl Scouts will represent their fellow youths around the world as they carry the lanterns and the messages from children.

"The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and WWF partnership enables girls and young women to have a voice in the debate on climate change. Through educational programmes and advocacy action, girls and young women are directly influencing decision makers and their own futures. Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world have always taken leadership roles on important issues and at COP 15 they continue their almost 100 year tradition of caring for the planet," said Mary Mc Phail, Chief Executive of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

Accompanying the lantern project, Earth Hour has produced Vote Earth Education Packs. The education packs, separated into two age categories; 8-12 and 12-16, were developed by an award-winning education specialist and address the issue of climate change and the Copenhagen summit using youth friendly, informal education techniques.

Earth Hour Lantern Kits and Vote Earth Education Packs are available for download at earthhour.org and waggsworld.org, providing a fun and creative way for kids to play an active role in the most crucial UN meeting of their lifetime.

Earth Hour and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts encourages the use of recycled paper for making lanterns and will ensure that all paper lanterns received in Copenhagen will be recycled.

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About the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts

With ten million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from 145 countries across the world, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) is the largest voluntary movement dedicated to supporting girls and young women to develop their full potential as responsible citizens of the world. We deliver a well-established, unique value-based approach to non-formal learning, innovative global programmes and advocacy on issues such as leadership, HIV and AIDS, environmental sustainability, health and empowerment and equality. For more information, visit www.wagggsworld.org

FAO and WAGGGS

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have collaborated on a series of projects, such as the cartoon book and activity guide about “The Right to Food” that is used internationally by schools and associations dedicated to educating children and young people in creative ways, and the Nutrition Medal that has been awarded to numerous guides and scouts all over the world

About Earth Hour’s Vote Earth

Earth Hour’s Vote Earth campaign builds on the call for action on climate change provided by millions of people, companies and communities during Earth Hour. The campaign aims to provide a platform for the people of the world to deliver world leaders a mandate for the right decision to be made at the United Nations Climate Summit in Copenhagen in December 2009. Find out more about the campaign at www.earthhour.org. Earth Hour’s Vote Earth is organised by WWF.

About WWF

WWF is one of the world’s largest and most respected independent conservation organizations, with almost 5 million supporters and a global network active in over 100 countries. WWF’s mission is to stop the degradation of the earth’s natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world’s biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption..