

Take the
**City
Nature
Challenge**



What is it?

Cape Town is participating in the 2021 City Nature Challenge which runs from 30 April – 3 May 2021. Meerkats, Cubs, Scouts and Scouters are invited to participate and help put the City of Cape Town on the Biodiversity Map. This year we will be observing across the city in our homes, gardens, urban parklands and nature reserves.

Why?

It is fun. Cape Town is one of the most biodiverse cities on earth. We need to put Cape Town on the map and make people worldwide aware of our importance. Western Cape Scouts are part of this and have a history in 2019 and 2020 to contributing a significant amount of data!

What does the Cub, Scout, Scouter need and do?

- A smartphone with camera and GPS turned on.
- A Wi-Fi connection at home (or data for phone - but this can be expensive).
- To install the iNaturalist app and sign up.
- To join the "Scouts South Africa" project on iNaturalist.

Supervision

- Parents are welcome to supervise Meerkats, Cubs and Scouts who do not have their own smartphone.
- Ideally siblings and parents should all have their own login username. However, less optimally, you may also use one username in the family.

How to install App

- Go to Play Store (Android) or App Store (iPhone) and download and install the iNaturalist app.
- Create a username and password. Click on the hamburger icon (the three horizontal lines) and then Sign Up.
- **Join the Scouts South Africa project in the iNaturalist App.** Click on the hamburger icon (Android) or More (iPhone), Projects, magnifying glass, search for Scouts South Africa, click on it and then click on Join.
- Practice submitting an observation. Click on the + button (Android) or camera button (iPhone) at bottom right of screen. **Click on Add to Projects and add "Scouts South Africa" to each observation.**

How to submit an Observation

- The City Nature Challenge runs from 30 April - 3 May 2021.
- During those days and nights use the app to record as many plants, animals and fungi that you find in your home and garden but better still **in the Table Mountain National Park, Sandvlei, Rondevlei, False Bay, Helderberg Tygerberg and Steenbras or any local Nature Reserve**. Ideally photos should document naturally occurring subjects, including aliens and pests.
- There are no limits to the number of observations. You can submit hundreds.
- You may use the phone app (easy) or may use a traditional camera – but then you need to use a computer and web browser to upload your photographs. The username and password on the phone app is the same as on the web. Go to www.inaturalist.org.za, login and upload photos.
- Everything that can be done on the phone app can be done on the computer by going to www.inaturalist.org.za. More seasoned users may prefer to use a camera, computer and web browser but make sure you can give accurate localities i.e. latitude and longitude.

Rules

- No selfies, people, pets and pot plants.
- Photos of animals, plants or fungi growing in your garden, parks or nature reserves and even indoors are good subjects. Look inside and underneath pot plants for woodlice, snails, earthworms, etc., and on the plants for caterpillars, aphids, scale and others that enjoy your plants. Photograph fleas and ticks on your pets.
- Take several pictures of any animal/plant to show different important features.
- Zoom in for small things - it must fill the screen and not be a dot on the picture.
- Only one species per observation. Start another observation for any other species.

Tips

- Do not worry about identifications (teams will do that later).
- Switch on your GPS at least 2 minutes before you start to get accurate localities.
- Switch off autocomplete names and automatic upload to save data. Synchronize when you get to a Wi-Fi hotspot.

What is in it for me?

- Any Meerkat, Cub, Scout or uniformed Scouter who submits 10 or more **valid observations** from 30 April - 3 May 2021 is eligible to wear the green City Nature Challenge badge pictured here on the right.
- This will help put Scouts SA Western Cape on the map. You will be contributing to a worthwhile conservation project with thousands of other participants around the world.
- You will earn points for the Tonkin Trophy for your Group.



Checking your Observations

You should:

- **Check the number of valid observations you think you have by clicking on the link** https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?d1=2021-04-30&d2=2021-05-03&place_id=52355&project_id=scouts-south-africa&subview=table&view=observers
- Scroll down and look for your username.
- The number of observations alongside your name is officially your contribution. If it does not match the number of observations you see on your phone then you need to fix it. To do so:
 - Sync your phone to make sure everything is loaded. What is on your phone will not be uploaded to iNaturalist until you sync. Remember to sync after you make any changes on your phone.
 - Did you join the Scouts South Africa project as a once off?
 - Did you add the Scouts South Africa project to your all your observations? Check your observations, and if not, then add the project.
 - Did the pictures upload? Occasionally if you upload with a weak signal the picture fails - sync your phone. Observations without pictures do not count towards the City Nature Challenge.

- Do all your observations have the correct date (30 April - 3 May 2021). Check the dates – if the date did not upload then fix it.
- Have you hidden your locality? We prefer it if you don't hide it and it should be "Open", but if you are worried or have privacy issues or concerns, then set it to "Obscured". Do not use "Private" because your observations will not count if set to "Private".
- Do all your observations have a locality from inside the City of Cape Town? Check your map. If they are not in the city, then edit the locality of the observation(s).
- Does your locality have an acceptable Locality Accuracy? It should be in the range of 2-20m. If it is over 50km it will not be in the city. Please double-check your locality and fix it.
- Did you remember to sync after you made your changes?
- **You may also make changes by using a computer and logging on to www.inaturalist.org.za. This may be easier and quicker option to resolve issues.**

Claiming the Badge

- A list of all those usernames who have 10 or more observations will be published on the Western Cape mailing list on 14 May 2021.
- The City Nature Challenge event badges will be available at the Scout Shop and cost no more than R25 per badge depending on how many need to be ordered.
- City Nature Challenge event badges are awarded for achieving the object of a minimum of 10 observations and not the effort put in. The City Nature Challenge is not like an advancement or interest badges where Cub and Scout effort can be considered. Parent and Scouter assistance in achieving the object may be sought.

Further Information

City Nature Challenge 2021: <http://citynaturechallenge.org/>

Cape Town City Nature Challenge: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2021-city-of-cape-town>.

Scouts South Africa project. <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/scouts-south-africa>

Leaderboard for Scouts contributions to the 2021 Cape Town City Nature Challenge: https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?d1=2021-04-30&d2=2021-05-03&place_id=52355&project_id=scouts-south-africa&subview=table&view=observers

Email nigel.forshaw@scout.org.za if you have any questions.

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