

THE EARTH CHARTER

one human family — one earth community

We are living at a very important time in Earth's history. The choices we make today will determine the future of life on Earth. All people of Earth are in the same human family. People, plants, animals, soil, air, and water form one Earth community. We need to listen to and help one another and work together to protect our Earth community.

Earth, Our Home

Planet Earth is part of an amazing, vast universe. On this planet are many different kinds of plants, animals, and people — all linked to one another in a complex web of life. All forms of life depend on one another and on Earth's soil, air, and water. When one part is weak or unhealthy, all other parts are affected. Earth provides everything we need. Every man-made thing started from something in nature. Plants and animals provide food and clothing. People build shelters using soil, clay, rock, trees, plants, and animal skins. People depend on air to breathe and on water for drinking, cleaning, growing plants, and more.



Problems on Earth

People have been wasting a lot of what they take from nature — plants, animals, water, metals, minerals, oil. Some of these precious resources nature can replace, but it often takes a long time. Others are irreplaceable. Many people use soil in ways that take away its life and allow it to be washed away where it clogs up rivers and lakes. Many industries release pollutants into air, water, and soil. While some people have much more than they need, many many others do not have enough food or clean water to stay healthy. Violence, such as war, destroys homes, health, and life.



What We Must Do

All people must join together to care for Earth and for one another. We have the scientific knowledge and means to clean up our air, water, and soil and to take care of everyone's basic needs. The principles of the Earth Charter show us what to do.



RESPECT AND CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY OF LIFE

- Respect Earth and understand, love, and care for all life.
- Find ways for people to live together peacefully and work together for the good of all.
- Make Earth healthy and beautiful for future children.



ALL FORMS OF LIFE ARE INTERCONNECTED

- Protect and restore the web of life.
- Don't take chances that may be harmful to Earth's environment.
- Live and do business in ways that are healthy for Earth and for people.
- Share with others how to protect and restore Earth's health.



EVERYONE DESERVES EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

- Guarantee that everyone has enough to meet their basic needs.
- Be sure that everyone gets a fair share of Earth's resources.
- Secure equality for everyone.
- Protect the rights of all people to live in dignity, health, and happiness.



PROTECT FREEDOMS AND CREATE PEACE

- The purpose of government is to serve and protect the people.
- Treat all living beings with respect and consideration.
- Encourage people to use their words to resolve conflicts.



THE WAY FORWARD

People of Earth must join hands to make a new start. Governments must work together in the United Nations. Talking things over is the best way to proceed. Every person, every family, every group, every community, every adult, every child can play a part. Together we can create a better earth for all.



Get your kids involved for a better future today. For more information, visit www.earthscouts.org or call (813) 254-8454.