



Planet Green Force Concept

With the issue of global warming top of mind, Planet Green Force (PGF) is envisioned as a worldwide league for children K-12, with the mission to educate, ignite passion, build awareness and mount meaningful change in battling global warming and embracing green initiatives and food security. This is especially critical in areas where poor and marginalized communities experience environmental injustices.

PGF Troops will become the next generation of dedicated green “warriors,” advocating for responsible environmental policies and practices in their own communities and globally. Individual schools and/or communities will have local troops where children and teachers/leaders meet and take part in age-appropriate curriculum including those incorporating environmental justice themes, “green” community service/volunteering, and engaging activities/project work. Key will be collaboration and incorporation of best practices from top green programming already in existence such as the USDA’s Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC), the Forest Service’s “Just for Kids,” and FSIS educational resources; US DOE’s “Green Ribbon Schools;” EPA’s “Kiddle” materials; NOAA Ocean Guardian Kids Club, US Department of the Interior programs, UN’s Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) and more.

The objective is to start with three – six schools in the USVI as a pilot project. Then with data and success, the plan would be to expand throughout the territory. Lobbying efforts would be initiated to target the US Congress as well as the president and governors to launch PGF as a nonpartisan nationwide effort while simultaneously working to firm up international partners by soliciting support from UNEP, UN, COP, etc.

In addition to establishing PGF, we’d also advocate for mandated “green” K-12 curriculum in every grade both in the USVI and nationwide, and encourage every elected official to publish their green/sustainability strategy/policies. Our vision would be for each state and territorial governor to have the equivalent of a cabinet-level “Secretary of Green Living/Environment” where one may not already exist.

Municipal recycling needs to be put in place in the USVI and nationwide, and these measures will help support that goal.

As touched on, we would look to collaborate with established organizations that already have robust green curriculum/club experiences in place. In addition to government entities mentioned previously, examples include the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) Greening STEM Hub, National Wildlife Federation's Schoolyard Habitats®, Green Camp, Bali, Eco Schools, etc. In this way, the very best age-appropriate activities/content will help inform the PGF model. Additionally we will look to spread understanding and awareness of the growing importance technology plays in reaching sustainability and environmental justice goals.

The ultimate mission would be to have PGF in every community internationally. This will create a generation of eco-minded, environmental green LEADERS around the world.

PGF Highlights:

- Similar to Boy/Girl Scouts, PGF troopers earn badges after completing a series of hands-on green tasks/initiatives. Consider the use of more environmentally friendly electronic badges vs. physical badges.
- PGF troops will engage in compelling age-appropriate activities/curriculum that educate on climate change, green/sustainability issues and environmental justice while promoting teamwork and a sense of fun. Opportunity for camps.
- PGF will introduce troops to “AI for Good” technology and the important role AI and other technological advancements play in the advancement of sustainability goals now and in the future.
- Themes would take on global issues while applying them to issues in their communities. A few examples include:
 - An agricultural “Seeds of Security” Program that addresses the importance of food security/sovereignty by having students grow their own container gardens, learn how to compost, help develop cafeteria lunch menu items incorporating what they’ve grown, sell excess crops through school marketplaces to help make the program self-sufficient and examine key scientific, nutritional and mathematical metrics related to the project. (Further details on separate information sheet.)
 - A Mangrove Restoration Project that includes hands-on planting and cleanups that underscore the importance of mangroves to biodiversity,

stabilization of the coastline through erosion prevention, role in keeping local water supplies clean, etc.

- A “Four Rs” Program that addresses the importance of Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle through having students collect recyclable items in their community; create artwork or otherwise repurpose what others might think is “trash;” and create their own school “thrift shops” where families and the community can find value in things no longer needed by others; etc.
- Key is for youth to be encouraged and rewarded for spreading what they learn to parents, classmates and the community.
- To motivate members of each battalion/troop, there would be regional competitions incorporating the most innovative approaches to exploring global warming /sustainable issue solutions. Best concepts/entries could be presented at the World Economic Forum to encourage businesses to adopt, as well as at UN General Assembly, COP, etc.
- The ability to compare ideas, collaborate and work as teams is essential.
- Activities will include creating innovative solutions as well as community-based projects instilling the power of volunteerism.
- In step with the PGF Troops, there is value in creating interactive PGF Centers around the globe, with the flagship on St. John, to support community engagement and eco-tourism. “Boot camps” for kids (and their families) would offer exciting, intensive eco-programming while helping build a new generation of committed green ambassadors. More details on the PGF Center concept are outlined separately.

Funding

By seeking the support of the government, the aim would be to garner federal funding. To this end, we’d also pursue EPA & USDA support to allocate green education funds in addition to other federal sources such as USDA, Dept of Interior, etc. which already budget funds for green education and activities.

These efforts will also be funded through philanthropic endeavors and fundraising.