

2018 MADAGASCAR AMBATO BOENI • SCOUTS CANADA



Information Package





SALAME!

Salame is a normal greeting in Madagascar. It's Malagasy (the first official language of Madagascar) for "Hello" and, appropriately, comes from the word for peace. Since 2006, Scouts Canada has been working in partnership with the village of Ambato Boeni, Madagascar on several community development initiatives and we're heading back in August 2018! Will you be part of this adventure?

Madagascar is one of the most fascinating countries on the face of the Earth and one that most people will only ever imagine (if they know it's actually a real place at all!) The island existed for 88 million years as a separate landmass from all other continents, leading to some of the most varied flora and fauna in the world, like lemurs and chameleons. As people started to migrate along trade routes, and through colonization, Madagascar has been influenced by Arabic speaking traders (which is where the word "*salame*" comes from), the English, the French and even the Russians! Today, it is a cultural mosaic of people from all around the Indian Ocean and South Asia.

The people of Madagascar in general, and of Ambato Boeni in particular, are incredibly welcoming. They are always willing to share a laugh or a smile, two things that easily break down language barriers. The trip will not simply be limited to working on a construction site. You'll have the opportunity to get out and meet and interact with people, experience the culture and see parts of this unique and amazing country.

Not only is Madagascar different from nearly all other places on Earth, but it's incredibly different from one side of the island to the other. From the capital of Antananarivo to the village of Ambato Boeni, you'll travel through densely populated city to grasslands, rolling hills, the windswept peak of the island, lush forests and then the dusty Boeni region, all within 600km! The rapid transformation of the country as you drive across it is spectacular!

Madagascar is a country that most people will only ever dream of visiting. Creating a better world is something that we all strive to do as Scouts. Here's your chance to bring both of these together in a life-changing adventure.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Over the years, youth and adults from Scouts Canada have worked closely with the people of Ambato Boeni to accomplish many different projects in 2009, 2012, 2014 and 2016. We've built six classrooms in two different buildings, homes for families, a water tower, a washroom and shower facility, eight wells (with another now underway), an administrative centre for the school including a kitchen, offices and a storage area, and even a compost station! There is always something to do at the Roborobo Public School.

We're still finalizing details for the 2018 project with our partners in Ambato Boeni, but it's important to remember that a project like this will not change the course of world history. It won't achieve all the Sustainable Development Goals of

the United Nations (or even be the solution to just one of them), but it will contribute in its own way to changing the lives of others for the better. There are two great examples of the impact this project has had over the years:

In 2008, the leading cause of death among children in Ambato Boeni was water-borne disease. Since our partnership to dig the first wells in 2009, *not a single child in the village has died from water-borne disease*. The impact can be that great.

In 2013, after the first academic year that the Roborobo school was open, the school was recognized by the ministry of education in Madagascar for having scored the highest average mark of any school in the region on the national standardized tests. The school was so successful after the first three classrooms were built, we went back and built three more two years later. Today, the school holds 300 students and offers a full primary education.

GETTING READY FOR ADVENTURE

So, how do you get from here to Madagascar? The first step is to fill out the application form. If you're having trouble finding the form online, just send us an email at MADproject2018@gmail.com and we'll send one just for you! The form is just like creating a resume and cover letter, but in this case, we let you know all the things we want to know about you. There is an age requirement to participate in Madagascar 2018. You must have been born between August 31, 1991 and September 1, 2003.

Make sure you get your application submitted either by email or by old fashioned mail by August 15, 2017.

Over the course of the 11 months leading up to departure, we'll meet regularly as a team to train and plan for the project, as well as to get used to working together. These meetings will also give us a chance to plan fundraisers and other events according to how the Contingent decides.

We'll also be holding two weekend camps in Voyageur Council, one likely in the winter and one in the early summer.

In addition to all that, we'll be putting together regular email bulletins to compliment the meetings and progress towards departure. These will be chock full of tips and tricks to help you get all the way to Madagascar and back again, and enjoy every moment of it.

KEY INFORMATION

Project dates: These aren't firm yet and depend largely on airfare availability. It will likely be around August 1, 2018 to August 25/26, 2018. This could shift slightly, but all participants will know months and months in advance.

Departure from and arrival back in Canada will be at the Macdonald-Cartier International Airport in Ottawa.

Application deadline: August 15, 2017

Who can apply: Any member of Scouts Canada in Voyageur Council born between August 31, 1991 and September 1, 2003.

CDSTS

The total cost to participate in Madagascar 2018 is \$4000/person. This amount can easily be off-set through fundraising efforts that we can discuss at our regular meetings. The cost of international travel is usually one of the biggest barriers between young people and the world, so we're going to do our best in the year leading up to departure to try and break that barrier down for everyone.

To make this easier, we've split the total cost into a payment schedule as follows:

October 29, 2017: \$1000

January 19, 2018: \$1000

April 7, 2018: \$1000

June 16, 2018: \$1000 (less any fundraising or donations collected by participant)

Note that it is always possible to rework this schedule on a case-by-case basis to make it easier. This includes, but is not limited to, applying fundraising already completed to any of the first three payments, or creating a payment plan with lower, but more frequent payments.

What's included in participant fees:

- Roundtrip airfare from Ottawa to Antananarivo
- All transportation and accommodations in Madagascar
- Meals (with only a few exceptions during free time)
- Project gear (t-shirt, necker and two badges)
- Two Contingent camps in Canada
- Madagascar entry visa
- All the bottled water, toilet paper and soap you could possibly want in Madagascar
- All program-related costs (admission fees, tour guides, tips for service where applicable)
- Personal protective equipment on the worksite (like gloves, glasses, dustmasks and hardhats)

What's not included in participant fees:

- Travel medical insurance (proof of insurance will be required prior to departure)
- Vaccinations or anti-malarial medication required for travel to Madagascar
- Steel-toed boots (required for construction site)
- Sun block, bug spray and personal mosquito net
- Approximately \$50 worth of meals
- Souvenirs
- Personal cell phone or data charges
- Snacks and pop

We have found in the past that \$200 is usually enough spending money, but be sure to decide what you are comfortable bringing (and how much you want to spend on snacks and souvenirs), bearing in mind that there are very few places that accept credit cards and even fewer ATM machines.

Applying to be part of Madagascar 2018 is a big decision, so if you want more information, just let us know! Contact us at MADproject2018@gmail.com.