



## SolarBuddy & Scouts Australia

### Grant Writing Toolkit — Helping Your Unit Secure Funding

This toolkit helps you prepare your grant application as a Scout Group applying to a local funder — such as a council, community foundation, or local business. Your Group is the applicant; the funding will be used to purchase a SolarBuddy kit. Use each section to draft your own responses in your Group's voice.

The example text throughout is written from your perspective — as Scouts — ready to copy, personalise, and submit.

✎ Which SolarBuddy product(s) are you applying for?

You can apply for one product, or a mix of both to suit different age groups in your Unit:

☀ JuniorBuddy — suitable for all sections (Joey Scouts through Rover Scouts). Min. order: 25 lights.  
\$55 per light (incl. GST) + \$27.50 shipping (25 lights) or \$55 shipping (50 lights).

⚡ Bright Futures Bundle (BFB) — suited to Venturer Scouts and Rover Scouts. Min. order: 8 bundles.  
\$330 per bundle (incl. GST) + \$66 shipping.

Mixed order example: A Group running a Joey/Cub/Scout night alongside a Venturer/Rover night could apply for 25 JuniorBuddy lights (\$1,375 + \$27.50 shipping) and 8 BFBs (\$2,640 + \$66 shipping) in a single application — total \$4,108.50 incl. GST.

## 1. What We Are Applying For

Describe the activity in plain language. Weave in a brief intro to SolarBuddy as the program partner. If applying for both products, include both paragraphs below.

### JuniorBuddy — Joey Scouts, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Venturer Scouts and Rover Scouts

✎ **Adapt with your Unit name, sections, and numbers:**

We are applying for funding to purchase a SolarBuddy JuniorBuddy kit to run a STEM activity with [X] members of [Group name], spanning our [Joey Scout / Cub Scout / Scout / Venturer Scout / Rover Scout] sections.

In partnership with SolarBuddy — an Australian not-for-profit dedicated to ending energy poverty — each participant will assemble a purpose-built, solar-powered LED study light designed to help children living without electricity access safe, reliable lighting after dark.

The activity follows a three-step journey: our Scouts first learn about extreme energy poverty, renewable energy and global citizenship through guided resources; then assemble their solar light together as a group; and finally write a personal letter to the child who will receive it. Once assembled, the lights are returned to SolarBuddy and gifted to children living without electricity in communities across Southeast Asia, the Pacific, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

The activity is facilitated by our volunteer Scout leaders using SolarBuddy's comprehensive kit — which includes all components, step-by-step instructions, educational resources and letter-writing prompt cards. No specialist knowledge is required.

This activity counts as a Special Interest Area (SIA) project for Joey Scouts.



### Bright Futures Bundle – Venturer Scouts and Rover Scouts

 **Adapt with your Unit name and numbers:**

We are also applying for funding to purchase a SolarBuddy Bright Futures Bundle (BFB) kit to run a more advanced STEM activity with [X] Venturer Scouts and Rover Scouts from [Group name].

In partnership with SolarBuddy, working in groups of 2–3, participants will assemble a complete household solar solution – including a portable solar panel, multifunction power hub with USB charging, and two rechargeable head torches – which is then donated to a family living without electricity overseas.

The BFB is a deeper STEM challenge, suited to the skills and maturity of our older Scouts. It gives participants hands-on experience of off-grid solar systems and their real-world role in addressing global energy poverty. Each bundle is accompanied by a personal message written by the Scouts who built it.

The activity is facilitated by our volunteer Scout leaders using SolarBuddy's BFB kit, which includes all components and supporting educational resources.

## 2. Who Will Benefit

*Funders often ask for primary and secondary beneficiaries separately. Use the structure below – adapt numbers and delete the BFB rows if not applicable.*

### Primary beneficiaries – our Scouts

 **Adapt with your numbers, sections, and location:**

The direct beneficiaries are [X] young people aged [X–X] from [Group name] in [suburb/region], across our [sections]. Through hands-on learning, they will build practical STEM skills, deepen their understanding of renewable energy and sustainability, and develop empathy and global awareness – all while contributing to a project with measurable real-world impact.

### Secondary beneficiaries – our community

 **Adapt:**

Scout leaders, families, and the broader [suburb/region] community will also benefit. This activity strengthens our Group's connection to our local community and reinforces the values of community involvement and global citizenship that sit at the heart of Scouting. It creates a shared moment of purpose and pride – and may inspire others in our community to engage with the issue of global energy poverty.

### Global beneficiaries – children and families overseas

 **Use as-is, inserting your numbers:**

The [X] lights / [X] bundles built by our Scouts will travel to children and families living without electricity in Southeast Asia, the Pacific, or Sub-Saharan Africa.

For a child receiving a JuniorBuddy light: up to 7,300 additional study hours over three years – up to 78% more study time after dark.

For a family receiving a Bright Futures Bundle: a complete solar solution lasting 15+ years, improving [25] lives – replacing harmful kerosene, enabling safe light and USB charging, and saving families 44% of their income previously spent on lighting.



### 3. What Our Scouts Will Learn

Tailor this to your funder's priorities. Lead with the outcomes most relevant to them – STEM for an education funder, community contribution for a council, sustainability for a green-focused funder.

 **Example text:**

Through this activity, our Scouts will:

- **Build hands-on STEM skills** by assembling a working solar device from a kit of components
- **Develop real-world understanding of renewable energy and sustainability**, grounded in a genuine global challenge
- **Strengthen empathy and communication** by writing a personal message to the child or family who will receive their device
- **Deepen their sense of global citizenship**, connecting local action to real change for communities overseas
- **Develop leadership, teamwork and problem-solving** through a shared group build and guided reflection
- **Explore career pathways** in sustainability, clean energy and STEM-related fields

This activity directly supports three UN Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

### 4. Our Local & Global Impact

#### Local impact

 **Adapt with your Group name, location and numbers:**

This activity will directly benefit [X] young people from [Group name] in [suburb/region]. Through hands-on learning, our Scouts will engage with real-world science and sustainability in a way that everyday programming alone cannot provide. For many of our members, this may be the first time they see how their learning can create tangible, positive change in the world.

The activity strengthens our Group connection to the global Scouting mission of growing responsible citizens – and creates a shared moment of purpose and pride for our whole community.

#### Global impact – JuniorBuddy

 **Insert your light count:**

Each JuniorBuddy light built by our Scouts travels to a child living without electricity overseas. A grant of \$[amount] will fund [X] lights. The impact per light:

- Touches the lives of 5 people on average
- Creates up to 7,300 additional study hours over 3 years – up to 78% more study time per child
- Reduces household spending on harmful kerosene by up to 80%
- Improves health outcomes for women and children by up to 60%
- Avoids 1.28 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> over the device's 10-year lifespan

Customise: A grant of \$[amount] will fund [X] lights – improving an estimated [X × 5] lives and creating [X × 7,300] additional study hours for children overseas.



## Global impact – Bright Futures Bundle

### Insert your bundle count:

Each Bright Futures Bundle built by our Venturer Scouts and Rover Scouts is donated to a family living without electricity – a complete household solar solution lasting 15+ years. A grant of \$[amount] will fund [X] bundles. The impact per bundle:

- Touches the lives of 25 people on average
- Creates 43,800 additional study hours over 15 years, plus vital digital access
- Enables 120,450 charges of essential USB-powered devices over the bundle's lifetime
- Saves families 44% of their income previously spent on lighting and charging
- Avoids 8.23 tonnes of harmful emissions – improving health for women and children
- Offsets the equivalent of 15 short-haul flights in carbon emissions saved

Customise: A grant of \$[amount] will fund [X] bundles – reaching an estimated [X × 25] lives and generating [X × 43,800] additional study hours for families overseas.

## 5. How We Will Measure Success

Funders want to know how you'll track outcomes. Include numbers and stories. Adjust the product rows to match your order.

### Adapt targets to your order:

We will measure success through both quantitative data and qualitative feedback from our Scouts and leaders.


Key metrics:

- Number of Scouts who participated (target: [X])
- Devices assembled and gifted (target: [X] JuniorBuddy lights and/or [X] Bright Futures Bundles)
- Lives reached overseas (target: [X × 5] via JuniorBuddy and/or [X × 25] via BFB)
- Study hours created (target: [X × 7,300] via JuniorBuddy and/or [X × 43,800] via BFB)
- CO2 avoided (target: [X × 1.28] tonnes via JuniorBuddy and/or [X × 8.23] tonnes via BFB)

### Continue with:

We will also collect:

- Personal messages written by Scouts to accompany the gifted devices
- Scout leader reflections on participant engagement and program delivery
- Photos from the activity night, which we are happy to share with [Funder]

 One of the unique things about SolarBuddy is what happens after. Once our devices have been distributed, SolarBuddy sends our Unit a post-distribution impact report – showing how many families received devices, where they are, and the difference they are making. We will share this with [Funder] as evidence of real-world impact.

## 6. Why We Need Your Support

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### The global need

 **Use as-is:**

Over 660 million people worldwide live without access to electricity. Without light after dark, children cannot study, families depend on toxic kerosene lamps, and communities are left behind. SolarBuddy is an Australian not-for-profit working to end energy poverty – one light at a time. Since 2016, SolarBuddy has gifted over 345,000 solar devices, illuminating more than 2.2 million lives and creating over 1.46 billion study hours for children.

### Why our Group

**What makes your Scout Group the right people to run this?** *e.g. We are a volunteer-run Group with a strong track record of community involvement. This activity aligns directly with the Scout Promise – to help other people and contribute to the world.*

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### The local connection

**Why does this matter to your community?** *e.g. [Suburb/region] is a community that cares about giving back. By funding this activity, [Funder] will help our young people take meaningful action on a global issue – right here at home.*

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## 7. Project Timing

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Most community grants require your project to complete within 6 months of funding being awarded. Fill in realistic dates.

**Estimated start date:** *e.g. Term 1, 2026 / March 2026*

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**Estimated completion date:** *e.g. within 6 months of funding being awarded*

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 **Use this framing:**

We anticipate running the activity in [Term X / Month, Year]. SolarBuddy kits are typically delivered within 4 weeks of order confirmation, and the full activity will be completed within 6 months of funding being awarded.

## 8. Why This Fits [Funder]

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Research your funder's stated priorities and mirror their language. This is one of the most important sections – personalise it for every application.

**This activity aligns with [Funder]'s focus on:** *e.g. youth development / STEM education / sustainability / community wellbeing*

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Angles to use depending on your funder:

- Local council: youth civic engagement, community pride, global citizenship, sustainability
- Community foundation: community-led, direct and measurable international impact, strong volunteer involvement
- Local/family business: sustainability credentials, youth investment, positive community visibility
- Rotary or Lions: international goodwill, service above self, hands-on giving with measurable outcomes

## 9. How We Will Recognise Your Support

 **Select and adapt what's relevant:**

We would be proud to recognise [Funder]'s support in the following ways:

- Acknowledgement in our Unit's newsletter and on our social media channels
- Acknowledgement in any local media coverage of the event
- An invitation to attend the activity night and meet our Scouts in person
- A copy of SolarBuddy's post-distribution impact report, showing the real-world difference made by the devices our Scouts built
- A group photo with participating Scouts and their completed devices
- Recognition in our Unit's annual report or end-of-year communications

## 10. Could Your Team Get Involved? (Optional)

*Include this if your funder is a local business or council that might value hands-on involvement. Remove if not relevant.*

 **Adapt or remove:**

We would love to welcome [Funder]'s team to the activity night. Volunteers can support our Scouts during the solar device build, or share their own career journeys – helping to inspire our members and broaden their awareness of pathways in sustainability and STEM.


No technical expertise is required – just a willingness to connect with young people and see your investment in action. It's a meaningful way for your team to give back to the [community name] community.

## 11. Our Budget

*Complete the table with your chosen product(s) and quantities. Delete rows that don't apply. You can mix both products in a single application – see the example at the top of this toolkit.*

Item	Unit cost (incl. GST)	Quantity	Total
JuniorBuddy lights (bucket of 25)	\$55 each + \$27.50 shipping	[e.g. 25]	[\$total]
JuniorBuddy lights (bucket of 50)	\$55 each + \$55 shipping	[e.g. 50]	[\$total]
Bright Futures Bundles	\$330 each + \$66 shipping	[e.g. 8]	[\$total]
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>[\$total]</b>


Shipping costs: JuniorBuddy – \$25 + GST per bucket of 25 lights, or \$50 + GST per bucket of 50 lights. Bright Futures Bundle – \$60 + GST for 8 bundles.

 **Use this framing for your budget narrative:**

The funds requested will be used to purchase a SolarBuddy kit for our Unit and cover any associated activity costs. Kits are ordered directly through SolarBuddy ([solarbuddy.org](https://solarbuddy.org)), a registered Australian charity. [If applicable: a portion of the budget also covers [delivery / venue / event costs – describe here].] We will provide receipts upon purchase and share SolarBuddy's impact report once our devices have been distributed to communities overseas.

[Funder]'s support will be solely responsible for making this experience possible for our [X] Scouts – and for the [X × 5 / X × 25] lives that will be changed as a result.

## 12. Closing

 **Personalise with your Group details:**

We would be incredibly grateful for [Funder]'s support in bringing this activity to life for our [X] young people in [suburb/region]. Every device built by our Scouts goes directly to a child or family in need.

A grant of \$[amount] will fund [X JuniorBuddy lights and/or X Bright Futures Bundles], improving an estimated [X × 5 / X × 25] lives overseas while giving our Scouts a hands-on experience of what it truly means to be a global citizen.

After the activity, [Funder] will receive a copy of SolarBuddy's annual impact report – showing exactly where the devices went, who received them, and the difference they're making. We hope that's something you'll be proud to be part of.

Together, we can make sure no child is left in the dark. We hope you'll join us.

## Before You Submit – Quick Checklist

- Decided on your product mix (JuniorBuddy and/or BFB) and deleted non-applicable sections
- Described the activity clearly in your Unit's voice, with SolarBuddy introduced as the program partner
- Included learning outcomes tailored to your funder's priorities
- Calculated and included local and global impact numbers (lights × 5 or bundles × 25)
- Filled in your project start and completion dates
- Completed the budget table with correct product, quantity and shipping costs
- Tailored the funder alignment section to their specific language

Questions about the SolarBuddy kit or ordering? Contact [hello@solarbuddy.org](mailto:hello@solarbuddy.org) | [solarbuddy.org](https://solarbuddy.org)