

Community action

During the second week WAGGGS has introduced for the first time the option for youth delegates to engage in hands-on community action in the host country. So four of the nine remaining youth delegates set off every day to run actions in the climate village, plant trees with local school groups, clean beaches and run non-formal education exercises with local kids and with the Mexican Scouts.

The four delegates carrying out community service projects in Cancún left very early in the morning from our base - going to Playa del Carmen, a community situated approximately one hour and twenty minutes from the World Youth Hostel.

The first thing we did was attend a brief press conference where we met with Felix Finkbeiner, a 13 year-old boy from Germany.

Felix Finkbeiner is the creator of the Plant for the Planet project which came about 4 years ago. While he was at school he was given a task on climate change. Following his research and on seeing images of climate change and its effects, he decided to present to his class a proposal to plant one million trees around the world, one million in every country. This is how the organization was born, where children from around the world plant trees as a symbol of climate balance. At present Felix is fronting a campaign called "Stop Talking, Start Planting" which consists of bringing the issue to the attention of policy makers so they can stop talking and start acting.



We then went to the Town Hall where we were presented to the Mayor of the town and staff. We then made a presentation on the Plant for the Planet initiative. We had the opportunity to speak about WAGGGS and how we are working on the theme of the Environment and what we are doing in COP16.

When the presentation was over, we attended a radio interview and as representatives of WAGGGS we were given the opportunity to speak about GG/GS at world level and how we are focused on tackling climate change and how we are running projects and programmes on environmental issues.

As it was 4 o'clock in the afternoon, we were taken to a park where we were met by two local Scout groups. We were able to share our projects and at the same time encourage them to develop their own environmental activities and to join in the "Plant for the Planet" campaign. Two trees were then planted.

It is important to note that even if we didn't plant a huge quantity of trees, we have learned a lot from Felix. He has repeated many times in interviews that we are not doing enough to diminish the effects of climate change which is why he is challenging all the young people of the world to take responsibility for the future of humanity – which is at risk of extinction.

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