

WORLD SCOUT ENVIRONMENT BADGE
PROGRAMME ACTIVITY RESOURCE



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Garbage Bag Challenge

Aim 4

Scouts are working towards a world where the most suitable environmental practices are used.

Educational objectives

Recognise how we are connected with the environment and how we can make informed choices about our actions that can minimise the impact on the environment.
Identify potentially better environmental practices for your local area.
Demonstrate how local solutions can impact global issues.

Age range

11 to 14

Summary

A fun game to think about waste and how we can reduce it.

Aim

To encourage thinking about the waste we generate, what can be recycled and how we can reduce what we throw away.

Equipment

Plastic rubbish bags, selection of waste objects (clean and safe)

Preparation

Prepare the waste objects

Duration

Thirty minutes

Setting

Scout meeting place

Background

Human society creates a lot of waste. This waste might go into landfill, it might be incinerated or it might simply be dumped outdoors and left to decay. Whatever happens to this waste it is causing a problem for the environment. We need to reduce the amount of waste we produce. This can be done by following the five 'R' approach:

Refuse – for example, unnecessary packaging, leaflets, promotional material, plastic bags

Repair – clothes, electrical equipment etc

Reduce – choose products that have less packaging, use only what you need

Reuse – buy second hand items, donate items to second hand shops

Recycle – buy products that can be recycled and recycle them

Step by step guide to activity

1. Split the group into teams and give each team a bag of rubbish.
2. Explain that the object of the game is to make your bag of rubbish as small as possible in a set amount of time. This is done by sorting through the rubbish and deciding how to dispose of things in a different way. Ask the group to think about what they can do to make the bag of rubbish smaller in the first place.
3. After five minutes ask each team to explain why they removed certain items from their bags and where they will put them if not in the rubbish. They should also explain what they would do differently – they should identify that some things could have been refused and that they could buy things with less packaging or packaging that is reusable or recyclable.
4. The team with the smallest bag of rubbish at the end is the winner.

Evaluation

1. Discuss the activity and introduce the five 'R' approach to waste. What do the Scouts think about these ideas? What do they do already? What would be easy to do?

Further activities

1. Ask the Scouts to think about packaging and bring in items from home that show packaging that is good for the environment and that is bad for the environment. They should think about whether the packaging is necessary, is recyclable, is already recycled, how much manufacturing has gone into it and how long it will take to decay in a landfill.
2. Set up a recycling station in your Scout meeting place. Ask the Scouts if they recycle at home.
3. If there are not recycling or good waste facilities available, consider contacting the government to encourage these to be set up.
4. Write a waste policy for Scout camp. Think about how you can reduce the amount of waste generated and how you will reuse and recycle during camp.

© World Scout Bureau
Rue du Pré-Jérôme 5
PO Box 91
1211 Geneva 4 Plainpalais
Switzerland

Tel.: (+ 41 22) 705 10 10
Fax: (+ 41 22) 705 10 20

worldbureau@scout.org
scout.org

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