BIRMINGHAM SCOUTS AND GUIDES
GUIDELINES AND RESOURCES

More in Common Badge

The More in Common badge is a partnership between Birmingham Scouts, Girlguiding Birmingham and the Jo Cox Foundation.

The ethos of the badge is to encourage Scouts and Guides to show compassion, kindness and friendship to others, and to reach out across our diverse communities.

More information on the badge can be found on the Birmingham Scouts website ***(www.birminghamscouts.org.uk/more-in-common/)*** *and the work of the Jo Cox Foundation can be found on their website* ***(https://www.jocoxfoundation.org/)****.*

The County Commissioners for both Birmingham Scouts and Guides have agreed that the More in Common badge can be worn on the uniform and will be provided free of charge to members who have completed the requirements. This results from a generous donation in memory of the late Jean Rookes, who worked jointly for many years, with Peter, in working for a friendlier, more compassionate society.

Upon completion of the activities, leaders request the badges for their section from Dr Peter Rookes, pjrookes@gmail.com, who welcomes invitations to attend and present the badges.

These activities can be adapted for those with inclusion and/or disability needs. If leaders or young people have additional ideas for activities that fit the ethos of the badge, then email us at info@birminghamscouts.org.uk, and we will add them to the list.

To Gain the Badge

Members should complete activities from the list below -

Squirrels (4-6 years old), Beavers (6-8 years old), Rainbows (4-7 years old) – 1 activity.

Brownies (7-10 years old), Cubs (8-10.5 years old) – 2 activities.

Guides (10-14 years old), Scouts (10.5-14 years old) – 3 activities.

Rangers (14-18 years old), Ventures (14-18 years old) – 4 activities

Activities

1.Make and send a card to a care home wishing the residents well and thanking staff for their work.

- Find a care home near where you live, either one where older people, or people with a learning disability, live
- Cut a piece of card of any pale colour to your preferred size – perhaps 15cm square
- Draw something suitable on the front, maybe flowers, trees, your place of worship, your scout flag
- Write a suitable message on the inside wishing the residents well and thanking the staff for their hard work, particularly during the pandemic
- Include an address in case they wish to reply

2. Make a video of no more than 5 minutes to send to another scout or guide group telling them about the community work you do and asking them to tell you about their group.

- Identify a scout or guide group to whom you would like to send a message
- You may want some of your friends to join you in making the video
- Think about what you want to say about your group and some of your activities in the community, and write them down.
- Include some questions that you can ask about their group
- Record your video, which should be between 2-5 minutes on your mobile phone
  and send it by WhatsApp, or similar medium to your chosen group.

3. Design a multifaith flag showing the insignia of at least 6 faiths

- Decide on the shape and size of your flag
- Decide on which faiths you want to include: the most common are Christian, Muslin, Sikh, Hindu, Jewish, and Buddhist
- Look each one up on an internet search engine and find their emblems or logos, and decide how you want to display them

4. Make a collage of a place of worship of a different faith from your own. Go with a young person of the same age as yourself, but of a different faith, to his or her place of worship.

- Use the back of a roll of wallpaper and cut off a piece up to 1 metre in length

- Look around you at what is different from your own place of worship. You can ask your friend about what you see.
- Create images to show this on your collage. You can use poster paint, felt tips, coloured pencils, or paste images on to your collage.

5. Write a poem saying what you like about young people who are different from yourself

- Think about young people who are different from yourself – they maybe of a different faith, different colour, have an impairment such as loss of hearing or loss of sight, or have a disability such as cerebral palsy.
- Now think about what you like about one or more of them.
- Aim for 12-16 lines in your poem - this can be any number of lines in your verses, such as 4 verses of 4 lines each
- Consider which words are going to rhyme – quite often it will be the end words of the 1st and 2nd and 3rd and 4th lines, or maybe the 2nd and 4th lines.

6. Talk to someone of your own age, but of a different faith, and find out about their religion and family life

- This could be someone you meet at school
- Explain to him or her what you are doing and ask their permission before asking them any questions
- Also explain to your teacher what you are doing
- Ask questions like how many brothers and sisters does he or she have, older or younger, what is his or her religion, where does he or she attend for worship, does he or she have to wear special clothes, or eat special food. what does he or she do with their spare time. Does he/she pray, other than when he/she attends their place of worship

7. Talk to someone of your own age who has a physical disability, has a visual or hearing loss, has a learning disability or autism and find out ways in which his/her life differs from yours

- This could be someone you meet at school
- Explain to him or her what you are doing and ask his/her permission before asking any questions. Be careful to ask your questions in a sympathetic way.
- Also explain to your teacher what you are doing
- Ask questions like how does his/her disability or impairment affect his/her daily life
- What activities are more difficult because of his/her impairment – does he/she need help with any of them

- How do other people react to him/her when they realise that he/she has a disability or impairment

8. Talk to someone of your own age who was born in a different part of the UK and find out how and why he/she came to Birmingham, and how it is different from the place he/she came from.

- This could be someone you meet at school
- Explain to him or her what you are doing and ask his/her permission before asking any questions.
- Also explain to your teacher what you are doing
- Ask questions like how old was he/she when he/she moved to Birmingham and does he/she know why the move took place
- Ask where he/she moved from
- Ask him/her how he/she felt when he /she first realised that he/she was going to leave his/her previous home
- Ask about his/her first impressions of Birmingham
- Ask how he/she found making new friends

9. Talk to someone of your own age who wasn't born in the UK and find out how and why he/she came to UK, and how it is different from the place he/she came from.

- This could be someone you meet at school
- Explain to him or her what you are doing and ask his/her permission before asking any questions. Be careful to ask your questions in a sympathetic way.
- Also explain to your teacher what you are doing
- Ask questions like how old was he/she when he/she moved to Birmingham and does he/she know why the move took place
- Ask where he/she moved from
- Ask him/her how he/she felt when he /she first realised that he/she was going to leave his/her previous home
- Ask about his/her first impressions of Birmingham
- Ask how he/she found making new friends

10. Watch one of Sir David Attenborough's programmes about the planet and make 3 pledges of actions you can take to improve the quality of life for everyone.

- Watch one of Sir David Attenborough's programmes on YouTube
- Note some of his points about the planet is changing
- Think carefully about actions you could take to improve the situation, such as using less plastic, encouraging people around you to dispose of their rubbish

responsibly, write an article or blog to influence other people, ask your local councillor or MP to make a particular change.
- Make and carry out 3 specific pledges of actions you will take

11. Find out about Jo Cox and make a 2 minute video about how she inspired you and what action you plan to take as a result

- Type the Jo Cox Foundation into your internet search engine
- Scroll down to 'About Jo Cox' and read about Jo's life and the causes that she was passionate about
- Make some notes of key points
- Think about what it is in Jo's life that inspire you
- Make a 2 minute video on your mobile phone and send it to some of your friends, who have expressed an interest in what you are doing

12. Find out where your local Foodbank is located, and organise a collection for the Foodbank.

- Find out where your local Foodbank is located, which is likely to be at a place of worship or community centre
- Ask the Foodbank what food items they need
- Arrange to collect some of these items from your friends and family, and deliver to the Foodbank.

13. Refresh the garden in a Care Home, Public Park, or similar

- Identify a suitable location and seek permission for your activity
- Agree with the appropriate 'manager' what you are planning to do – this could be sowing wild flower seeds, planting bulbs or bedding plants
- Prepare the soil and sow the seeds or plant the bulbs or bedding plants.
- Water regularly until the plants are established.

14. Research how two or more faiths ask their followers to take care of the Earth

- Identify 2 faiths, one of which can be your own faith
- Search the internet or literature in the places of worship to see what it says about taking care of the earth
- Create a collage or video depicting what you have found out

15. Help a place of worship to encourage bees and other wildlife in the green spaces.

- With one or more friends of your own age research what is involved in encouraging bees, butterflies, birds or other wildlife into the green space around your local place of worship

- Decide what you would like to do to encourage wildlife and develop a plan
- Speak to a senior person at the place of worship to get their permission and support to implement your plan – ideally get others involved in what you are doing

16. Encourage your parents to invite a family of a different faith or ethnicity to your home or community centre.

- Discuss your intention with your parents and decide whether to invite a family to your home or community centre.
- If you invite the to your home decide on what food to prepare indoors or a barbecue in your garden
- Be conscious of the type of food your guests are able to eat
- You should help with the preparation, including preparing the food
- You should also befriend the family's children and make them feel welcome and comfortable
- If you decide to take them to a community centre, introduce them to your friends