

Peace Light

The Activity:

To participate in the Peace Light from Bethlehem project and to bring the light to your community

Activity Type:

Patrol Activity
Troop Activity

Roles:

Activity Leaders
Community coordinators
Ceremonies coordinators

The Crean Award:

Discovery:

Scouting Knowledge
Patrol Activity

Terra Nova:

Task/Role in Patrol
Patrol Activity

Endurance:

Promise & Law
Patrol Activity

Polar:

Promise & Law
Patrol Activity

SPICES

Social
Spiritual



Plan

In early December each year, a candle is lit in the Grotto of Christ's Birth in the Church of the Nativity, in Bethlehem. This flame is taken by Israeli and Palestinian Scouts to Tel Aviv Airport where goes to Austria. From Vienna, Scouts transport it across Europe and beyond.

In the week before Christmas, there will be Light distribution services across Ireland. From these Scouts will take the Light to their communities: to places of worship, community centres, hospitals and homes.



This chain of lights is a symbol peace, warmth, love and family. By passing on this *Peace Light from Bethlehem* we want to help spread happiness and hope into the hearts of all those who come in contact with it.

Each year, a growing number of Scouts brings the Light across the world, and from there, it continues its journey to towns, villages and into our homes. Time is limited and a continued effort and determination is required to ensure it arrives in your community.

For information on the Light Sharing events:

facebook.com/IrishPeaceLight

Also check out:

scout.org/peacelight

Do

Step 1: In your patrols, research the peace light and discuss how you can take part. Do some peace themed activities to learn more about what peace can mean and why it is important.

Step 2: Find out where your nearest Share the Peace Light Ceremony is or make contact with the organisers to arrange to get the Peace Light to your Group. If you can at all, arrange for a number of you to attend on the Sharing Ceremonies.



Step 3: Make sure you have lamp or some other secure and safe way of moving the light.

Step 4: Plan the places in your community you would like to distribute the light to, public places are especially important. Think about hospitals, community centres, and places of worship. Then, arrange, with your Scouters, to make contact with these places and organisations to see they would be interested in receiving the light.

Step 5: Plan a simple ceremony for when you pass the Light on. Also, maybe give them a small information note on the Light.

Step 6: Make out a plan for who is going to go where to spread the Light. Also, remember that the days coming up to Christmas can be very busy for people, especially parents, so plan in advance!

Peace Light: Activities

Patrol juggling

Peace work often involves juggling many different factors, conflicts etc... In this activity Scouts help each other to juggle many balls, representing these many factors. In a circle, pass a ball around so that each Scout receives it once and passes it one other person who has not yet caught the ball. The Scout to receive the ball passes it back to the first. The ball is thrown around the circle again in the same order. The third time the ball is thrown around the circle a second ball is added after the ball has gone half way around the circle. Next time a third ball is added, and so on until the Six is passing many balls around the circle at the same time, i.e. patrol juggling.

Peace hero stories

Each Patrol works on a story that shows the qualities of peace hero in a fictional universe or mythological setting. The heroes should have certain characteristics:

- They should practice non-violence and be a unifier of people.
- They should show respect for the earth, and all life forms, safeguarding life for future generations.
- They should reflect concern for social justice, and particularly for the weak and vulnerable.
- They should be an inspirational character, promoting global understanding.

Patrols should be encouraged to be creative while convey the important points. Each patrol can then tell or enact their story to all the troop.

Peace Light: Activities

Addressing Discrimination

1. Remind everyone that discrimination takes many forms. Ask each patrol to brainstorm examples of discrimination. List their answers on newsprint or a chalkboard. Include any of the following that participants neglect to mention:

- Teasing, name calling, or using derogatory terms for race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, or gender
- Excluding someone from activities, or ignoring or denying requests based on the requester's race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or gender identity
- Physically or verbally attacking someone (especially with the 'authorities' ignoring, condoning, or even encouraging this behaviour)
- Treating someone unfairly in the workplace, public spaces, or educational institutions (for example, denying someone a job or a raise on the basis of ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity)

2. In patrols, scouts should think of a time when they or someone they care about was treated unfairly or unequally because they were members of some specific group. Ask for volunteers to share these experiences.

3. Ask the scouts to identify what would have helped in the situation. Then encourage others to share their stories. 4.

4. Ask what strategies and techniques the scouts might use to help end discrimination in different settings, like school, clubs, and in public spaces.

Peace Light: Activities

Make our troop a safe space for LGBTI+ Scouts

By making simple changes you can create an inclusive environment for everyone.

1. Showing respect is the first step to creating a safe environment for all people. Respecting one another means listening to one another, being considerate of privacy and treating everyone with dignity.
2. Call out homophobic, biphobic, transphobic, interphobic, queerphobic and acephobic language: The language we use can have an immense effect on those around us. Although it may not always be intentional our language can have a negative impact on others if we are not careful in what we say. If we hear others in our schools using language which is homophobic, biphobic, transphobic, and queerphobic it is important to address it in a constructive way.
3. Avoid using binary language whenever possible: This means that we avoid addressing people as male or female where possible. This may seem like a challenge to begin with, but small changes to the words we use can make a big difference for transgender and non-binary people by helping them feel more included in schools. For example when giving a presentation and addressing a group instead of saying “ladies and gentlemen” you could say “scouts” or “friends”
4. Be inclusive in activities: Sometimes troops can be divided by gender for different activities. Advocate on the behalf of non-binary and transgender classmates to play with mixed teams.
5. Advocate for gender neutral bathrooms and changing areas: these allow those who do not want to define their gender or do not feel comfortable using gender specific bathrooms to still participate fully. Advocating for gender neutral areas shows LGBTI+ students the support and acceptance there is for them.
6. Put up posters for LGBTI+ support groups and hotlines from groups such as BeLonG To, Teni, LBGT Ireland and ShoutOut.

Tips modified from <https://spunout.ie/life/article/school-safe-space-lgbti-students>

Messengers of Peace

The Messengers of Peace Award aims to promote world peace through the positive activities of young people. Any Scout who has voluntarily invested more than 10 hours in a community service project is eligible for the award. This can be anything from running a fun day for the disadvantaged in your local community, to coordinating a book donation for a school in need. Any community project that brings a positive change to an area - its health, environment, social circumstances, safety or addresses conflict – is a Messengers of Peace project.



Requirements

Complete a service project which involves at least 10 hours of effort.

Your project should include the following:

- Service to a community: The project should address a need in the community.
- Sustainable: It should have a lasting impact
- Personal Progression: All of the Scouts should be involved in organising and doing the project.

Steps to getting the Award:

1. The Troop or each Patrol firstly registers by emailing betterworld@scouts.ie (include your Group details, numbers of Scouts participating, and your planned project)
2. Plan: Learn about a local social issue (meeting) and decide on ways in which you can help (meeting)
3. Do: Patrols organise a community project (weekend)
4. Review: Evaluate your project and its impact, and commit to maintaining if required (meeting, on-going). Submit an application.
5. Celebrate your achievement!

Patrol Review

Why did you take part in the Peace Light from Bethlehem?

Did everyone have a role?

What could you have done differently?

Review SPICES

Social

Relationships

Communication Skills

Other Cultures

Community Involvement

Promise and Law

Physical

Eat Well

Personal Hygiene

Balanced Lifestyle

How the Body Works

Physical Limitations

Health Choices

Access Help

Intellectual

Achieving Goals

New Ideas

Develop Creativity

Learn from Discussions

Team Member

Character

Promise and Law

Friends and Friendships

Plan before do

Ensuring Fairness

Respect

Differences and Views

Following Dreams

Live the Scouting Spirit

Emotional

Aware of Feelings

Asking/Giving Help

Responsibility for Emotions

Controlling Emotions

Going Further

Beliefs and Values

Developing Talents

Spiritual

Promise and Law

Impact on the Environment

Reflection

Changing Beliefs