Completing Community Projects

Your local community is the place you live in. Communities come in all shapes and sizes, and on the face of it a community in the heart of a city may seem to have very little in common with a community in a remote country village. But all communities however involve people and the more the people who live in a community get involved the better a place that community will be to live in.

By taking on community projects you and your Patrol can help to make the place you live a better place. Community projects come in all shapes and sizes. When thinking about what project to carry out you and your Patrol should consider some of the following:

- What types of things are most needed in your community? Make a list and try to choose something from this list rather than going for the obvious.

- What are the interests of the Patrol members? A project is only likely to be successfully completed if your Patrol is interested from the start.

- What kinds of skills do your Patrol members have? It only makes sense to take on a project that you have the skills to compete. It might seem like a good idea to paint a mural on a wall, but if no-one in the Patrol can paint very well it's not going to look very good!

The following are some suggestions to help get you started when you are thinking about carrying out a community project. They are broken into a number of groupings.

Community Enhancement.
• Renovate a run-down playground.
• Plant trees and bulb flowers such as daffodils.
• Paint a mural.
• Clean up a local park.
• Support the local Tidy Towns campaign. www.tidytowns.ie

Community Involvement.
• Organise a 'Welcome to the Community' day for new residents.
• Produce a Community Newsletter.
• Assist in the stewarding of a community event
• Helping the Homeless.
• Contact your local Simon Community to find out how you can aid their work.
       www.simon.ie

Helping the Elderly.
• Help local elderly residents to maintain their gardens.
• Carry out a shopping service for elderly residents that are house bound.
• During spells of cold weather visit elderly residents to check that their homes are adequately heated.
• Set up a social club for elderly residents in your Scout Den.
• Carry out a series of entertainment workshops for residents of a nursing home.
• Hold a Christmas party in your Scout Den for elderly residents.
• Do a safety audit of elderly residents homes for smoke alarms and fire hazards. www.ageaction.ie

Helping those with Special Needs.
• Conduct a community accessibility audit for people with disabilities.
• Volunteer to help at a Special Olympics event.
• Volunteer to work with an agency that helps children with disabilities.
• Install a ramp for wheelchair in your Scout Den.
• Help expand the library of a children's hospital.
• www.enableireland.ie

A word about fundraising and community projects.

Raising money for a local community project is certainly worth-while, but a more 'hands on' approach to community projects is to be encouraged. You will personally get a lot more from a project if you interact with other people or if you complete a physical job yourself. Only consider fund-raising if you need some money to complete your project. For example if you decide to plant trees in an area you may need to raise money to buy the trees.

SCOUTS