



Rubbish Bag Challenge

Scouter's Edition

The Crean Award:

Discovery:
Patrol Activity

Terra Nova:
Task/Role in Patrol
Patrol Activity

Endurance:
Develop Teamwork
Patrol activity

Polar:
Patrol/Troop Activity

SPICES

Character
Spiritual

The Activity:

Objective:
To think about waste and how we can reduce it.

Activity Type:
Patrol/Troop Activity

Roles:
Activity Leaders
Quartermasters
First Aiders



Plan...Rubbish Bag Challenge

This is a fun and easy activity to encourage thinking about the waste we generate, what can be recycled and how we can reduce what we throw away. It would be a good way to start off thinking about an Environmental Project or an Environmental Special Interest Badge. It involves look at rubbish and how it can be best organised and treated properly after we are finished with it.

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.

To prepare for the activity, the organisers will need to arrange for the collection of a selection of waste objects (**clean and safe**) for the activity. Think through the best way to do this, perhaps asking every scout to bring up some rubbish from home?

To help the discussion about the five 'R's' think about making a guide to them, either design on a computer or drawn out to help everyone understand.

Ensure that all of the rubbish being used as part of the activity is clean and safe.



This activity is from the World Scout Environmental Programme resources produced by the World Scout Bureau



Do...Rubbish Bag Challenge

Step 1:

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.

Step 2:

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.

The team with the smallest bag of rubbish at the end is the winner.

Step 3:

Discuss the the five 'R' approach to waste.

- **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, use items more than once
- **Recycle** – buy products that can be recycled and recycle them





Review

Social

- Relationships
- Communication Skills
- Other Cultures
- Community Involvement
- Promise & Law

Physical

- Eat Well
- Personal Hygiene
- Balanced Lifestyle
- How Body works
- Physical Limitations
- Health Choices
- Access Help

Intellectual

- Achieving Goals
- New Ideas
- Learn from Decisions
- Team Member

Character

- Promise & Law
- Friends & Friendships
- Plan before do
- Ensuring Fairness
- Respect
- Differences & Views
- Following Dreams
- Live the Scouting Spirit

Emotional

- Aware of feelings
- Asking/Giving Help
- Responsibility for Emotions
- Controlling Emotions
- Going Further
- Beliefs & Values
- Developing Talents

Spiritual

- Promise & Law
- Impact on Environment
- Reflection
- Changing Beliefs





Review & Plan

What next?

From this activity, can you think of any Environmental Projects you might want to do?

Individual Review

What you liked about the activity?

What you would change?

Patrol Review





Review Summary

This is a simple activity that allows exploration of environmental issues. As a relatively easily organised activity, it may be a good challenge for a younger scout or one just taking up a leadership position. If, for example, a scout is going to do an Environmental Special Interest Badge, they could be the activity leader.

In reviewing the activity, the organiser should be encouraged to think about how the practical aspect helped when discussing the 'Five Rs'. Prompt them to make the link between the more easily understood aspects of sorting the rubbish and the more abstract concepts of dealing with waste personally and then in a community and in society.

There are opportunities to look at aspects of the Learning objectives from the Character and Spiritual areas:

- Character: Did I live the Promise and Law? This would be a good way of linking living responsibly and caring for the environment through daily living, with the commitment to the Scout Promise and Law.
- Spiritual: Did I ensure that I have a positive impact on the environment? This whole activity is very much within this area, but may push conversation to include future actions, especially within the Troop and home-life.

This activity could also inspire other related activities, such as:

- If there are not recycling or good waste facilities available, consider contacting local authorities and community organisations to encourage these to be set up.
- Have each patrol come up with a waste policy for Scout camp. Think about how you can reduce the amount of waste generated and how you will re-use and recycle during camp.

