



Scouter's Edition

Peace Light

The Crean Award:

Discovery:

Scouting Knowledge
Patrol Activity

Endurance:

Promise & Law
Patrol Activity

Terra Nova:

Task/Role in Patrol
Patrol Activity

Polar:

Promise & Law
Patrol Activity

SPICES

Social
Spiritual

The Activity:

Objective:

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

Activity Type:

Patrol/Troop Activity

Roles:

Activity Leaders
Community coordinators
Ceremonies coordinators



Plan: Peace Light

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 it goes to Austria. From Vienna, Scouts transport it across Europe and beyond.

Between 17th and 20th December there will be Light distribution services across Ireland, beginning with the Irish Reception Service at the Church of the Visitation, Fairview, Dublin at 19:30 on the 17th Dec. From there Scouts will take the Light to their communities: to places of worship, community centres, hospitals and homes.

This chain of lights is a symbol of 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: Peace Light

Step 1: 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. **A number of Scouters are facilitating the distribution of the light to different areas; however, it may be necessary for you to travel to a central distribution point.**

Step 2: Make sure you have lamp or some other secure and safe way of moving the light. **Older lamps or modern, sheltered candle holders will suffice. Ensure the scouts take all the necessary precautions.**

Step 3: Plan the places in your community you would like to distribute the light to, public places are especially important. Think about places of worship, hospitals, and community centres.

Then, arrange, with your Scouters, to make contact with these places and organisations to see they would be interested in receiving the light. **Work with the Scouts in developing a list of potential places, ensure whoever is making contact is fully informed about the Light and can explain its purpose and importance.**

Step 4: Plan a simple ceremony for when you pass the Light on. Also, maybe give them a small information note on the Light.

Step 5: 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! **The success of this project depends on coordination between different groups, including parents, so make sure that they also understand what is involved.**





Do: Peace Light

Preparing a Share the Light Ceremony

Think carefully about the location and who will be involved. If you are organising it conjunction with a local organisation or in a place of worship coordinate with them on the format of the ceremony.

Some points to consider:

- How will the ceremony work?
- Who will be involved? What roles are they? Who will do them?
- How will you explain Peace Light? What is important to Scouts?
- How will you transport the light? And, pass it on safely?
- Will you run a Scouts' Own or another type of ceremony? Should it be religious, or spiritual, or about Scouting Principles?

Scouts' Own/Reflection:

You can run a short reflection or a mini-scouts' own if you like. Here is a possible format (make sure to leave time for silence between each part):

- Opening Thought – introduce the main idea
- A reading/reflection – something to get everyone thinking about the theme
- Prayers/carols – a time to think about things beyond ourselves, to the spiritual
- Closing – thought to end the activity

Atmosphere & Involvement: It is extremely important that there is the right atmosphere. Explain to everyone what is going on and make sure the group is calm. Also, it is important to give as many people as possible a role.

Check out this resource for a selection of prayers, reflections and activities for a Scouts' Own

goo.gl/94Lfi4





Review

What did you get out of being involved in the Peace Light project?

What would you have done differently?

What else can we do to promote peace and solidarity?





Review "SPICES"

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/Creativity
- 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





Scouter Notes

This activity is about Peace and the interconnected nature of the world. The Peace Light is a symbol of hope and community, as people make a considerable effort to spread the Light across the world. It is an excellent opportunity for reflecting on Peace and the Spiritual connection between people as human beings. If one or two scouts were interested this would make a good Community project for a Special Interest Badge.

One way to review this activity, is to have the Scouts draw out a map of the route the Light took, or else draw the route on an old or printed out map. At each of the stops on the route, have the Scouts write down some of the main words that come to mind when they think of Peace, such as harmony, community, justice. Follow this with a short chat about these ideas and how they relate to our daily lives.

Another way to review the activity is to incorporate it into one of the ceremonies. Ask the Scouts to write out a short intention for peace or a response to the ceremony. They should especially think about where and why the Light began and all the effort that went into organising the project. Then, have them share their thoughts as they light a candle from the Peace Light.

In terms of the **SPICES**, the **Social** is relevant as scouts will have a chance to develop their relationships with those around through organising a public ceremony, this will also help them be active in their community. From the **Spiritual** learning objectives, Scouts will be living their Promise and Law by promoting peace and solidarity, and it will allow for personal reflection on beliefs and God.

