



## *Polar Award: Share Skills*

For your Crean Polar Award, you need to “Share one of your skills with another Beaver Scout, Cub Scout or Scout”. This resource offers a guide to thinking about how you can share skills, and gives examples of teaching others some scouting skills.

### **Learning by Doing**

In Scouts, we learning things by doing them. It is about running activities with practical guidance, rather than verbal instruction (like in school). This way you learn from first-hand experience and by working with other scouts. It also allows you to learn from your mistakes. We learn things best by doing them ourselves, so as much as possible share skills through demonstration and practice.

There’s a saying that helps us think about how we share skills:

What I hear, I forget  
What I see, I remember  
What I do, I know

Some general points to remember when sharing skills:

- Explain things clearly – don’t assume they know what you mean
- Keep it simple and clear
- Show them several times – carefully demonstrate what is involved, repeat to help them understand
- Help them practice – have them practice, and if possible repeat several times
- Use the skill – it should be a useful skill that they can use on scout activities, help them with this

Check out some of the following examples which explain good ways of sharing skills in a practical way.





## Compass Bearings:

Equipment: Maps & compasses

1. Pick a good demonstration spot, ideally a height from which you can see several features in the distance that are on the map. From this point you should be able to take bearing off a map and verify in reality.
2. Explain what a bearing is and why it is important for navigation.
3. Demonstrate several times how to take a bearing on a map, and then relate what's on the map to the real world. Remember simple things like being in small groups and being beside the participants.
4. All the scouts should have a go at taking several bearings on a map and retaking them in reality.
5. Once the all scouts are happy with how to take, have them follow a simple compass trail.
6. At your next meeting, run a quick activity that uses compass bearings to refresh everyone's memory.

## Packing a Rucksack:

Equipment: rucksacks and a selection of items and equipment

1. Talk about what a rucksack is and what you would use it for. Show it to the participants and talk about the different parts.
2. Demonstrate the correct way of packing a rucksack; with items stored in plastic bags, keeping the things you use most accessible, and the light things at the bottom and the heavy things at the top.
3. Have each scout practice packing a rucksack, and have them explain how and why they did it that way.
4. Practice putting on, tying up, walking with, and taking off rucksacks, especially when full.
5. At the next activity, go on a short walk with all scouts carrying a properly packed rucksack.





### **Cooking on a Trangia:**

Equipment: Trangia, mugs, matches, ingredients

1. In a small group, gather the equipment and ingredients required.
2. Explain what a Trangia is and show how it works.
3. Give everyone a chance to set it up and pack it away.
4. Show them how to fuel, light, and extinguish the Trangia. Supervise each scout trying this out.
5. Prepare the ingredients (something simple like pancakes or potato cakes would work well).
6. Give everyone a go cooking on the Trangia.
7. Everyone helps clean up and puts away the equipment.
8. Soon after, at a patrol meeting maybe, have everyone set up the Trangia again.

### **Leading a Campfire:**

Equipment: campfire book, wood, matches

1. Talk a little bit about campfire, share some memories and discuss what they mean in scouting
2. Plan a small campfire together; maybe one on a patrol or troop camp. Arrange the logistics (when and where, equipment and wood etc) and make out a list of songs and who will sing them.
3. Rehearse some of the songs beforehand, and help them practice what they'll say.
4. Together lead the campfire by starting it off, calling on people to sing, encouraging people to get involved, and setting the right tone for the event.
5. Review the campfire with them.
6. Help them plan the next campfire and let them take the lead in running it.

