Litter to Glitter

Pack Committee

Why Litter to Glitter for the Core Value Resourcefulness. Resourcefulness is using resources to their fullest. Part of being resourceful is learning not to be wasteful and to recycle items to make something new and wonderful from something old. Used items can also be repurposed, or used for something other than their original purpose. One example is using an empty tissue box to store recyclable plastic grocery bags that you can then use as wastebasket liners. By being resourceful we also help take care of our planet by converting litter we have into useful objects, thus turning litter into glitter.

BEFORE THE MEETING

Print copies of the Cub Scout “Leave No Trace” pledge (see the resources at the end of this plan) to be handed to each family as they arrive or placed on the tables at the blue and gold banquet. Ask your state or local environmental services department for resources regarding recycling. Your state or city may have a booklet or posters available for use at the pack meeting. They may even have enough items to give to each Scout. You also may want to review the resources available at http://www.epa.gov.

Have dens make a “cubby” out of recyclable items. (See the Cub Scout Leader How-to Book, chapter 1, pages 4–5.) These can be used as displays while pack members gather or as den table decorations for the blue and gold banquet. Cubbies then could be returned to the dens’ meeting locations as reminders of the blue and gold banquet and of Cub Scouts turning what some might consider litter into something that shines on and on—it glitters with Cub Scout spirit!

Arrange for guest speakers at the banquet or meeting. Also place a reminder call the week of the banquet or meeting. Someone who deals with recycling in your city might make an excellent guest speaker. Or the school superintendent could talk about the recycling program in your local school district.

Decorate the room for the blue and gold banquet using table displays from previous pack meetings as centerpieces, as well as any informational items obtained regarding recycling (posters, fliers, etc.).

Print placemats with recycling information, puzzles, mazes, or word searches. Or have Scouts weave placemats from newspapers during their den meetings.

GATHERING

Have available one of the puzzles or games from the Recycle Rex website (see the resources at the end of this plan). Have a preassigned den or volunteers help review the answers for the Scouts when completed.

Also have the “Leave No Trace” handout to give to the families as they arrive.

OPENING

The presassigned den presents the colors.

Litter to Glitter Opening

You will need seven place cards, one each for the letters in the word “litter,” plus one extra. Six of the cards should each have one letter from the word “litter” and a picture of a piece of litter on the front with the corresponding text below on the back in large print. The seventh place card is made with a large G created in glitter on the front and the text on the back in large print.

CUB SCOUT 1 (holding L): Let’s all
CUB SCOUT 2 (holding I): Invest our
CUB SCOUT 3 (holding T): Time and
CUB SCOUT 4 (holding T): Talents to
CUB SCOUT 5 (holding E): Embellish, enhance, and
CUB SCOUT 6 (holding R): Recycle and reuse.
LEADER (from the side): And then what will happen?
CUB SCOUT 7 (enters with the letter G and stands next to the L): We will turn litter into glitter.
CUB SCOUT 8: Please stand and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Prayer (Cub Scout or Leader)
“Help us remember that being resourceful can be the difference in helping our planet and in saving our natural resources. Help us understand that our resourcefulness can be the key to making a positive impact on the world.”

Welcome and Introductions
The Cubmaster welcomes any new families to the pack and all special guests who are in attendance this evening, and thanks all who have helped prepare for the blue and gold banquet or the pack meeting.

PROGRAM

Den Demonstrations
Have a representative of each den tell about their “Cubby Recycled.” The Cubmaster might ask, “What did you use when making him?” “Did the den give your Cubby Recycled a name?” If the Cubmaster has a chance to see the cubbies before the meeting, he or she could create customized awards for each cubby. For example, an award could be given to the “Most Glittery Cubby.” Plastic lids can be turned into gold medals with some spray paint and ribbon.

Audience Participation

The Trash Monster
CUBMASTER: The Scouts of Pack ______________ have shown what amazing things they can create as they reuse items. What if no one ever thought about recycling or reusing items? That would no doubt turn everything into one big Trash Monster! Let’s see what would happen then.

(Divide the audience into five groups. Assign each group a word. When that word is read, the group must respond with the designated sound.)

MONSTER: Grrrrrr!
PAPER: Crinkle, crinkle
CANS: Crunch, crunch
BOTTLES: Clink, clink
BOXES: Square, square
TRASH: All the groups respond together with their sound.

In my neighborhood, and maybe in yours, there is an empty lot. At first glance it looks like nothing is there. But look carefully, and you’ll see the home of the TRASH MONSTER. He starts out as a little guy, but he keeps growing. Just add a few sheets of PAPER. “Yum,” says the MONSTER as he slurps down the PAPER. Someone throws some empty soda CANS into the lot, and the MONSTER is happy. CANS are one of his favorite snacks. He loves the taste of BOTTLES and BOXES for breakfast. With every piece of TRASH that is added to the lot, the MONSTER grows bigger and bigger. When the lot is totally filled with TRASH, the MONSTER has grown so big, he covers the whole lot.

Well, I don’t know about you, but I certainly don’t want a TRASH MONSTER living in my neighborhood. So I asked a Cub Scout pack to help me defeat that MONSTER. One Saturday morning a bunch of Cub Scouts, armed with work gloves and garbage sacks, met at the lot. The TRASH MONSTER was not happy to see them. The Cub Scouts picked up the PAPER, the CANS, the BOTTLES, and the BOXES. The MONSTER became angry. He tried to hide some of the CANS, but the smart Cub Scouts found them. He asked his friend the wind to blow the PAPERS all around, but the quick Cub Scouts grabbed the PAPERS out of the air and stuffed them into garbage sacks. The MONSTER hid the BOTTLES under the tall grass and tried to squash the BOXES. But those Cub Scouts had eagle eyes and found every BOTTLE and BOX.
The Cubmaster looked around and said, “Well done, boys. Let’s get this stuff to the recycling center.” The TRASH MONSTER looked around. All his beautiful TRASH was gone. He was shrinking, shrinking, shrinking, and soon he was gone. The Cub Scouts promised to keep the lot clean from PAPER, CANS, BOTTLES, and BOXES, and any other TRASH that might show up there. The TRASH MONSTER would never again come to my neighborhood. Three cheers for the Cub Scouts!

**Blue and Gold Banquet**

If the pack is holding a blue and gold banquet, this is the time to serve dinner. If you are serving only dessert for your celebration, wait until the end of the pack meeting and serve it then.

**Blue and Gold Guest Speaker**

As everyone is finishing the meal, have the guest speaker (if you’ve scheduled one) give a brief, informative, inspirational, and, most important, fun talk. The Cubmaster thanks the speaker, recognizes Cub Scouts for their hard work, and begins the presentation of their awards for the month.

**RECOGNITION**

CUBMASTER: When the founder of Scouting, Lord Baden-Powell, was in the military, he was an undercover agent. It was his job to find out what the enemy was doing and report back to his commanders. He had to be resourceful or creative in how he did this so that he didn’t get caught and anything that he did would not be revealed to the enemy. So he hid the maps he was making in beautiful drawings of butterflies. He had a secret legend for everything within the drawing. If he had not relied on his own talents and resourcefulness, he might not have been able to pass on this information. This is an outstanding example to us on how to be resourceful.

Tonight, we have some very resourceful Scouts who have earned their rank. The first rank badge a Scout earns is the Bobcat badge. The Bobcat, on the trail to Scouting, requires a keen sense of fun and adventure. Would those resourceful Bobcats and their parents join us to receive the Bobcat rank. *(The Cubmaster presents the Bobcat badges.)*

Earning the Tiger badge is a great accomplishment for our youngest Scouts. The den leaders learned with you along the trail how being resourceful can make for an awesome time. Those Scouts earning the rank of Tiger please join us with your parents to receive your rank. *(The Cubmaster presents the Tiger badges.)*

The Wolf is possibly the most resourceful of all of our ranks. They have learned to use their resourcefulness to achieve their feats of skill and perform their cooking and eating activities. They used their resourcefulness for playing games and making new items. Join us, Wolf Scouts, with your parents to receive your new rank. *(The Cubmaster presents the Wolf badges.)*

The Bear Scout is becoming more elusive and harder to track as he gains greater knowledge in Scouting. He has become stronger in his skills while learning what makes America special, how to share his world with wildlife, and how to use a pocketknife. *(Note to Cubmaster: For the Bear rank, the Cub Scouts have advancement options that you can substitute here.)* Will our Scouts earning the rank of Bear join us with your parents to receive your new rank. *(The Cubmaster presents the Bear badges.)*

The Webelos Scout will become a man cub very soon. He will move on to Boy Scouts and continue to depend on his resourcefulness to have a positive impact on the world. Scouts who are ready to receive the Webelos rank, along with your parents, please join us. *(The Cubmaster presents the Webelos badges.)*

The most resourceful of all Cub Scouts are those Scouts who have worked with great skill on eight activity badges to earn the Arrow of Light. These Scouts have shown great leadership and a commitment to loyalty and courage. Those Scouts ready to receive their Arrow of Light, please join us with your parents. We bestow upon you the rank of Arrow of Light, the highest award in Cub Scouts. *(The Cubmaster presents the Arrow of Light awards.)*
Congratulations to all of our Scouts tonight! The things you’ve learned will be great resources for you not only as a young man but also as an adult. If you can remember to always be resourceful and use this knowledge you learned, you will honor our founder, Lord Baden-Powell.

This calls for a cheer. Let’s have the Oooh Aaaaah Oooo cheer.

(Divid the attendees into three groups. As you point to each group, have each one shout its assigned word: Oooh, Aaah, or Ooooo. You can mix it up by pointing to the groups in a different order. You can speed it up or slow it down. Then at the end, have the groups make their sounds all at once.)

CLOSING

Cubmaster’s Minute

Resourcefulness is a trait that we all have within us. Sometimes it takes a little creativity, but we have learned tonight that in doing so, we can make a difference in the world and have fun while we are doing it. Using that resourcefulness and applying it to our daily lives can make the difference between enjoying what we are doing and just doing it because we have to.

It is also very important that we as members of the Boy Scouts of America understand and try to live by the “Leave No Trace” pledge. This pledge reminds us to be aware of the impact we have in keeping our world litter free. It reminds us to plan ahead, stick to the trails already in place, manage our pets when we are outdoors, respect other visitors who are in the outdoors as well, and make sure we always take our trash with us and find a trash can to put it in.

Will the Cubs Scouts please stand and take the “Leave No Trace” pledge with me. (All recite the pledge together that is on the Leave No Trace handout.)

CLOSING CEREMONY

Looking at Things Differently

Materials: Cardboard tube, sheet of newspaper, paper plate, sock

CUB SCOUT 1: This month we’ve tried to look at things differently.
CUB SCOUT 2 (holds up cardboard tube): This may look like just a cardboard tube, but I can use it to look at the stars.
CUB SCOUT 3 (holds up sheet of newspaper): This may look like just a sheet of newspaper, but I can use it to make a hat.
CUB SCOUT 4 (holds up paper plate): This may look like just a paper plate, but I can use it to make a mask.
CUB SCOUT 5 (holds up sock): This may look like just a sock, but I can use it to make a puppet.
CUB SCOUT 6: Try to look at things differently, and you’ll be surprised what you can see.
CUB SCOUT 7: Remember, one person’s trash is another person’s treasure that glitters and shines!

The preassigned den retires the colors.

CUBMASTER: Cub Scouts, let’s thank those who have joined you tonight as a guest. Good night and have a safe journey home.

(If serving dessert for the blue and gold celebration, adjourn the meeting and ask the pack to join in the Cub Scouting birthday celebration before they leave.)
RESOURCES

Gathering
Puzzles, games, and other activities can be downloaded from the Recycle Rex website at http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/RecycleRex/Activities/default.htm.

Print out the Leave No Trace guidelines and pledge from http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/CubScouts/resources/LeavernoTrace.aspx.

Optional Opening Ceremony
C-U-B-S
Prepare posters with one letter on the front of each and the lines for the Cub Scouts to say on the back.

CUB SCOUT 1: C stands for “cut back.” Reduce the amount of trash and waste you make.

CUB SCOUT 2: U stands for “use.” Use things again instead of throwing them away.

CUB SCOUT 3: B stands for “be sure.” Be sure to recycle whatever you can instead of throwing it in the trash.

CUB SCOUT 4: S stands for “save.” Together we can save our planet from too much litter.

Optional Blue and Gold Entertainment
Cubmaster, assistant Cubmaster, or a parent volunteer could lead the following:

Recycling
Materials: 2-foot strip of paper about 2 inches wide (needs to be big enough to see), tape, marker, scissors, large picture or drawing of recycling logo, several products with recycling labels on them

The Cubmaster talks while building a Möbius strip.

CUBMASTER (picking up the paper): I have with me today this long strip of paper. I’m going to connect the ends here with tape. (Put the ends of the paper together to form a loop, but before taping, twist one of the ends. Now tape.) I now have a loop that has only one side.

(Ask a Cub Scout from the audience to come up.) My Cub Scout volunteer will show us. He’s going to draw a line down the middle of our loop and he won’t have to pick up his marker. (The Cub Scout begins to draw the line, with the Cubmaster helping if needed. Thank the Cub Scout and ask him to sit down.)

This is a special loop that goes on and on and on and as you follow the side around, you just can’t figure out how that happened. (On a hard surface, shape the loop into a triangle; doing so will crease parts of it, but that’s OK. Hold up the triangle.) How many of you have seen something like this before? (Parents may answer, and some boys may, too, that it looks like the recycling logo. If no answer comes immediately, hold up the picture of the recycling logo.)
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Just as this loop, called a Möbius strip, has no end, the same is true of recycling. (Ask them if they know what “recycle” means.) The symbol reminds us that the materials and resources that we use every day can be recycled. This means that rather than use them just once and throw them away, we find other uses for these materials. Sometimes we are able to use them for something else at home. Can anyone tell me about something you use again at home instead of throwing it away? If you can’t use it again at home, you can recycle it by saving it in a particular container and giving it to a business that can use it again. Often they are able to use the recycled material to make something else. Can anyone tell me an item that you save so it can be made into something else?

So recycling, and using recycling bins, means that we try to use something in some way so it never has to be destroyed or thrown away. It can be kept and used again, and then it can be recycled. We hope that we can continue using it over and over again. It was a Möbius strip that was the inspiration for the recycling logo that we have today and it is used all over the world.

It is difficult to break that unity of recycling (use scissors to cut the Möbius strip along the line the Cub Scout drew) because it just keeps getting bigger.

(After the Möbius strip is cut, there will be not two strips but one bigger strip.)

Recycling means we try to keep the cycle going. Let’s do our part to start recycling if you aren’t already, or to keep recycling all that we can.

**Cheers**

**Recycled Cheer**
We’re going to recycle our cheer! (Repeat cheer.)

**Clean Air Cheer**
Take a big sniff of air, exhale, and say, “AHHHHH!!!”

**Noise Pollution Cheer**
Raise hands and have everyone yell as loud as they can. Lower hands to lower the volume of yells. When hands are on the floor, everyone must be extremely quiet. Do this several times to “raise” and “lower” the volume. Then, with hands on the floor, ask the pack to listen to absolute quiet.

**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Cheer**
Divide the audience into three sections. The first section yells, “Reduce!”; the second section yells, “Reuse!”; and the third section yells, “Recycle!” Alternate which section you point to.

**Optional Songs**

**This Litter Piece of Mine**
(Sung to the tune “This Little Light of Mine”)

Chorus

*This old piece of litter, I’m gonna make it glitter*

Cubs reduce, recycle, and reuse.

Throw it in the big trash can.
No! I’m gonna reduce waste!
Take it down the landfill.
No! I’m gonna recycle!
Leave it on the roadside.
No! I’m gonna reuse it!
Cubs reduce, recycle, and reuse.
Chorus
Build hovercrafts from old CDs.
Yes, we’re gonna reduce waste!
Make spring flowers from egg crates.
Yes, we’re gonna recycle!
Make a game from detergent jugs.
Yes, we’re gonna reuse it!
Cubs reduce, recycle, and reuse.

Chorus
Make puppets from old paper bags.
Yes, we’re gonna reduce waste!
Build birdhouses from scraps of wood.
Yes, we’re gonna recycle!
Whirligigs from soda bottles.
Yes, we’re gonna reuse it!
Cubs reduce, recycle, and reuse.

Chorus
Recycle Song
(Sung to the tune “This Old Man”)
Newspaper, magazine,
Make recycling your routine.

Chorus
We should all recycle
To give the earth a chance.
We want to save this great expanse.

Plastics, lids, milk jugs, too,
Recycle bin’s the place for you.

Chorus
No soda cans in the trash,
You can turn them in for cash.
Recognition Prop Ideas
Recycled Box Luminary

Take two medium tall brown boxes (lightweight) and cut out windows on each of the four sides. Print out the Cub Scout ranks on vellum paper and tape to the inside so that the rank is framed. Then place a bright light inside (an LED light works well) and close the lid. The four sides of the box should each have a different rank featured when you turn the box. The light shining through the vellum illuminates the ranks. You could turn the correct rank to face the audience as each rank is presented. You could also let the Cub Scouts make these with their rank to put on their blue and gold table. In this case, a Tiger Scout would have the Tiger rank on all four sides of his box. Scouts also can decorate the box with glitter, markers, paint, etc.