



pack chat

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When we talk diversity, we talk of the things that make us unique, the things that make us stand out from other individuals. Diversity is something we, as a unified human race, should celebrate and not be afraid of. Diversity has nothing to do with race and everything to do with culture, behaviour, beliefs and adaptation to circumstance that have been passed down from generation to generation. How we act, think, speak and even move, has been shaped by the environment in which we live.

To prevent things like war, racism, sexism, homophobia, exclusion due to disability and other oppressive patterns of behaviour we need to start developing a respect for other people's belief systems and the ways in which they live their lives. Being different from a cultural norm does not make a person less of a person. We need to start looking at inclusion, how can we accept the difference of another's way of life. We start by accepting ourselves and our own unique traits first and taking a good look in the mirror and asking what makes me part of the whole? "I am because we are" (African Proverb).

SCOUTS South Africa strives to help young people to develop and achieve their full spiritual, mental, social and physical potential so that they are empowered to be responsible citizens and members of their local, national and international community. Diversity forms part of the principles and values of Scouting. Scouting enables us, both young people and adults, to understand and acquire the knowledge and skills to face the realities of living in an intercultural and multicultural world, where we need to respect and value difference.

Acknowledgement: Angie Robinson, Educator/Diversity and Inclusion in Scouting (WOSM's position paper)

think about it:



We all smile in the same language.

did you know?

There is a new Diversity Challenge out for Cubs, Scouts, Rovers and Adults! The need for this badge was identified across the SCOUTS SA branches.

The badge works along similar lines to that of the SSA HIV & AIDS Awareness badge. The requirements follow three specific themes in each Branch: discover- connect - action. While this Challenge is voluntary, we do encourage all Scouters and members to achieve and wear the badge.

a man with a lamp (short yarn on respect)

Once upon a time, there was a small town. There lived a man by himself who couldn't see. He was blind. Yet, he carried a lighted lamp with him whenever he went out at night.

One night as he was coming home after having a dinner outside, he came across a group of young travellers. They saw that he was blind, yet carrying a lighted lamp. They started passing comments and made fun of him. One of them asked him, "Hey Man! You are blind and can't see anything! Why do you carry the lamp then?"

The blind man replied, "Yes, unfortunately, I am blind and I can't see anything but a lighted lamp, which I am carrying is for the people like you who can see. You may not see the blind man coming and end up pushing me. That is why I carry a lighted lamp".

The group of travellers felt ashamed and apologized for their behaviour.

Moral: We should think before judging others. Always be polite and learn to see things from multiple points of view.

Acknowledgement: <https://www.moralstories.org/>

kind

I pledge to:

- ◇ Be Encouraging
- ◇ Be Supportive
- ◇ Be Positive
- ◇ Be Helpful
- ◇ Be Honest
- ◇ Be Considerate
- ◇ Be Thankful
- ◇ Be Responsible
- ◇ Be Respectful
- ◇ Be a Friend

ideas for pack meetings:

Help the Cubs to see that each of us is unique:

Thumbprints: Use an inkpad and let each Cub make a thumb print in the centre of a piece of construction paper. Then use a magnifying glass to examine the thumb prints. How are they alike; how are they different? Next have everyone use markers to add to and draw around the thumb prints to create unique thumb print animals.

Discuss: Even though we are all people (or part of the same family) our fingerprints are different and each of us probably thought of—and drew—a different thumbprint imaginary animal. We don't look alike or think alike.

Friendship Board: Give the Cubs peach, white, brown, black and orange paint. Have them mix what they perceive their skin colour is. Then have them paint a friend's hand and then put a hand print on a heart shaped piece of paper. Put these up on a bulletin board with the heading "**Friendship Comes in Many Colours!**".

Paint on wet paper: Get a big sheet of paper completely wet; smooth it out again. Brush thick, wet water colours on top. They will blur and fuzz out on the wet paper, blending together to make wonderful shapes.

Discuss: We are all different but we all blend together in work and play to make the world a wonderful place.

Acknowledgement: <https://www.kidactivities.net/diversity-through-arts-and-crafts/>

When dealing with questions of race: Give each child in the Pack an identical looking object (tennis ball/ping pong ball/bottle top, etc.) and ask them to describe it. Let them tell you and the other children what makes theirs unique based on its appearance. Ask all the children to place their object in a bag. Give it a good exaggerated shake. Then empty the objects out of the bag and ask the children to find their own specific object again.

Discuss: When they are unable to find their original object, introduce the concept that we may have different skin tones, but that we are the same on the inside and are all human beings.

Languages: In Africa alone, there are an estimated 2000 different languages. With each dialect, the body language, gestures and way of relating to people in cultural systems differ. In South Africa we have 11 official languages with Sign languages being considered as new introductions to our schooling system. Sign language differs between different communities within South Africa and internationally.

Activity: Learn eleven different ways to greet someone in all the official languages. Learn the South African Sign alphabet and how to sign the Cub Prayer. Create a symbol board to tell the Cub Promise.

Acknowledgement: Angie Robinson

Why is respect for others important?

Roll and Respond about Respect: Each Six has a dice; there is a question which needs to be answered for each number on the dice, e.g.: 1) Showing respect is important because; 2) I respect my parents by; 3) I respect my teachers by; 4) I show respect to my friends by; 5) I respect myself by; 6) I respect the world by... The Cubs throw the dice and have to answer the question pertaining to the number on the dice.

Acknowledgement: 41 Best respect activities images

Acknowledging our differences, celebrating our similarities

Find out about different religious holidays/cultures: create artwork, cook sweet treats, try alternate foods and clothing.

Overcoming challenges: Take a tour of your meeting place to see how accessible it is for people with physical disabilities.

Visual challenges: Put an eye patch over one eye and have the Cubs experience the loss of depth-perception that people with one eye must learn to live with. Have the Cubs put together a simple puzzle blindfolded.

Auditory challenges: Pair the Cubs off; have one Cub silently mouth action words, e.g. jump, clap, to their partner. Their partner should then do what they think they heard. Take turns reading lips and mouthing words.

Physically challenges: Increase awareness of physical challenges by participating in activities while using a wheelchair; crutches; glasses with Vaseline or waxed paper on the lenses; blindfolded; ear plugs, etc. Have the Cubs write their name or draw a picture holding the writing utensil with their mouth or toes.

Discuss: Any challenges your Cubs encountered.

Acknowledgements: BC Diversity Challenge—Girl Guides of Canada; Angie Robinson;

multi-cultural games:

Catching Stars (Africa): Divide the Cubs into two groups, 'Stars' and 'Catchers'. Set up two boundaries a distance apart. 'Catchers' stand in the middle of the two boundaries and 'Stars' stand on one side of the boundaries. 'Catcher' say "Star light, star bright, how many stars are out tonight?". The 'Stars' respond "more than you can catch!". The 'Stars' run across to the other end and try not to get tagged. The last person to get caught wins.

Takraw (Thailand): A Takraw is a ball about the size of a grapefruit made from woven rattan and is quite hard. The Cubs stand in a circle and pass the ball around using their heads, feet, legs and shoulders. They cannot use their hands. Takraw games often break out on the street among strangers waiting for a boat or a bus. This multi-cultural game might draw 40 or 50 people before the boat or bus arrives to take away some of the players. Takraw is very entertaining to watch.

Acknowledgement: <https://www.kidactivities.net/diversity-games-and-school-ideas/>

More tips, games and crafts in the next edition of **pack chat**
Stay tuned!

news:

- ◆ Your Scout Group is registered on the Child Friendly App! [Check your details!](#)



SCOUTS SA has negotiated a free listing for every Scout Group on the FREE Child Friendly App which provides a fantastic opportunity to promote Scouting to potential new members in your area.

- ◆ Watch this space! There is a new Cub Interest badge in the pipeline for all budding Entrepreneurs.