

# Community

## SDGs Covered:



## Experience

Undertake **one** activity related to **each** of the following:

### 1. Learn what it means to be part of a community (and how your different communities work)

After completing these activities, you will be more **aware** of the different communities you are part of, and **understand** some of the services that exist within them.

- Brainstorm all the communities you are a part of. This will include things like family, school, sports, Scouting, and your neighbourhood, but there will likely be many more too. List all the things that you have in common with members of each of these communities. How do you personally contribute to these communities? Build a list of things you could do to more actively contribute to these communities, and put three of them into action.
- Find out how the government works in New Zealand, who your local community leaders are in parliament, and what their role involves. Visit them in their local offices or invite them to speak to your group. Find out the difference between local and national government and what the two are responsible for.
- Visit a part of your local community to which you have never been. Look at a map of your community to identify a spot. With a buddy or an adult, explore this area (by bike, vehicle, on foot, etc.), after addressing any needed safety precautions. Consider why you haven't visited the location before, and what's stopping others from visiting the area.

### 2. Explore the diversity of different communities

These activities will help you **identify** your diverse community and **explore** the richness of different experiences.

- Learn your Scout Promise in te reo Māori or New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) and share it with others. Learn about what is involved with translating something like the promise, and why things can't always be translated word-for-word.
- Invite a community elder from another culture to visit your group. Find out about their culture and their community's history in your part of the country. How long have they been here? Are there any events or landmarks of significance to them? Visit these or find out more about them.
- Visit a local cultural meeting space (e.g. marae, mosque, temple). Find out what it is used for and how often people meet there. How many people meet regularly here? What are the cultural protocols when visiting the location?

### 3. Discover some of the challenges facing different communities (and who they affect)

These activities will help you **realise** some of the challenges faced by your communities and **understand** their impacts on an individual, social/cultural, and institutional level.

- What does your community need? Create a vision for your community. Use models, pictures, slideshows and/or maps. Consider what you'd like to see added to or removed from your community. What needs to change?
- What does Te Tiriti o Waitangi mean for people today? How have the different translations affected the lives of Māori in New Zealand today? Invite someone knowledgeable to visit your Section to speak about the challenges still arising from Te Tiriti.
- What is period poverty? Find out how much sanitary products cost in your area. What happens if someone can't afford them? What kind of impact could staying home from school or work have for someone? What is the effect on the wider community if a significant portion of the population has to stay home on a regular basis?

### 4. Recognise some actions you can take to strengthen your communities

After completing these activities you will be able to **recognise** the ways you can strengthen your communities and **know** how to work as a community to achieve this.

- Find out what charities or services exist in your local area to support the local community, e.g. City Mission, Food Bank, Salvation Army, Red Cross. If possible, visit one of them and volunteer for a day to support their work.
- Take a careful look at a nearby playground. What equipment do children enjoy playing with the most? What might need fixing or should be removed for safety reasons? Who would you alert about this? If you were designing a playground, what components would you include? Create your design and share it with your group.
- Organise a visit to the offices of your local government. What do they do? What do they think are some of the most important issues facing the communities they serve? What are they doing about them?

## Act

- What is an issue of national significance that is important to you? Send an email or write a letter to your Member of Parliament about the issue. Find other ways to make a positive difference regarding the issue.
- Participate in or organise a community project/event. i.e. Arbor Day, Clean Up NZ Day.
- Organise a local clean-up for your group. Consider 'adopting' a stretch of beach, coastline or a local park or area to keep constantly tidy and free from litter.

