

Peace Education

SDGs Covered:



Experience

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

1. Learn about the causes and types of conflict that prevent or disrupt peace

These activities will help you **understand** the causes of conflict and **recognise** some solutions to resolve it.

- Learn about some forms of conflict that are the most common in New Zealand. Find some statistics and present them in a compelling way. What does this form of conflict look like? Words, physical action, or through inequality? Does it occur within families, friend groups or strangers? Present your information in a creative way (e.g. story, skit, song) and share it with your group.
- Explore some non-violent actions that people have taken to resolve conflict. For example: Parihaka, Gandhi's peaceful rebellion, or America's Civil Rights movement. Look into the principles of non-violence and the actions of peace that have shaped the world. Present these stories back to other Scouts in a creative way.
- In a group, each person writes down (anonymously) a conflict experience that they have had. Collate these experiences according to the type of conflict. There could be inner conflict, bullying, gossip, exclusion, personal conflict, confrontation, violence etc. In their groups, act out one of the conflict situations. Now add a way to resolve the conflict – did someone else step in? Did you resolve it yourself? What would have helped you resolve the conflict better? If you hadn't resolved it, how might the situation have escalated? Share your findings with the group.

2. Create a culture of peace (developing and strengthening dialogue, understanding and respect between different people and cultures and celebrate diversity and inclusion)

These activities will help you **understand** how to create a culture of peace, and **celebrate** differences and diversity.

- Hold a Scouts' Own on the theme of peace, diversity, and inclusion.
- Make a list of things you could do each day that would be considered acts of kindness, or daily actions of goodwill. Aim to achieve at least 5 daily actions of good will every day for a week. Record how it makes you feel. Does it become more natural? Can you do an additional act every day? How do you think this might be contributing to a more peaceful society? Do you notice anyone else doing these similar acts? How can you encourage more people to act this way?

- Invite a panel of guest speakers, who have lived through different experiences related to diversity, peace, or conflict to speak to your group. Ask them to share their journey, what they have learned, and how they think we can create a peaceful society.

3. Learn about the impacts of war and conflict

These will help you **realise** what the impacts of war and conflict can be and **understand** its effects at an individual, community, and global level.

- Keep a daily diary of news items which feature stories of peace and conflict. Include local and international events, initially by finding reports in the newspapers. Then, encourage other Scouts to bring articles from home, write up reports they have heard from television or radio, or print updates from news websites. Both successful conflict resolutions and continuing disputes should be included. It is important that reports are taken from different types of media outlets. Once you have a good collection, review all the articles you have. How many are related to peace, and how many related to conflict? Why do you think this is? What are the common themes? Learn about media bias, for example by comparing two reports of the same event from two different outlets, and seeing if they tell the same or a different story. How do the articles make you feel? Next time you hear about an event, try writing your own article. How easy/hard is it? Share your collection and what you have learned with others.
- Be part of a discussion with your group that enables people to express their feelings and open their minds to the realities of conflict. We need to challenge short-term thinking, hate, and prejudice as well as show solidarity with the victims of war, no matter where they live. How can we best do that? This activity will be best facilitated by a Kaiārahi.
- Make arrangements to express sympathy to families or those directly affected by a recent conflict, maybe members of Scouting across New Zealand or around the world. This could include writing cards and letters, making a donation, prayers, organising a baking drive, or attending an observance (memorial service, vigil) etc.

4. Recognise how to support and encourage peace

Be able to **recognise** the ways you can encourage peace and **know** how to work as a community to achieve this.

- Find out all you can about an organisation which provides essential emergency services or gives help to other parts of the world. Each small team could choose a different agency. You could organise an exhibition for the whole Group and invite parents to a talk by an invited expert or member of the studied organisation.
- Design one or more greeting cards on the theme 'Building Bridges of Friendship and Empathy'. Exchange cards with a local community organisation as a sign of empathy and friendship.
- Take part in the Paper Doll project. Initiated by Daniel (age ten) and Emily Barback (age eight) from the Bay of Plenty after the Christchurch mosque attacks in 2019, the project is designed to create a long, long line of paper

dolls that show children of different cultures holding hands. More information, including templates and mailing instructions, is available online.

Act

- Plan an event on the theme of 'Building Bridges'. How do we connect with people of other cultures, other ways of living, those with different ideas, from other organisations in your area, or those who have a different faith, different abilities, or different political or lifestyle views?
- Create a video highlighting the impacts of domestic violence in New Zealand, and share it with your community.
- Create a 'Wheel of Choice' – a cardboard circle with a spinning arrow in the middle. Write down and draw pictures of different strategies that can help resolve conflict around the outside of the wheel (e.g. ask for help, apologise, walk away, compromise, talk it out, go to another activity). Use this in your Scout group whenever conflict arises between two members or during a game or activity. Make a few more and donate them to schools or families that may like them.

