Scouts Scotland

Beavers | Cubs

International Women's Day

March 8th

An equal world is an enabled world

Held every year, International Women's Day (IWD) has taken place on March 8 for over 100 years. The aim of the day is to celebrate the achievements of women and girls, to empower women and girls around the world and to encourage action on issues of gender equality

This activity contributes to the following badges:

Activity 1 (10m)

Print off the IWD Bingo card below, one for each young person. Then get everyone to walk around and talk to each other and see how many squares they can fill in

You may want to ensure all Leaders and Assistant Leaders have some answers in advance so they can help the young people with any they don't know

Explain what International Women's Day is all about- to celebrate the achievement of women and girls and to ensure that boys and girls have the same chances in life

Activity 2 (10m)

In a circle, ask the young people to give examples of what they think are boys' jobs and girls' jobs. For every answer, remind them that both boys and girls can do this job and we all can be what we want to be when we grow up! Try and challenge any perceptions the young people my have

To make this activity more fun, you could bring in props and act out jobs to the young people e.g hairdresser, builder, chef, doctor, police officer so they can try and guess the job first

Activity 3 (1 hr)

Create IWD cards for the young people to take home for the women and girls in their family. You will need:

- Card
- Felt tips
- Glue
- Felt, glitter etc.
- A variety of childrens books about inspirational women

Childrens books for International Women's Day can be researched online (or see if your local librabry can help!)

Split into smaller groups with each group focusing on a particular woman in history. Some examples might include:

- Marie Curie
- Amelia Earhart
- Jane Austen
- Rosa Parks
- Anne Frank

After learning about the story and achievements of the woman in history the young people could create cards with a drawing of them on the front and a few key facts on the inside. They could then address it to an important woman in their own life e.g. family, teacher, Scout leader etc!

Thought about peer leadership?
Could one of your young people lead this activity for their Section?

Name a famous female sports star:	Name a female prime minister or president:	Name a famous female scientist:	Name a female superhero from a film or comic:
Name an important invention by a woman:	Find someone who has a stay-at-home dad:	Name the year women first won the right to vote in the UK:	Find out when International Women's Day is:

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Did You Know?

- Women make up just 23% of people in national parliaments worldwide
- Women, on average, earn 25-40% less than men who do the same job
- Across the world, over 60% of the people who cannot read are women

This is why we need International Women's Day. As well as highlighting women's achievements, it also highlights the distance we have to go to achieve equality

Malala's Story

Read the following story to highlight the issues and inequality facing women and girls in the world today

Malala is a young Pakistani Human Rights Activist who fights for the rights of girls and women to receive an education. She risked her life for the cause and has changed history. Malala was born on July 12, 1997 in Mingora, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. She grew up with her two younger brothers, mother and father and practises the religion of Islam.

Many Pakistani girls did not attend school. However, Malala's father was a teacher who ran a school for girls, which Malala attended. She loved school and had big dreams of becoming a teacher, a doctor or a politician. When the Taliban (a movement of religious students from Pashtun) began to take control of the area where Malala lived, they demanded that all girls' schools be shut down. Women were no longer allowed to vote, or to have jobs. All women and girls were to stay home unless wearing a burqa (a garment that covers the head, face and body) and accompanied by a man.

In 2009, Malala began to write a blog about the destruction and closure of more than 100 girls' schools in Pakistan. She became famous for writing her blog and began speaking out, in public, against the Taliban. Despite the Taliban threatening to kill her, she bravely continued fighting for the rights of girls and women to receive an education in Pakistan

In 2012, Malala was on her school bus when a masked gunman got onto the bus and asked "Who is Malala?" He said he would shoot everyone on the bus if they did not tell. When Malala's scared friends looked her way, the gunman shot Malala. The bullet passed through her head, missing her left eye and her brain. While in hospital, in intensive care, the world outside was supporting her cause. Malala survived. She continues to fight for peace and equality. Malala Yousafzai is the youngest ever Nobel Peace Prize winner

Pledge Wall (15m)

Create a Pledge Wall split into three sections exploring ways we can make our world, our community and our troop/unit a better place for women and girls

Collate ideas and pledges and display these in a prominent place in your hall to remind the young people of their ongoing commitment to gender equality

It might be a good idea to discuss with the young people ways in which we can challenge inequality and ask for them to share any examples or experiences that they might have

Thought about peer leadership?
Could one of your young people lead this activity for their Section?

Malala story provided by International Women's Day and teachstarter
https://www.internationalwomensday.com/Activity/12216/TeachStarter