Scouts Scotland

Beavers | Cubs

Zero Discrimination Day

March 1st

Let's build a world where everyone is welcome!

Zero Discrimination Day is an annual worldwide event to celebrate humanity and appreciate all the things that make us different. This perfectly aligns with our Scout values of **Integrity, Respect, Care, Belief and Coopoeration** and is a good opportunity to reflect on these

This activity contributes to the following badges:

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

Activity 1 (5m)

This could be done at the start of the session when the young people are in a circle

Stand up if you ...

- have ever been called names
- have been left out of a game at playtime
- have ever had somebody say nasty things about you
- have ever said something nasty about another person

How did those things make you feel?

- Hurt?
- Sad?
- Angry?
- Ashamed?

Sometimes this kind of behaviour is known as **discrimination**. This is where someone is picked on or left out for being different. But everyone is different and special so nobody should ever be bullied for this reason!

Activity 2 (10m)

This could be a larger group activity just to get the young people thinking about things they have in **common**:

Can anyone think of any? E.G.

- We all need food and water
- We all need to breathe
- We all need to sleep
- We all started off as babies
- We all feel happiness and sadness

Activity 2 (cont.)

We also have things that make us **different**

Can anyone think of any? E.G.

- Some have long hair and some short
- Some are tall and some smaller
- Some were born in Scotland and some not
- Some like sprouts and others don't!

A **stereotype** is a fixed belief about a particular group of people. Here are some examples of stereotypes:

- Girls are better at cooking than boys
- Boys are messy

If people around us say something that we think is a stereotype (e.g. Girls can't be mechanics or boys can't be hairdressers) – ask yourself:
Can't they? Never? Why not? Have people who say this met every mechanic and hairdresser in the whole wide world?

Activity 3 (20m)

The symbol for Zero Discrimination Day is the butterfly. Learn how to make an easy origami one in advance here and either teach the young people how to make one or ask them to decorate ones you have made earlier

You could even write one of our Scout Values on the paper before folding!

The butterfly repsresents how we are all different but all special. **Remember:** We are all valued members of our pack/colony and must not hurt each other's feelings! When we all respect each other's differences, we can all get along and be much happier human beings/butterflies!

Scouts Scotland

Scouts | Explorers

Zero Discrimination Day

March 1st

Let's build a world where everyone is welcome!

This activity contributes to the following badges:

Zero Discrimination Day is an annual worldwide event to celebrate humanity and appreciate all the things that make us different. This perfectly aligns with our Scout values of **Integrity, Respect, Care, Belief and Coopoeration** and is a good opportunity to reflect on these

Activity 1 (5m)

For this activity, you need to provide some preferential treatment to a particular group of young people. Suggest saying that all young people with blue eyes must stand at the back, whilst all others can join in with the opening game. Explain that this is a new Scouts rule and aim to provoke a reaction. How does it feel to be treated in this way? Was this fair treatment? Young people are praised and all can take part in the game

What Is Discrimination?

Discrimination is treating someone unfairly, because of 'who they are' e.g. race, religion, gender, sexuality etc. In some cases, people choose to hate some people, just because of 'who they are'. They don't even know them, but they hate them. This is very dangerous and such attitudes can in time lead to appalling acts of violence:

- At least 6 million Jews were killed in the Holocaust by Nazi Germany between 1941 and 1945
- At least 800,000 people were killed in the Rwanda genocide of 1994
- At least 9,000 Muslim men and boys were murdered in the Bosnian genocide of 1995

In all cases, one set of people held extremely prejudicial views towards another set of people. They committed appalling acts of murder, intending to wipe these groups out of existence. This is called genocide. History has taught us that genocide can be the end result of discrimination, so it's important to recognise this and tackle any and all discrimination as early as possible. We are all born different, so is it fair to hate someone, just because of 'who they are'?

Activity 2 (10m)

Split into small groups. Ask the young people to list as many types of discrimination as they can think of. Share as a wider group

Luckily, in the UK we are protected by the Equality Act 2010. This means **it is against the law** to discriminate on the grounds of:

Class, race, gender, (including gender reassignment), marital or civil partnership status, sexual orientation, disability, political belief, pregnancy and maternity, religion (including the absence of religion), sex, age

Activity 3: Is It Fair? (20m)

Ask the following questions as a debate/roleplay for your young people:

- Is it fair to deny a woman in the Army a promotion because she is pregnant?
- Is it fair to ask a worker to cover their prosthetic arm in a designer clothes shop?
- Is it fair to ask non-white people to pay their bill in advance in a restaurant?
- Is it fair to stop a male nurse from treating female patients without supervison?
- Is it fair to expect a hairdresser to remove their headscarf when styling hair?
- Is it fair for a Christian hotel owner to refuse a gay couple from sharing a room?

The answer to all is of course **NO** but it is important for these to be discussed so young people can understand **why**. Relate back to the Equality Act 2010 and how each of these situations discriminates. These are all **real** examples of legal cases in the UK

We are all human and everyone has the right to be treated equally. When we all respect each other's differences, we can all get along and be much happier human beings!

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