

Zephyr District Cub Leader Handout

October 2021

The theme for October is "Loyal". One way for scouts to be loyal is being kinder to nature and our planet, and to be loyal to each other. Here are some activities to remind them what we can do:

Nature and Technology

We are dependent on tech, our cubs more so. While getting out into nature is what's best, it's also become easier with technology. From using apps and maps online to locate and organize people and places to go, to learning about geocaching and identifying plants and animals, tech helps a great deal to teach and grow. That's why it might be good to tackle the cyberchip as a group if you find this requirement is one of the last anyone will complete. The good news is that, according to Scoutbook, you can do either the cyberchip or the Protect Yourself Rules each year to complete the tech safety requirement.

If you are gearing to do a group event for completing the cyberchip, one method is to rent the computers at a local library. Have families sign up, then reserve the computers ahead of time and you're set.

The Litter Bug (Simon Kenton Council; macscouter.com, modified by Megan Kellermeyer)

Items needed:

WASTE BASKET *to toss things about

PAPER *Crackle, crackle

CANS *Clatter, clatter

TRASH *Dump, dump

LITTER BUG *Toss and Throw at screen

Poem:

Bugs are in this world for many reasons,
Made to live in every kind of season.

But the pesky **LITTER BUG**, with his **PAPER** and **CANS**
Was made through neglected **TRASH** by the foolish man.

To keep our land beautiful, get rid of that **LITTER BUG**,
So beach goers can again lounge on a clean, sand rug.

Because of this pest, we must walk around
in **PAPER, CANS, and TRASH** all over on the ground.
Just who are the **LITTER BUGS** who mess up our land?
Do you really ever see them toss out **PAPERs** or **CANSs**?

Most of the time it seems to just appear,
As if it had dropped right out of thin air.

Could it be we are so used to throwing things there,
That we dump **PAPER and CANS** without being aware?
Without even thinking when we toss **TRASH** and waste,

We could be a **LITTER BUG** in all of our haste.

So when you unwrap that gum or bar of candy,
Don't throw down the **PAPER** just because it's handy.
Next time stop and think when it's pop **CANS** you toss,

'Cause if you're a **LITTER BUG** it's also your loss
And if every single person would take note of his habit
That pesky **LITTER BUG**, we could certainly nab it.

That terrible bug could surely be stamped out,
With no more **PAPER, CANS, or TRASH** tossed idly about
TO KEEP OUR LAND BEAUTIFUL, WE MUST ALL DO OUR PART,
By taking care of our **TRASH** properly from the start.

Helpful apps:

Merlin Bird ID <http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>

Plant Net Plant Identification <https://identify.plantnet.org/>

National Parks <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/digital/nps-apps.htm>

Nature's Notebook https://www.usanpn.org/natures_notebook

iNaturalist <https://www.inaturalist.org/>

My Nature Animal Tracks <http://www.mynatureapps.com/mynature-animal-tracks/>

Geocaching apps

Star Walk 2 (for stargazing) <http://vitotechnology.com/star-walk-2-guide-sky-night-day.html>

Star Walk Kids 2 (for learning about the solar system and the night time sky)
<http://www.vitotechnology.com/star-walk-kids.html>

LeafSnap www.leafsnap.com

Project Noah <https://www.projectnoah.org/>

Opportunities of Service:

Operation Gratitude

<https://www.operationgratitude.com/express-your-thanks/write-letters/>

Operation Gratitude is an opportunity for Cub Scouts to thank service members for their commitment and bravery by writing letters of appreciation. Letters are accepted year-round. Cub Scouts can write to a deployed soldier, veteran, first responder, wounded hero, and new recruits. If you have a service member in your neighborhood, you can honor them by writing to them. Have the Scouts design their card or letter. Begin by writing "Dear Hero" or "Dear Brave One." Have Scouts express their thanks for their service. Avoid politics and religion. Scouts can say that they are praying for them. Share a little about yourself- family, hobbies, work, school, pets, travel, etc. Talk about life and things that interest you such as sports, weather, music, movies, food, books, etc. Do not include a date or year. Adults can include their contact information such as an email. Children (Cubs) should include first names only and no addresses. Cubs can also include drawings, but no glitter or confetti. Do not put individual cards and letters in envelopes- put them all in one envelope. Cub Scouts can tell jokes, tell stories, and share what they are learning or doing in Scouts.

If there is a major holiday in the future and Cubs want to send cards for that holiday, write them at least two to three months in advance and send them because cards can take several months to be delivered.

Send the letters to :

Operation Gratitude

ATTN: Letter Writing Program

21100 Lassen Street

Chatsworth, CA 91311-4278

Scouts and the unit may also choose to send a Care Package that includes the letters. Care packages can contain snacks, toiletries, entertainment items and the letters from students and adults. See their website for more information: info@operationgratitude.com

Wreaths Across America - Another opportunity to serve.

Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, wreaths to honor U.S. veterans are placed in Arlington National Cemetery and more than 1,600 locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad. Cub Scouts may volunteer to help place the wreaths in cemeteries in their state.

Our local organization working with Wreaths across America is the Northern Nevada Veterans Coalition. Go to [Nevada Veterans Coalition - Honoring All Veterans Past, Present and Future \(supportnnavc.org\)](http://supportnnavc.org) and look for the Wreaths Across America Logo to support this program in our state.

Note: all research was done by The Philmont Cub Scout Roundtable Supplements October 2019