



2018 - Community Action Campaign

Homelessness- What, When, Where and How

Girlguiding Leicestershire Taking Action in 2018! -
Get involved in our project about homelessness and
supporting children and young people.

We have put together a set of activities for a single unit meeting, for all sections. Following the meeting you are asked to take action by collecting personal hygiene items including sanitary products, which will go to 'Code Red' to be distributed to homeless shelters, food banks and refuges across Leicestershire.

Homelessness- What , When, Where and How

Guides and Rangers

Introduction to homelessness

Put pictures up around the room to prompt discussion

Read simple definition of homelessness; ask the Guides and Rangers what they understand by the term homelessness.

Definitions in the additional resources pack

Myth Busting Quiz

1. All people who are homeless live on the street.
2. People who are homeless are lazy and don't want to get a job.
3. People who are homeless sometimes have pets for companionship.
4. It would be cool to be homeless because you could go anywhere you want.
5. All people who are homeless are addicted to drugs or alcohol.
6. Mental illness is the main reason people are homeless.
7. There are no homeless children.
8. Homeless people are in all communities not just big cities.
9. Homelessness is just a fact of life; there is nothing we can do about it.

Answers in the additional resources pack

Is a house a home?

Girls work in groups to build their home; this can be an edible structure or built from boxes or you can choose another building item. Or you can ask the girls to draw their homes on large pieces of paper.

Resources needed - Biscuits, icing pens, sweets and decorations, pens, paper and markers.

When the girls have built / drawn their houses ask them to list the top nine things they could not live without. Share the answers with everyone in the group and discuss.

What are a child's basic needs? At the end of the pack you will find Maslow hierarchy of needs.

Questions to ask during activity

What makes a happy home?

What can make someone's home an unhappy place?

What do you think people do if their home isn't a happy place?

How can you contribute to making a happy home?

Why do young people run away?

There are lots of reasons why young people leave home; it's a sign that something is not OK at home. Remember every situation is different.

Now, ask the girls to work in groups to select nine reasons, from the cards that they think could cause girls to run away from home.

Cards at the back of the additional resources pack

Next girls should arrange the nine choices in a diamond shape to show which they think are the most powerful reasons that young people run away. Discuss the differences between each groups selection.

Invisible Homelessness

When a person runs away from home they go to lots of different places, sometimes these seem invisible; this activity shows invisible and visible homeless.

Label one area of the room safe and one unsafe. Ask the girls to move to safe / unsafe when a location is called.

- Town centre
- Local shops
- Relatives house
- Friend's house
- Park
- Strangers house
- School
- A new town or city
- Shopping centre
- Church
- Car park
- Train / bus station

Ask girls why they have chosen safe / unsafe, what do they think are the risks?
Discuss

- Violence
- Drugs
- No Money
- Exploitation
- Crime
- Harm
- Hurt
- Unwell
- Hungry
- Tired
- Cold
- Self harm

How can we help homeless children?

Fortune Teller / Poster

Raise awareness by sharing messages with your friends, make a fortune teller -

Template at the back of this pack

Colour in your fortune teller but remember under each number flap write a piece of information about homelessness. Share your own messages or use...

Key messages to share

From Girls in Action pack

- Every five minutes a child runs away from home in the UK
- 70% of child runaways go unreported in the UK
- 1 in 6 child runaways will sleep rough or with a stranger
- 100,000 children under 16 run away from home in the UK every year

From Shelter

- 1:200 people are recorded homeless
- There are over 300,000 homeless in the UK
- There are approximately 4800 people sleeping rough in the UK
- 1:59 people are classed as homeless in London
- 128,000 children were homeless last Christmas

Now share messages with friends and family

ACTION TO TAKE

As Girlguiding Leicestershire we want to help girls and young women who are homeless or at risk of being homeless, we want to make sure they have access to personal items such as soap, toothpaste, toothbrush and for the older girls sanitary products, which is why we have teamed up with 'Code Red' a local campaign collecting sanitary products.

Ask the girls to tell all their friends and families about our campaign, if you have time you might want to make posters to tell people about homelessness and the collection.

Please bring items to our County Office between Sept 2018 and Dec 2018.

For more help with this pack contact
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