

YEA! Service Unit

Girl Scouts of Ohio Heartland's Toe Program

Desired Outcomes

- Participants learn about their community
- Participants learn to respect the community where they live

Method of Presentation

- Read through each activity and complete all aspects of it

Required Activities for this Toe

- All activities in this Toe must be completed, including a follow-up project that the troop commits to finishing. Also, if there are Journey connections for your age level, those must also be completed before receiving your YEA! Bat Toe.

Evaluation and Patches

Once a group has completed the suggested activities including a commitment to a follow up activity, "YEA! Earth" toes can be purchased from the council Girl Scout Resource Store.

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Activity #1- Community Roots

With your troop, or by yourself, set out on a fact finding mission about how your community got its name. Write a story or draw a picture to explain what you have learned.

Activity #2- Community Tour

Tour your community on foot, bicycle, public transportation or private vehicle to map particular points of interest: residential areas, parks, shopping areas, factories, schools, playground and offices.

Try to find a map of your community that is over 30 years old and see how it compares to what you find now.

Activity #3- Service Project

By yourself, or with your group, decide on a small service project that would help your local community. Spend a day picking-up trash in a park, plant flowers or trees, clean a ditch, or do any other outdoor project that will make a difference close to where you live!

Activity #4- Learning about Recycling

Explore the recycling efforts in your community. Where is the closest recycling center? What could you do to encourage your family and others to improve recycling habits? (Recycling could also be linked to your service project!

Activity #5- Local Wildlife

What wildlife lives in your community? Make a list of wildlife actually seen or evidence of wildlife such as droppings or tracks. Did you know that the greater amount of diversity in wildlife in your community, the healthier the natural environment?!

If you are having trouble spotting wildlife, try to find a quiet park, or perhaps a local spot with a birdfeeder!

Activity #6 - Dream Big!!

Visit a park, playground or other public use "green space" area in your community. Studies show that Americans value green spaces, but sometimes the area doesn't look friendly. What are some ways you think that a park could look unfriendly?

Some examples are: Litter, graffiti, broken playground equipment, puddles, etc.

Now that you have seen the park, think of what the park would look like if you had planned it out.

What equipment would you have? Are there things missing like bathrooms or water fountains?

Make a drawing of your dream park and share it with others in your group.

Journey Connections

Brownies- It's Your World Change It- Session 4 and 5

When working on the Service Unit Toe, take time to look through the It's Your World Change It Journey. Session 4 and 5 concentrate on giving service to the community which is also very heavily covered in this Toe!

Juniors- It's Your World, Change It- Session 1

Visit a local library, or the town hall, and see if you can find any example of woman who lives in your community who are heroes. Discuss what a hero is, and how you and the girls in your troop can exhibit the characteristics of a hero.

Find at least 2 female heroes that are local to where you live, and make a list of their strengths, and see how you stack up against them!

Cadettes- It's Your World, Change It- Session 5

While working on your Service Unit Toe explore the Girl Scout definition of leadership. Have each girl make a list of qualities they feel they possess. Then have the group come up with a list of qualities that they feel like leaders should have. Then compare that to the Girl Scout definition of leadership. How does your group stack up in terms of leadership?

Now, have your group select a local female leader. Research what they have done to change the world and how they have used relationship skills to lead in a positive way. What can you learn from this leader? How can you put the things you learned from this leader into practice in your everyday lives?

Senior- It's Your World, Change It- Session 1

Now that you have learned about many facets of the community around you, take a few minutes to talk about what makes a community great. Remember, a community doesn't always have to be a physical location, it can also mean a group of people. With your group, talk about what would make a perfect "GIRLtopia", or a place where girls and women could thrive and flourish, minimize conflict and bullying and be successful as a community. Then answer the following questions:

What would this community look like?

What would make it successful?

What would the government of this community look like?

What businesses would be important to your "GIRLtopia"

Once you have fully fleshed out your vision of what your ideal community would be like, make an artistic representation of it. Some ideas are: Make a map of your community, make a “Welcome Billboard” that captures the essence of you GIRLtopia, etc.

Ambassadors- It’s Your World, Change It- Session 2

Now that you have explored your community, think of ways that you are connected to it. Maybe you are specifically interested in the government, the school system, the justice system of the parks. Once you have learned about your area of interest, try to identify one factor that you believe could work better...

Advocacy is a political process by an individual or group which aims to influence public-policy and resource allocation decisions within political, economic, and social systems and institutions. What areas in your community would you like to become and advocate for? Take some time to decide what policy you would like to see changed and write a letter to the appropriate person addressing the following items:

Why do you think the policy needs to be changed?

What resources will be needed to make the necessary changes?

How will the community benefit from these changes?

Have a mentor, leader or friend read your advocacy letter, and then decide if you want to pursue sending it.

