

# March 2008 Monthly Theme: "Litter to Glitter"

This month Cub Scouts will turn recycled items into treasure and learn about conservation at the same time. Using items that would normally go in the trash or recycling bin, build artistic masterpieces of your own design. It's amazing what some recycled bottles and paper can do when combined with glue and a little imagination. Have a gallery opening at your pack meeting with all your art displayed. Don't forget the Art belt loop and pin.

Webelos Activity Badges: First year, Athlete; Second year, Complete Engineer

## Core Values

### CHARACTER CONNECTIONS FROM PROGRAM HELPS

Remember - Know, Commit, Practice.

\*Citizenship - Boys learn that providing services related to recycling and reusing can help them be good citizens of their neighborhood, town, state, country and world.

\*Resourcefulness - Transforming discarded items into things of value is a good example of resourcefulness for Cub Scout-age boys to experience.

## Theme Related Material

### QUOTES

"We are not to throw away those things which can benefit our neighbor. Goods are called good because they can be used for good; they are instruments for good, in the hands of those who use them properly." - Clement of Alexandria

"Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without." - New England proverb

"Most of us are familiar with recycle and reusing, but how often do we think of the third R - REDUCE? 'Reduce' is probably the most important of the three Rs because, if we reduced, it would limit the need to recycle and reuse." - Catherine Pulsifer

"I only feel angry when I see waste. When I see people throwing away things we could use." - Mother Teresa

"One thing you can't recycle is wasted time."

### START TO RECYCLE

Sort materials, rinse containers, and store in a safe, dry place. It's easy. With a little practice, it takes less than five minutes a day. Sort your materials and rinse any leftover contents from containers so your items won't begin to smell bad or attract ants and bees. Here is how to sort materials and get them ready to recycle.

Newspapers: place in paper bags, stack and store.

Cans: empty, rinse and store.

Plastic containers: empty, rinse, flatten and store.

Glass containers: empty and rinse. Separate by color - clear, brown, and green. Store unbroken.

Motor oil: drain and store in a sealed container.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO!

1. Begin your own home recycling center.
2. Organize your den to take a field trip to a park or beach to clean up litter.
3. Instead of using paper towels, use cloth towels, which can be washed and reused again and again.
4. Before you toss plastic soda rings into the garbage, cut all the circles with scissors so animals and birds can't get caught in them.
5. Instead of throwing out some things that you don't want anymore, see if someone else could use them. Try having a yard sale or a swap meet.
6. Keep a ragbag. Put old torn clothes in it and have a supply of rags to help clean the house or use for messy projects.
7. When you go shopping, bring a cloth bag or recycle old brown paper bags by taking them with you.
8. Bring old books you don't want to your library. Maybe the library could use them.
9. Save paper. Use both sides of every sheet. Use recycled paper. If more of us use recycled paper, there will be a bigger demand for it.
10. Collect newspaper, magazines and office paper to deposit at paper receptacles at schools and churches.

## Pack Admin Helps

### Pack and Den Activities

#### PROJECTS

#### RECYCLED CRITTERS

Materials: toilet paper tubes, paper towel tubes, fast food containers, 2-liter bottles, candy wrappers, empty soft drink cans, cereal boxes, juice boxes, tape, glue, markers, paint

This is a great den team building activity. Each den will design and create a critter for display at this month's pack meeting using the materials that are supplied.

#### DECOMPOSITION EXERCISE

Have the Cubs bring several common household trash items to the meeting. With a stapler, hammer and nail, or duct tape, attach the trash to a board and expose it to the elements for a month. Make sure that the board is set up in a clear area where it will get the full force of the sun, wind and rain. At the end of the month examine each item and compare their relative decomposition. Talk about how long it takes for certain trash items to decompose. Share with the boys some facts about the "life expectancy" of trash items.

#### HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

To help promote better environmental awareness, share the following information with the Cubs. It will give them some facts they can relate to regarding the importance of recycling.

Orange and banana peels - up to 2 years

Wool socks - 1-5 years

Cigarette butts - 1-5 years

Plastic-coated paper - 1-5 years

Plastic bags - 10-20 years

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Plastic film container - 20-30 years  
Nylon fabric - 30-40 years  
Tin cans - 50 years  
Leather - up to 50 years  
Plastic bottles - 100 years or more  
Plastic six-pack holders - 100 years  
Aluminum cans - 500 years  
Glass bottles - 1,000 years or more  
Hot-fired ceramics - 7,000 years or more  
Styrofoam - 10,000 years or more

### GROCERY BAG KEEPER

Materials:

2-liter soda bottles

Knife and scissors

Plastic grocery bags

1. Wash and dry bottles thoroughly.
2. Cut off about 3 inches off the top of the bottle and about 2 inches off the bottom of the bottle.
3. Stuff the bottles with plastic grocery bags.

### LET'S GO BOWLING

Materials: As many empty 2 liter soda bottles that you want for bowling pins (10), water, ball, chalk or masking tape

When playing outside, mark off the spots for the bottles with chalk. That will make it easier for Cub Scouts who are going to set up the pins. For inside bowling you can make small Xs with the masking tape on the floor to mark where the bowling pins go.

Fill the bottoms of the bottles with a small amount of water.

Set up as many lanes as you like... Grab some balls and have fun setting up and knocking the pins down.

### CLEAN UP YOUR HANDS JUG

Materials: Clean empty milk jug, golf tee, string

Punch a hole several inches from the bottom of the jug on the side opposite the handle. This hole should be the size that a golf tee can fit into it. Fill the jug and hang from a tree. To wash your hands remove the golf tee... and out comes the water. Open the cap of the jug a little bit for more pressure.

Another version:

Cut off the bottom of a milk jug and hang upside down. Fill the jug from the bottom. Unscrew the cap and out comes the water.

### PLASTIC VOLLEYBALL/BADMINTON NET

Materials: Plastic holders from six packs of sodas, string or cord

You'll need lots of six-pack plastic holders. Tell den members to start collecting well ahead of time. Have boys take a handful of the holders and begin tying them together with string or cord. Make the net about 3 feet tall and 15 feet wide.

After all of the holders are tied, run a long length of cord through the entire top row of holes, weaving the cord in and out. Repeat for the bottom of the net. Tie the ends of the cord between two trees and you're ready to play.

## RECYCLED MAGAZINE BOXES

Materials: Empty cereal boxes, newspapers or wrapping paper, pencil, scissors, glue or clear tape

Stand the cereal box upright and mark with a pencil five inches from the bottom. Draw a diagonal line to the opposite top corner of the box. Draw a matching line on the other side of the box.

Cut along the lines and remove the top of the box.

Wrap the box in wrapping paper or newspaper comics. Glue or tape the wrapping in place. Now your box is ready to hold some magazines!

## LITTER TO GLITTER - THREE MOBILES

It would be a disservice to this Litter to Glitter theme if we didn't provide at least one totally frivolous, absolutely glittery Litter to Glitter project. What Cub Scout has not at some point in his life looked at some gaudy, shiny, sparkly, glimmering item and said, "Mom, I think that's beau-ti-ful?" So, here are three Ultimate Litter to Glitter mobiles (To hang in the front yard for the entire world to see!)

Materials:

A variety of glittery discards that will reflect the sun such as aluminum pie tins, clean, used aluminum foil, used CDs, mylar (old mylar balloons or the inside of some snack bags. Clean with soap and water first.) gift wrap, garland, silvery buttons and baubles, miscellaneous shiny packaging like candy and gum wrappers, iridescent ribbon, old shiny ornaments, sequins, leftover glittery craft items, clear 2-liter soda bottles and a paper plate (not glittery.) You will also need glue, scissors and thin wire, string or cord.

## SHINY SPIRAL

Start by forming a long thin snake from the pieces of used foil. Scrunch and twist them together until it is a long tube about the width of a finger. Make sure that the separate pieces are connected in some way either by folding the foil together or using some glue.

Twist this shimmery snake around your hand to make a spiral shape. Tie a piece of string around the top of the spiral. Tie the other end of the string around a CD. Leave some extra string at the top so you can hang it. Add smaller shiny items using glue or wire. Add more spirals and more CDs if you want. After all, when it comes to glitter, isn't more better?

## CURLY BEL MOBILE Part 1

Cut the bottom off a 2-liter clear soda bottle. Cut long strips, about 1/2 inches wide about two-thirds of the way up the bottle. Roll each strip up with your fingers or around a pencil and it will stay curled. Part 2 - Take some string and attach a 1 i about halfway up. Do this by poking a hole in the cardboard. Thread a button below the cardboard so it will stay in place. Attach shiny decorations to the half of the string below the button. Use CDs, ornaments, strips of mylar and anything else that shimmers. Part 3 - Take your curly bell and thread the top of the string

## ONE LAST SHINY INDULGENCE - SHIMMERY SPINNING PLATES

Draw a zigzag around the edge of a paper plate and cut it out.

Attach an aluminum pie tin to the center of the plate.

Cover both sides of the plate with lots of shiny things - candy wrappers, sparkly paper, sequins, buttons, foil, and whatever else you have.

Attach string to top and bottom. Continue to add shiny items, and even another pie tin to the bottom of the string. Use the top of the string to hang the Spinning Plates in the breeze

## **MORE PROJECTS**

From the Cub Scout Leader How-To Book:

Beach Bag from six-pack plastic rings - page 2-19

Milk Carton Bird Feeder - page 4-22

## **GAMES**

### **UNNATURAL HIKE**

Leader will need to plan and set up the trail for this hike in advance.

Collect items such as a plastic cup, extension cord, old tire, tennis ball, ceramic pot, clothes hanger, packing peanuts, a piece of clothing, old tools, a light bulb, tin and aluminum can, glass bottle, etc. Place these items along the trail as if they belong there. For example, hang an extension cord from a tree limb like a vine, have a tennis ball peeking out from a pile of leaves, scatter a few packing peanuts with pebbles at the side of the path.

With a partner, Cubs will walk the trail. Let them know that they will be looking for items that aren't supposed to be there and making a list of what they see. When the boys return they will probably have found more than you put there. Have them compare their lists with each other and then with your list.

Talk about how it feels to see unnatural items in a natural setting. Ask them if they have noticed items in places they don't belong when they have been hiking or walking before.

Ask how they think those items get where they don't belong. Talk about what they and others can do to prevent discarded items from invading our natural spaces.

Go together to pick up the unnatural items from the trail they just walked. Take a few minutes to read the Outdoor Code or the principles of Leave No Trace together.

### **TRASH CAN RELAY**

Set up five classroom trash cans in an obstacle course. The first student on the team runs the course, weaving in and out around the cans. When the student reaches the last can, he or she turns around and weaves back to the team. The runner taps the next team member in line, who takes his/her turn running the course... You could give each boy on each team five pieces of trash that have to be made in each trash can as they go through the obstacle course.

### **WASTE NO WATER**

Fill a clean open-topped non-breakable container (a plastic spaghetti sauce jar or a soup can work well) with water for each team. Be sure the containers are the exact same size and filled to the brim with water. Set a start and finish point. At a signal, the first runner heads for the finish line, walks over the line, turns around and heads back to his or her team, and passes the container to the next person in line. At the end of the race, the team with the most water still in the container is the winner.

### **NEWSPAPER RELAY**

Provide a stack of newspapers for each team and have team members divide the stack evenly among themselves. Set up a paper bag or recycle bin (or whatever container your community uses for recycling newspaper) at a finish line. At a signal, the first member of the team carries his or her stack of newspaper to the finish line, deposits it in the container, runs back to the team, and taps the next person in line.

### **PUTT FOR POINTS**

Equipment: Five empty cans large enough for a golf ball, golf club, paint, golf balls

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Paint five cans with bright colors. Paint or draw a point value on each can. (Suggestions: Paint the number 5 on one can, the number 10 on another, 15 on a third, 20 on a fourth, and 50 on the fifth.) Set up the cans in a row. Give students three golf balls and three chances to accumulate points for their team.

### KICK THE CAN RELAY

Equipment: Two empty cans

To play: Divide the den into two teams and line them up relay style behind a start/finish line. Give each team an empty can. The object of the game is for the first Cub on each team to kick the can to a turning point and then back to the start/finish line. One at a time, the rest of the team repeats the action. The first team finished wins.

### LITTER BASKETBALL

(Boys always get fussed at for doing this - why not make it a game?)

Equipment: Lots of crumpled newspaper, computer or copy paper, trash cans

To play: Divide the den into two teams and seat them behind a throw line. Place the trash cans about 10 feet away. (the distance depends on the motor skills of your boys.) On the signal to GO, Cubs fire their paper "basketballs" at the trash can goals. After a set amount of time stop the game. Count the number of "basketballs" in each trash can. The team with the most "basketballs" in the cans wins. Work together to collect the paper and place it in a recycle bin.

### TUMBLING TOWERS

This activity can be done one team at a time. Provide a recycle bin full of clean aluminum cans (for example, soda pop cans). At a signal, students have 2 minutes to stack the cans one atop another. Each student takes a turn at building a tower by stacking cans one atop the other. The student on each team who builds the tallest tower then represents his or her team in a final team-against-team stacking competition.

### PAPER, PLASTIC, ALUMINUM

The Cub Scouts stand in a circle with one Cub in the center. The Cub in the middle holds a beanbag and tosses it to one of the Cubs standing in the circle. While it's in the air, the Cub in the center shouts either "PAPER!", "PLASTIC!", or "ALUMINUM!" The Cub who catches the beanbag must name an object made from paper, plastic, or aluminum in 5 seconds while the other Cubs count out loud. If the object's name is duplicated, or if the Cub can't think of an object, he's out of the circle. When there is only one Cub left (the winner) he takes the place of the Cub in the middle of the circle.

### REDUCE IT REUSE IT

This game focuses on the idea of "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" as the way to minimize personal pollution. It will take a little bit of courage on someone's part (the Den Leaders) because someone has to come forward with their recycling bin and whatever is in it. The object of the exercise is to get the boys thinking about the "stuff" we throw out on a regular basis and how we might eliminate some of it.

The leader brings in the recycle bin of "stuff" and, one at a time, displays their wares. The boys then discuss/disgust what, if anything, could have been done to reduce or reuse the items shown. [Note: If you have alcoholic beverage bottles in the bin, please remove them before doing this game!]

## The Pack Meeting

### Gathering Activities

### Opening Ceremonies

#### **C U B S OPENING**

Personnel: 4 Cubs

Equipment: Prepare posters that reflect the messages presented with the letters C U B S on them.

Setting: The boys stand in front of the pack, hold up their cards and recite their lines:

Cub Scout #1: C stands for "Cut Back." Reduce the amount of trash and waste you make.

Cub Scout #2: U stands for "Use." Use things again instead of throwing them away.

Cub Scout #3: B stands for "Be Sure." Be sure to recycle whatever you can instead of throwing it in the trash.

Cub Scout #4: S stands for "Save." Together we can save our planet from too much pollution.

All: Reduce, reuse, and recycle!

Cubmaster or one of the Cub Scouts: Please join us in the Pledge of Allegiance

#### **BEAUTIFUL AMERICA OPENING**

Seven Cub Scouts boys line up, each holding a card with one of the letters printed on it.

A - America abounds in beautiful sights;

M - Making it beautiful is one of our rights.

E - Each of us is proud of our U.S.A.,

R - Rolling hills and lakes in which we can play.

I - Instead of littering and spoiling our land,

C - Crusade to keep America beautiful and grand,

A - And then we can always be proud of our land.

Cubmaster or one of the Cub Scouts: Please join us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Stories and Audience Participations

### Advancement Ceremonies

#### **RECYCLE, RECYCLE, RECYCLE ADVANCEMENT**

Make award cards out of recycled paper or card stock. Print the recycle logo on the award card along with the boy's name.

Hang all the award cards on a display board divided into "Paper" "Plastic" "Cans" "Glass" and "Electronics." Place all of the Bobcats, Tigers, Wolves, Bears, and Webelos under separate headings.

Talk about the need to recycle the items we use and how manufacturers use the products we recycle to make other useful products. When we recycle, we conserve natural resources like trees and water. As each boy and his parents are called up, let him know that he is a resource that can be recycled, in a manner of speaking, because the things he learns as he advances in Scouting will be and should be used over and over in his life.

## Songs

### **POLLUTION SONG**

(Tune: My Bonnie)

The litter blows over the highway,  
The litter blows over the park.  
Unless we do something to stop it,  
The world will be litterly dark!

CHORUS

Pick up, pick up,  
Oh pick up the litter you *see*, you *see*.  
Pick up, pick up,  
Oh pick up the letter you *see*.

We're given clean air for our breathing,  
But we just don't keep it that way  
Instead we pollute it from smokestacks  
And breathe in the garbage each day!

CHORUS

Bring back, bring back,  
Bring back a clean world to me, to me.  
Bring back, bring back, bring back a clean world to me.

### **PICKIN' UP THE LITTER**

(Tune: I've been working on the Railroad)

I've been pickin' up the litter,  
All the live long day.  
I've been pickin' up the litter,  
Just to have a place to play.  
Can't you see the litter basket,  
Sitting on the sidewalk there?  
Every little bit will help us,  
If you just show you care.  
Won't you pick it up?  
Won't you pick it up?  
Won't you pick it up today, today?  
Help us clean it up,  
Help us clean it up,  
Help clean up the U S A.



## TRASH RAP

(Chant to a rap beat.)

We're Pack \_\_\_\_\_ , comin' on through  
Recycling trash and we're doing it for you!  
We don't claim to have the whole solution.  
We're just trying to stop some more pollution!

We pick up the trash and pick up the litter.  
We tell our parents and the baby-sitter:

"Garbage is a mess, it makes the world dirty  
If we keep this up, by the time we're thirty,  
We'll be sitting on piles of non-decaying plastic,  
Disposable diapers and pieces of elastic,  
Broken glass and old tin cans;  
Clean up the world! That's the name of this plan."

We don't claim to have the whole solution,  
We're just trying to stop some more pollution!

The water is filthy; it's not fit to drink  
And the air around us, it really stinks!

We have to start now to clean up our act  
Or we're gonna kill the Earth and that's a fact!  
The government is working to pass some legislation,  
To make the Earth fit for future generations.  
But, you'll agree that it's not enough  
It's up to us and we've got to be tough!

We're Pack \_\_\_\_\_ , comin' on through  
Recycling trash and we're doing it for you!  
We don't claim to have the whole solution  
We're just trying to stop some more pollution!

## MAKE IT BETTER

(Tune: "Frère Jacques")

We are looking, we are looking,  
Around our world, yes we are.  
Trying to make it better.  
Trying to make it better.  
For everyone - everyone.

## LITTERBUGS BEWARE

(Tune: Auld Lang Syne)

We are the folks who hunt the bugs,  
That litter up our streets,  
With papers, bottles, old tin cans,  
And wrappers off their sweets.

Chorus:

No litterbugs, No litterbugs,  
No Litterbugs for us.

Let's start today to do our share.

No litterbugs for us.

We want to keep our playground clean,  
Without a lot of fuss,

Let's start today to do our share.

No litterbugs for us.

Chorus

## RECYCLE SONG

(Tune: This Old Man)

Newspaper, magazine,  
Make recycling your routine

Chorus

We should all recycle  
To give the earth a chance.

We want to save this great expanse.

Plastics lids, milk jugs, too,  
Recycle bin's the place for you.

Chorus

No soda cans in the trash,  
You can turn them in for cash.

Chorus

## Skits

### THREE RS FOR PLANET EARTH

Cub Scout #1: Gimme an R for REDUCE!

Cub Scout #2: Walk or ride a bicycle when you can.

Cub Scout #3: Turn off the light you when you leave a room.

Cub Scout #4: Before you buy something, ask yourself if you really need it.

Cub Scout #1: Gimme an R for REUSE!

Cub Scout #2: Use a cloth towel, instead of a paper towel.

Cub Scout #3: Donate old toys to a thrift shop or a homeless shelter.

Cub Scout #4: Use an empty milk carton for a bird feeder.

Cub Scout #1: Gimme an R for RECYCLE!

Cub Scout #2: It takes less water to make newsprint from old newspapers than from trees.

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Cub Scout #3: Every time you recycle a soda can, you save enough energy to run a TV for three hours!

Cub Scout#4: Recycled plastic is used to make toys and filling for sleeping bags.

Cub Scout #1: Reduce what you use.

Cub Scout #2: Reuse what you can.

Cub Scout #3: Recycle the rest.

Cub Scout #4: Three Rs for Planet Earth!

## THE RECYCLE MACHINE

Cast: 4 Cub Scouts; one hiding in the "machine"

Props: Large box; old and new pocket knives; old and new paperback books; old and new pencils; "Reject" sign

Jack: Hey look, guys, a recycle machine!

Jim: Let's try it out. [turns on switch]

Bob: Let's see what it does with this rusty, old pocketknife.

[Drops pocketknife into machine. The machine makes noise and shakes; then out comes a new, shiny pocketknife.]

All: Wow, it works! Fantastic!

Tom: Maybe it can recycle this old, torn book.

[Drops book in. The machine shakes and rattles and turns out a new paperback.]

Jim: That's really great! Here, machine, here's an old, broken pencil for you.

[Drops pencil in. The machine performs, giving out a new one.]

Bob: It's your turn, Jack.

Jack: I wonder how this thing works.

[Steps up, peers inside and falls in.]

Jim, Bob, Tom: Oh, no! What should we do? [all look worried]

[The machine stays quiet and then rattles. It finally makes a very loud noise and out pops Jack. A sign on him reads REJECT.]

Tom: Look! He has a sign around his neck. It says "REJECT." A Cub Scout's spirit is too strong and durable to ever be worn out!

Jack: Remember, to help save our Earth, follow this motto--

All: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

## Stunts and Applauses

### CHEERS

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE CHEER

Divide the audience into three sections. Have the first section yell, "Reduce!", the second section yell, "Reuse!", and the third section yell, "Recycle!" Alternate pointing at each section, pointing faster and faster.

RECYCLE CHEER

Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without!

CLEAN AIR CHEER

Take a big sniff of air, exhale and say "AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!"

NOISE POLLUTION

Raise hands and have everyone yell as loudly as they can. Lower hands and volume of yells go down. When hands are on floor, everyone must be extremely quiet. Do several times - raise and lower volume. Then, with hands on floor ask the Pack to listen to absolute quiet.

LITTERBUG CHEER

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"Crackle, Clatter, Dump." (Repeat three times) "Don't be a litterbug. Pick them up!"

### JOKES/RUN ONS

#### COVERED WITH DIRT

Cub Scout #1: What is blue and gold and covered with dirt?

Cub Scout #2: A Cub Scout who has gone back to nature.

#### CRUDE OIL

Cub Scout #1: What is the first thing you should do with a barrel of crude oil?

Cub Scout #2: Teach it some manners!

#### OCEAN

How can you tell the ocean is friendly?

Answer: It waves.

#### TIDE

Why doesn't the sea spill over the earth?

Answer: Because it's "tide"!

#### LIGHT BULB

What did the light bulb say when it was turned off?

Answer: I am delighted!

#### CLIMATE

Teacher: Please give me the definition of climate.

Student: That's what a kid does when he sees a tree!

## Closing Ceremonies

### DECLARATION OF DEPENDENCE ON NATURE CLOSING

Personnel: Seven Cubs

Props : Seven Lit candles

Scene: Lower or turn out room lights. Each Cub says his line then blows out a candle.

Cub #1: I am part of nature.

Cub #2: I have an effect on everything that lives.

Cub #3: I am bound together with all living things in the air, in the land, and in the water.

Cub #4: My life depends upon nature, upon its balance, upon its resources and upon the continuity of both.

Cub #5: To destroy nature is to destroy myself.

Cub #6: As a member of the human race, I am responsible for its survival.

Cub #7: I am a part of nature, and I will not destroy it, for if I do, my world will be a darker place.

### G A R B A G E CLOSING

Seven Cub Scouts each with large cards with the letters G, A, R, B, A, G, E. Each boy reads the line after the letter which is best if it's written on the back of the cards for the boys to read.

G - Great mounds of trash,

A - All heaped up high,

R - Ruin the beauty of Earth.

B - Be aware of recycling.

A - All of us count.

G - Get started today.

E - Earth is ours to care for.

## COUNTRY CLOSING CEREMONY

Cub Scout #1: This is my country. I will use my eyes to see the beauty of this land.

Cub Scout #2: I will use my ears to hear its pleasant sounds.

Cub Scout #3: I will use my mind to think what I can do to make it more beautiful.

Cub Scout #4: I will use my hands to preserve and care for it.

Cub Scout #5: And with my heart, I will honor it.

## Cubmaster's Minutes

### CUBMASTER'S MINUTE - RECYCLING

Materials: 2 foot strip of paper about 2" wide (needs to be big enough to see), tape, marker, scissors, large picture/drawing of recycling logo, several products with recycling labels on them

[While the Cubmaster talks, he/she will be building a Möbius strip.]

Cubmaster: I have with me today this long strip of paper. [Picks up paper]

I'm going to attach the ends here with tape [Put the ends of the paper together forming a loop, but before taping, twist one of the ends - now tape]

I now have a loop that has only one side. [Ask a Cub Scout from the audience to come up]. My Cub Scout volunteer will show us. He's going to draw a line down the middle of our loop and won't have to pick up his pen. [Cub Scout begins to draw the line, Cubmaster helping if needed]. [Thank the Cub Scout and ask him to sit down]

This is a special loop that goes on and on and on and as you follow the side around - you just can't figure it out how that happened [On a hard surface, shape the loop into a triangle (this will crease parts of it, but that's OK).]

[Hold up the triangle]. How many of you have seen something like this before? [Parents may answer - and some boys may too - that it looks like the recycling logo.]

[If no answer comes immediately, hold up the picture of recycling logo]. Just as this loop, called a Möbius strip, has no end, the same is true of recycling. [Ask them if they know what recycle means] The symbol reminds us that the materials and resources that we use everyday can be recycled. This means that rather than use them just once and throw them away, we find other uses for these materials. Sometimes we are able to use them for something else at home. Can anyone tell me about something they use again at home instead of throwing it away?

If you can't use it again at home you can recycle it by saving it in a particular container and giving it to a business that can use it again. Often they are able to use the recycled material to make something else. Can anyone tell me an item that you save so it can be made into something else?

So recycling means that we try to use something in some way so it never has to be thrown away and then used again and then they can be recycled again... and we hope that we can continue going on and on and on. It was a Möbius strip that was the inspiration for the recycling logo that we have today and it is used all over the world.

It is difficult to break that unity of recycling... [use scissors to cut the Möbius strip along the line] because it just keeps getting bigger. [As you cut the Möbius strip, you will now have not two strips, but a bigger strip].

Recycling means we try to keep the cycle going. Let's do our part to start recycling all that we can today.