

SCOUTS

International Activity Badge Leaders' resource

Support Scouts to take part in international activities



scouts.org.uk/join
#SkillsForLife



International Activity Badge – Scouts

Introduction

You don't have to leave the meeting place to take your Troop to fascinating and far-off destinations. This resource has been developed to support you to complete the International Activity Badge with your Troop. Activity ideas and background information are provided for each requirement of the badge. You could do these activities across a couple of section meetings, or plan a themed camp or event. Why not ask Scouts to vote on which countries they would like to find out about?

This badge can be a great opportunity to tap into the experiences of others. Are any of the Scouts from a different country, or have they spent time living or holidaying in another country? What can they tell you about the country? If you know parents/carers or volunteers in the Group that have lived or volunteered in another country, perhaps they could share their experiences with the Troop and help to run a session. There may even be some Explorer Scouts or Scout Network members who could share their experiences of completing their Explorer Belt.

Badge requirements

How to earn your badge

- 1 Find out about the World Scout Movement's history and what it does today. Complete a quiz in teams to see who in your Troop knows the most about the World Scout Movement and discuss what you think World Scouting could do in the future.
- 2 Take part in a traditional craft or creative activity from another country.
- 3 In a language other than your own, introduce yourself and say a few basic, useful, everyday phrases.
- 4 Take part in one of these events individually or with the Troop and report back to other Scouts:
 - Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) or Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)
 - an international camp held in the UK or abroad
 - a link to Scouts in another country

Please note that these badge requirements are correct as of September 2018. For up to date information and badge requirements, please visit the members' area of scouts.org.uk.

Flexibility

Each young person who participates in the programme, including badges and awards, should face a similar degree of challenge, and requirements can be adapted according to each young person's abilities. For more information and practical tips see our guidance at scouts.org.uk/diversity.

Additional resources

A certificate is available for Scouts who have completed their badge. The certificate can be customised and downloaded or ordered from the Scout brand centre at scouts.org.uk/brand.

Additional resources to support the global elements of the programme can be found at scouts.org.uk/globalprogramme.

For further support, please contact the Scout Information Centre on info.centre@scouts.org.uk.

Ideas and activities

1. Find out about the World Scout Movement's history and what it does today. Complete a quiz in teams to see who in your Troop knows the most about the World Scout Movement and discuss what you think World Scouting could do in the future.

Scouting was founded in 1907 in the UK by Robert Baden-Powell, when he held a camp on Brownsea Island in Dorset, for boys from a variety of backgrounds, to try out his ideas. He then created a book called Scouting for Boys which was very popular and became like a handbook for Scouting. It was translated into a number of languages and by 1910 there were already over 100,000 young people in Scouting.

It is now a worldwide movement, with over 40 million members. The World Scout Emblem, which is on our Membership Award badge, represents being part of the world family of Scouting and is worn by members all over the world.

The fact that Scouting is a global movement gives us the opportunity to connect with Scouts across the world, and learn about other countries and cultures. It also means that Scouting can make a big difference to the world.

The World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM) was established in 1922 and there are now 169 National Scout Organisations (NSOs) across the world who are members. You can find more about the history of Scouting at heritage.scouts.org.uk.

A quiz is provided on page 5 which you can use with your Scouts. You could divide Scouts into quiz teams, and have some prizes to inspire some competitive spirit. You could even have a couple of the Scouts taking charge as quizmaster.

2. Take part in a traditional craft or creative activity from another country.

Creative activities are an interactive way to get young people to explore international cultures and traditions.

Here are some specific activity ideas.

- Create decorative Pan Chang knots from China or try Chinese calligraphy.
- Make a totem pole traditionally found in North America out of recycling materials. These are usually made from trees and have carvings to symbolise things like ancestors, legends and significant events.
- Learn some Bollywood dance moves from India. Bollywood is the Indian Hindi-language film industry and the dancing in Bollywood films is based on Indian dance.
- Make papel picado, a Mexican craft involving paper cutting, and often hung on display during special occasions.
- Make a Daruma Doll, representing an important figure in Japan and used to set a personal challenge or goal.
- Draw beautiful symmetrical patterns on ceramic tiles or mugs, to reflect Moroccan ceramics. You can use permanent markers and bake in the oven to seal it.
- Make a piñata, a traditional part of Mexican birthday celebrations, thought to have originated from Chinese New Year celebrations in China hundreds of years ago, and thought to be based on an Italian word.
- Make himmeli, a traditional Finnish ornament, usually displayed above the dinner table during holiday seasons, and traditionally made from straw or reeds. See the instructions below.

Activity: Himmeli sculptures

Himmeli are a traditional Finnish decoration, usually displayed above the dinner table during holiday seasons, including Christmas. The word comes from the word himmel, meaning sky or heaven in Swedish and German. They are made from geometric shapes, traditionally made from straw or reeds, and they used to be displayed as good luck for the crop for the next year. Paper straws are an easy alternative to straw or reeds, and it is better to use paper rather than plastic straws to reduce plastic pollution. Paper straws are biodegradable, whereas plastic straws are thought to take up to 500 years to decompose.

Time needed

30 minutes

You will need

- paper straws (at least 4 per person)
- scissors
- string, twine or floral wire
- printed or online images of hemmeli (optional)
- copies of the instructions on pages 6 - 7

Instructions

- 1 Show Scouts some images of hemmeli decorations and sculptures. Can they guess what country they are traditional in? Discuss the history and use of hemmeli in Finland.
- 2 Then, challenge Scouts to make their own, using the instructions on pages 6 to 7. Each Scout will need at least four straws and a piece of string, twine or wire that is about 15 times longer than the length of one straw. Why not pick up some raspberries and blueberries as snacks to keep them going? Wild berries are used a lot in Finnish cooking.
- 3 When they are finished, they could attach all of their himmeli together, to make a large sculpture, or keep them separately.

3. In a language other than your own, introduce yourself and say a few basic, useful, everyday phrases.

You can also find a selection of useful phrases in a range of languages (Arabic, French, Hindi, Icelandic and Spanish) on page 8. There are also online tools like [Google Translate](https://www.google.com/translate), which you can use to translate words and hear how they sound.

Languages are an exciting way in which to engage young people in international topics, and this is an opportunity for Scouts to explore a new language that they haven't learnt in school. What countries or languages are Scouts intrigued by, or where would they like to visit in the future?

This may also be a great opportunity to celebrate any different nationalities or backgrounds you may have in your Troop. Scouts may be able to teach each other some useful phrases in their first language or a language they have learnt. Meeting or communicating with Scouts in other countries, which Scouts do for requirement four, can also be a great way to learn another language first-hand.

If you're looking for an activity to do with your Scouts for this requirement, why not print copies of page 8 and cut out the rows and cut the name of each language and each column header? Then, challenge Scouts to piece the table together. This could be done as a relay race, where they take turns to grab a piece of paper and bring it back to their group.

4. Take part in one of these events, individually or with the Troop, and report back to other Scouts.

- **Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) or Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)**
- **an international camp held in the UK or abroad**
- **a link to Scouts in another country**

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) and Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) take place on the third weekend of October each year, and provide a great opportunity to connect with Scouts from across the globe. For JOTA, this is through amateur radio, and for JOTI, this is through the internet for JOTI. You can either set up your own activity or event, or book onto events at some Scout Adventures centres. More information and support resources can be found at scouts.org.uk/jotajoti. International camps are held across the United Kingdom and abroad on an annual basis. You can find out where and when the camps are and how to get involved at scouts.org.uk/intops.

These events are also great opportunities for Scouts to complete requirement three, by learning some phrases from international Scouts taking part in the event.

Guidance on other ways of making international links can be found at scouts.org.uk/intlinks.

Scouts could share their stories with other Scouts in their Troop or another Group, at a District event. This could be through talking about their experience, sharing their photos, or doing a blog or vlog.

Global Scouting quiz

Questions

- 1 Scouting began in the UK in 1909.
- 2 There are more than 40 million Scouts in the world today.
- 3 The second country in the world to have Scouts was America.
- 4 The first Scouting organisation outside of the British Empire was founded in Malaysia.
- 5 The first World Scout Jamboree was held in 1920.
- 6 There are Scouts in 55 different countries.
- 7 There are 10 countries where Scouting does not exist.
- 8 Burma (Myanmar) was the latest country to join WOSM.
- 9 There have been five World Scout Jamborees.
- 10 The Beaver Scout section began in Canada.
- 11 In World War II, Scouting stopped.
- 12 Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) and Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI) take place every four years.

Answers

- 1 FALSE. It began in the UK in 1907, with Baden-Powell's first experimental camp at Brownsea Island in Dorset.
- 2 TRUE.
- 3 FALSE. It was Australia and New Zealand - America didn't start until 1910.
- 4 FALSE. Chile in South America was the first country outside of the British Empire to officially take up Scouting. This was in 1909 after Baden-Powell had been on holiday in South America.
- 5 TRUE. It was held in 1920 in Olympia, London.
- 6 FALSE. There are Scouts in 216 countries (with internationally recognised National Scout Organisations), and there are 31 further countries where Scouting exists in some form.
- 7 FALSE. There are just five countries where Scouting does not exist – Andorra, China, Cuba, North Korea and Laos.
- 8 TRUE. Burma (Myanmar) – Myanmar Scout Association became a member of WOSM in 2016.
- 9 FALSE. There have been 23 World Scout Jamborees. The 23rd was held in Japan in 2015 and the 24th will be in North America in 2019.
- 10 TRUE. It began in Canada and became an official part of Scouting in 1986.
- 11 FALSE. Scouts had an important role, acting as couriers, stretcher bearers, coastguards, etc. In occupied countries, it continued in secret.
- 12 FALSE. They take place every year. The first JOTA was in 1958 and the first JOTI was in 1995.

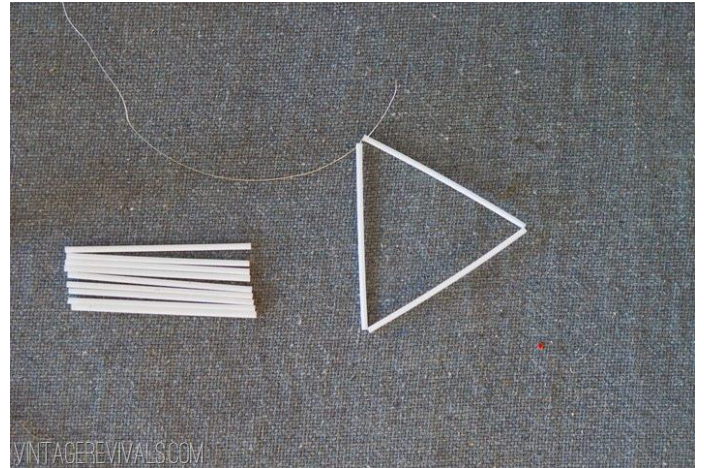
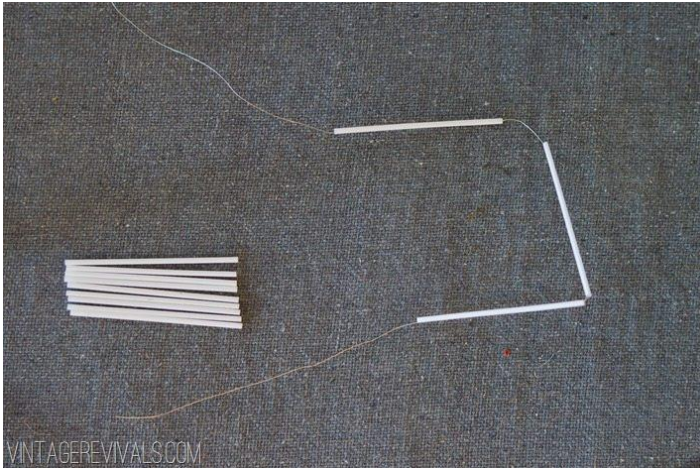
Hemmeli sculptures

You will need

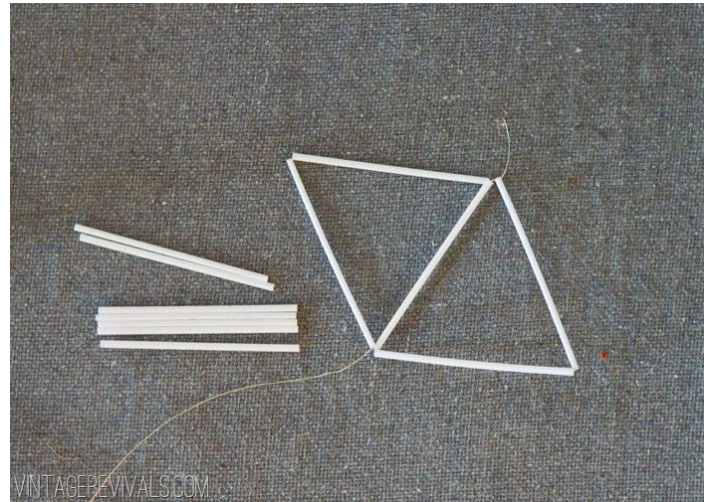
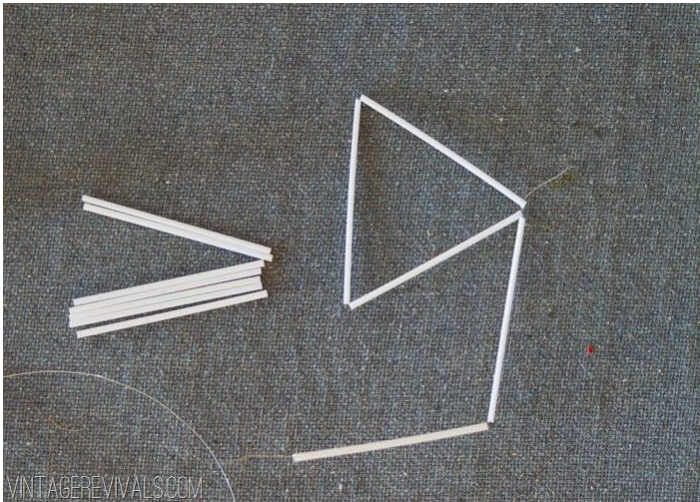
- paper straws
- scissors
- string, twine or floral wire

Instructions

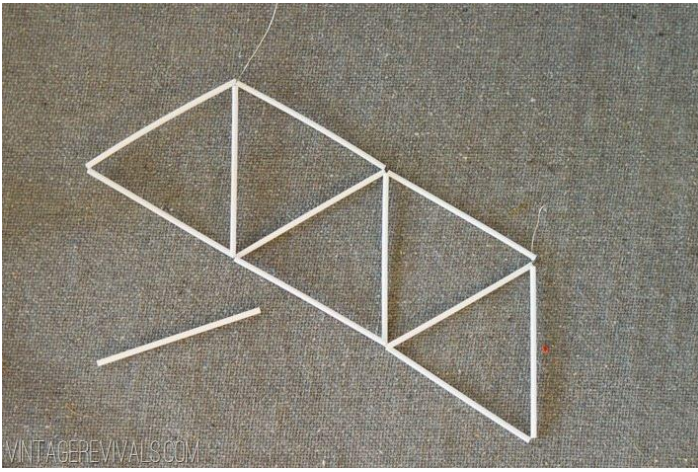
- 1 Cut a piece of string, twine or wire that is about 15 times longer than the length of one straw.
- 2 Take four straws and cut them into thirds, so that you have 12 identical pieces.
- 3 Thread three of the straw pieces onto one end of your string. Then, shape them into a triangle and knot the string, leaving one short end (enough to tie again later) and one long end.



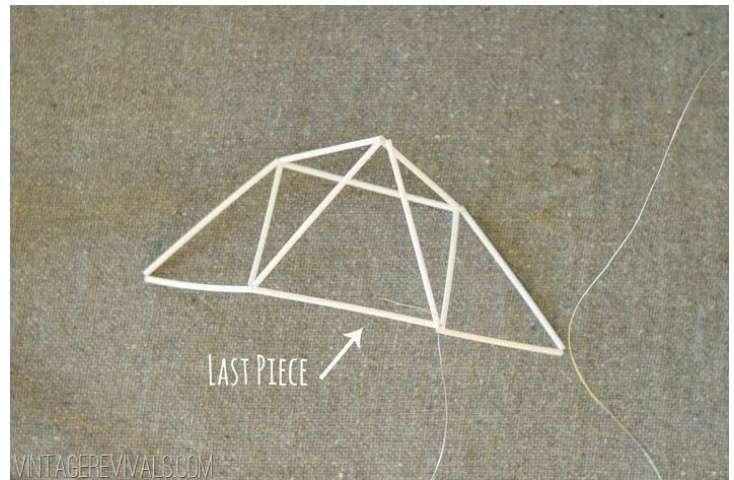
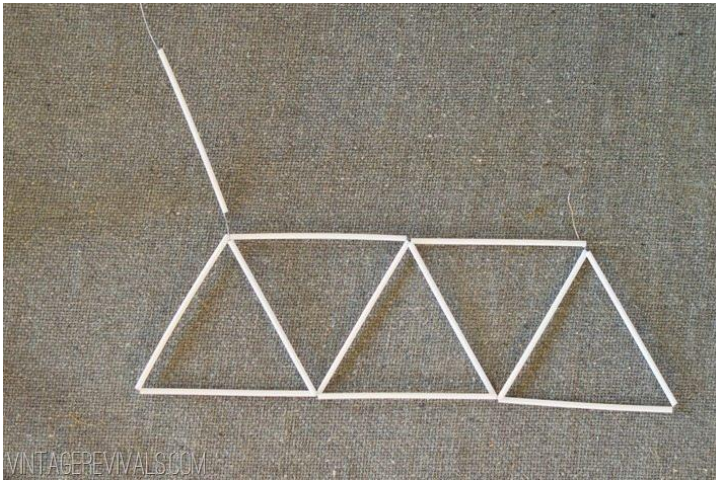
- 4 Attach two more pieces to the long end of the string. Shape them into a triangle and knot to another corner of the first triangle.



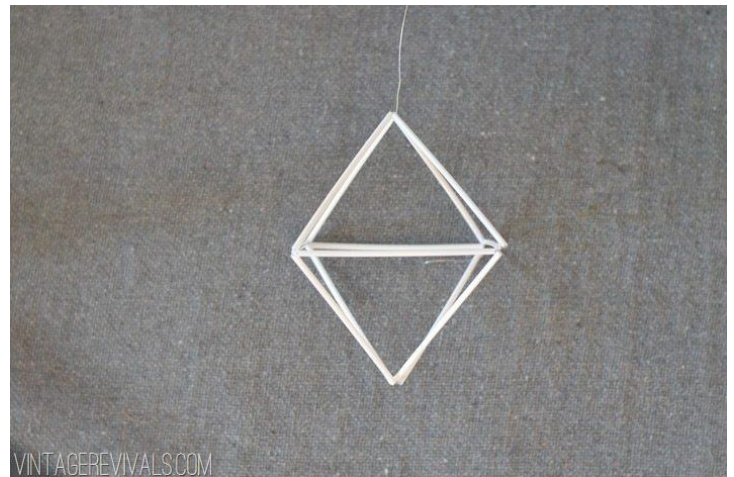
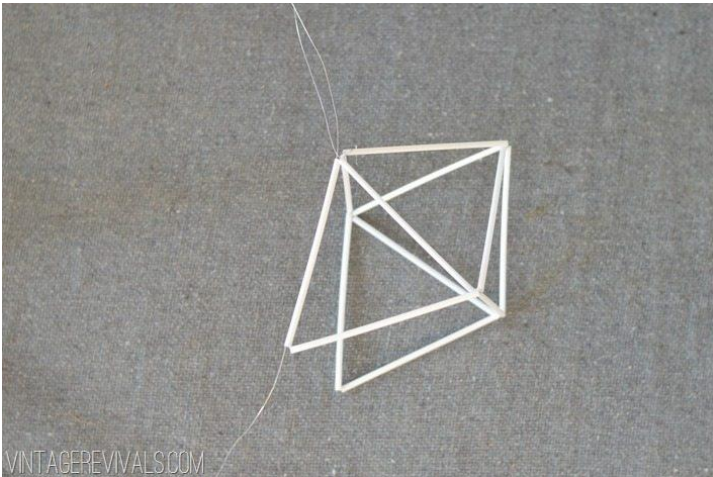
- 5 Repeat step six until you have five triangles in a row, and just one piece left.



- 6 Thread the final piece, and then knot the long end of the string to the short end of the string from step three.



- 7 Now, thread the string through a side of one of the loose triangles, and use it to tie together the tops of both triangles.



- 8 If you have some more straws and string, you can continue to add to your design.
9 Now, sit back and imagine eating at a dinner table in Finland, with these creating a very beautiful ceiling above you!

Images from <https://vintagerevivals.com/how-to-make-a-basic-geometric-himmeli-ornament/>

Everyday phrases

Language	Hello	Goodbye	My name is	What is your name?	Nice to meet you	Thanks	Sorry
Arabic	Marhaban / As-salam alaykom	Ma-salama ismee	Mā ismak? (m) Mā ismik? (f)	Motasharefon bema'refatek (m) Motasharefatun bema'refatek (f)	Shukran	āsif!
French	Bonjour	Au revoir	Je m'appelle	Comment tu t'appelles?	Enchanté	Merci	Désolé / pardon
Hindi	Namaste	Namaste	Merā nām hai	Tumhārā nām kyā hai?	āp se milkar khushī huī	Shukriyaa	kṣama kījiye / māf kījiye
Icelandic	Halló (Ha- loh)	Bless (Bless)	Ég heiti (Yeh hey- ti)	Hvað heitirðu? (Kvath hey-tir- thu?)	Komdu sæll (m) (Komdu sight-l) / Komdu sæl (f) (Komdu sighl)	Takk (Tahk)	Því miður. (Thvee mi- thur)
Spanish	Hola	Adiós	Mi nombre es / Me llamo	Cuál es tu nombre? / Cómo te llamas?	Encantado de conocerte	Gracias	Lo siento