

# Build a vessel

Design an environmentally-friendly vessel that's fit for the future

Suitable for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

## You will need

- pens and pencils
- paper
- recycled building materials like plastic bottles, juice cartons, etc

## Instructions

**1** Discuss with your young people the importance of using sustainable materials in everyday life, from the food we produce to the products we make. Do they know what sustainability means?

**2** Task them with designing and, if they wish, building a model vessel out of recycled materials, inspired by the ones they can use

to earn their Time on the Water Staged Activity Badge. This could include a kayak, dinghy, surfboard or any other vessel from the list on this page.

**3** Ask the young people to think about other ways their vessels could be adapted. Does it need to be accessible for people of different abilities or requirements? Will it biodegrade or could it be recycled when it's reached the end of its useful life?

**4** If the young people have made miniature models of their vessels, it's time to get out on the water so they can try it for real!

## Built to last

Sustainability means producing something in a way that does not have any harmful effects, such as on the environment. For example, building boats using wood from sustainable sources means that those trees are replaced, so the world's forests are not depleted.



## Find guidance...

...for carrying out water activities safely at:  
[Scouts.org.uk/volunteers/planning-your-programme/adventures/water-safety](https://scouts.org.uk/volunteers/planning-your-programme/adventures/water-safety).

## Time needed 45 minutes

### Badge



The Royal Navy partners the Time on the Water Staged Activity Badge

### Partner



### Outcomes

Young people will learn about the importance of sustainability when designing and building waterborne vessels, then design and make their own, thinking about how to adapt them for people with different needs.

### More information

For more badge resources, and to find out more about the Royal Navy, go to: [scouts.org.uk/supporters/royal-navy](https://scouts.org.uk/supporters/royal-navy).

## Earn your badge by...

- kayaking
- canoeing
- sailing
- windsurfing
- powerboating
- kiteboarding
- surfing
- yachting
- motorcruising
- narrowboating
- pulling or rowing
- white-water rafting
- traditional rafting
- paddle boarding