CUB SCOUTS

STEM

Pile of Trash

For this Adventure, Cub Scouts collect their recyclable trash to figure out how much of it they produce each year. They will discuss the impact they have on the environment and come up with strategies to reduce this impact. Finally they use the trash to create something useful.

PLAN

- Make prints of the "**How long it takes to decompose**" poster.
- As a Section, decide how long you will collect trash. A week? Two weeks? A month?

DO
Activity #1: How much? How long?

- To calculate the volume, bring in large cardboard boxes as a unit of measurement. Measure the volume of your trash in terms of the number of boxes they fill, or measure the dimensions and calculate the exact value.
- Cubs can reduce the volume of trash by compressing containers. This will reduce the volume, but the weight will not change.
- Depending on the age of the Cubs, you may help them by translating the numbers to simpler terms like: How many houses would that fill? How heavy would it be compared to a car? Let them reflect on what these numbers mean and how big they are.
- When discussing what happens to recycled trash, the Pack can watch the video about recycling technology seen in the online resources section.
- The rest of the trash goes to the landfills.

- You can show Cubs images or videos of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and what the plastic in the ocean does to birds and fish.

Activity #2: Plan of action
REVIEW:

- To reduce the waste, Cubs can begin with well-known solutions like using cotton bags instead of plastic bags, or personal water bottles instead of disposable ones. Gradually, they can come up with more innovative and creative ideas.
- If possible, organize a visit to a local recycling plant or store that sells only recycled goods.
- Cubs may not be aware of community clean-up events, so come prepared with a few ideas.

SUGGESTED TIMING:

- How much? How long? – 30 minutes
- Make something with the trash – 40 minutes
- Plan of action – depends on the plan
- Review – 10 minutes
- Review – 20 minutes

SCOUTS CANADA

It starts with Scouts.