The Adventure:

Diplomacy is an effective way of resolving conflicts without relying on a decision prescribed by an authority. It works by having a trained expert help others in conflict come to a solution that everyone is happy with.

In small groups, write some brief scenarios of current event conflicts. Your scenario should include roles for at least two parties, though you may have more. Be creative when writing your scenarios; they may be based on conflicts between provinces or countries, or they may be based on conflicts between families or individuals.

Come together as a large group and swap scenarios with the other teams. Take a minute or two to discuss the scenario you’re given, then present the situation to the group in an improvised skit, modeling the best way to find a resolution to your scenario. One Rover should play the role of the mediator, while two or more Rovers should take on the roles of the parties in conflict.

Plan:

- How many scenarios will each team write for the others? How much time will you allow to write scenarios? What real-life current events can you draw upon?
- What steps need to be followed for effective diplomacy?
- What rules will you have in place for your negotiations?
- How much time will you give to discuss the scenarios your team is given before presenting to the group?
- What roles will everyone play? How will you decide?
- How much time will you allow for the scenario to play out? How will you know when to stop?

Do:

- Write challenging scenarios for the other teams. Pay close attention to the role of the mediator!
- Discuss the scenarios your team is given and how the participants will behave. What are their motivations?
- Present your role play to the rest of the group.

Review:

- What do you know now that you did not know before?
- How did you feel before, during and after this adventure?
- What did you like or not like about the solutions others suggested for their scenarios?
- How close were the role plays of the scenarios your group wrote to what you had imagined? What differed from your expectations?

Safety Note:

How safe is the area you will use as a stage? What hazards can you identify, and what can you do about them?

Online Resources:

The Art of Diplomacy

It starts with Scouts.