

Scouting at Home



Suitable for: Joeys, Cubs & Scouts

Time needed: 30 minutes



Community & Personal
Growth Challenge Area

Try lip-reading

Step into the shoes of the hearing impaired with this simple activity.

What you need:

- Lists of questions (two different sets)
- Ear plugs and earmuffs – one set of each per pair

Instructions

1 This is a great activity to try at an online Section meeting, as you can easily mute sound for people participating.

You are going to get a taste of what it might be like to be hearing impaired in an attempt to spark discussion and encourage understanding. If you are doing this activity at a Section meeting online, divide into pairs and switch to individual video chats. If you are doing it in person, use a set of ear plugs and earmuffs. It's important to have both so as to cancel out as much noise as possible.

2 One person from each, mutes their microphone or wears the earplugs and earmuffs. Give the other team member the first set of questions and ask them to start a conversation with their partner. Allow this to continue for 10 minutes or so before asking the pair to switch. This time, give the speaker a second set of questions so there can be no cheating.

3 After another 10 minutes has passed, stop the activity and bring everyone back together. What did they learn from the experience? As the person asking questions, how difficult was it to make themselves understood? What approach did they find worked best and what didn't work at all? And how did it feel being unable to hear? What was it like when people shouted, over-enunciated or gesticulated? Was there anything that helped them to better understand what was being said?

4 Discuss the number of people around Australia and the world who are hearing impaired and that hearing loss affects people of all ages and backgrounds. What can be done to make life easier for the hearing impaired and how will you behave next time you encounter someone with hearing loss?

Take it further

Does anyone in your Group know a deaf person? Could they come along to one of your meetings to meet and talk to your Section?

