

### What you will need

- Camp blankets
- Scout badges
- Example of a camp blanket
- Needles
- Thread
- Pins
- Pin cushion

### Setting up the activity

- People could bring in a camp blanket from home to use, or you may be able to afford or get funding to buy one for each person to use.
- Wool blankets tend to be popular, last a long time and keep people warm.
- Ask everyone to bring in any badges they'd like to sew on.
- Always avoid using the blankets near campfires or naked flames, due to fire risk.

### Before you begin

- Make sure all young people and adults involved in the activity know how to take part safely.
- Make sure you'll have enough adult helpers. You may need some parents and carers to help if you're short on helpers.



## Make a Camp Blanket

1. Gather everyone together and ask if anyone has heard of a camp blanket.
2. If any volunteer has brought their camp blanket, they could show it to the Group. They could show people some of their favourite badges and explain what they mean. They probably won't be able to explain all of them if there are lots, but people could ask about the ones they think look interesting.
3. Ask everyone why they think camp blankets can be important. Tell everyone that they can create a sense of community, give people a sense of a shared history and story, and they're collections of memories of adventures and friends.
4. Explain to everyone that they're going to make their own camp blanket. Make sure an adult is supervising.
5. Let everyone know what materials they have access to. People may want to bring their Scout badges.
6. Everyone should take their blanket.
7. You may want to run a sewing session the week before to help everyone learn to sew and know what to do.
8. Ask everyone to hold up their blankets and show each other their creations.



### Reflection

- This activity was all about designing a camp blanket.
- Wearing a camp blanket is a special thing; it shows that a person belongs to a worldwide family of Scouts. When people leave a Section to move on, a camp blanket can help them remember the fun they had and the friends they made.
- Everyone got to design their blanket. What did you choose and what were your ideas behind your design? Ask some people to talk through some of the favourite badges on their blankets.
- Are there any badges people would like to get for their blanket? This would be a great time to chat about ideas for future meetings.

## Make it accessible

- Let everyone know you'll be doing some sewing before your meeting, so that anyone who wants to can practice beforehand.
- People could use needle threaders or bigger needles if this would make the activity work for them. You may want to have some needles pre-threaded to help people.
- This activity can be done sitting or standing, either on the floor or on chairs. Make sure to adapt to whichever way works best for everyone and make sure any actions are things everyone can do.
- Make sure that all the materials are at a level that can be easily worked on by wheelchair users.

## Change the challenge level

- To make this activity easier, you could also use iron-on badges. Make sure only adults use the iron, and the iron is always supervised by an adult, an iron board and heatproof ironing board cover is used, and the iron is unplugged and left to cool on a heatproof surface that's out of reach of young people.

