



Journalist for a day

Young people will investigate attitudes towards recycling and then create a news story based on their findings



Wogglebox



Jacob says:
'I liked learning how to reduce the impact on our planet. It was fun to interview people, too.'



Did you know?

- **25** is the number of plastic drinks bottles it takes to make a fleece top.
- **79%** of the plastic waste that's ever been produced is still in our environment.
- **60%** of UK households are recycling more than they were a year ago.
- **51%** of UK households throw one or more items in their rubbish bin that could have been collected for recycling in their area.



LIVE

**BREAKING
NEWS**



Fact or fiction?

Check out our guide to spotting fake news at scouts.org.uk/news/2019/september/how-to-spot-fake-news and download an Evidence Pack from Sense about Science here scouts.org.uk/evidencehunter.



Suitable for Scouts

You will need

- paper
- pens and pencils
- felt pens and colouring pencils
- access to a computer and design software, if possible – you could try free options like Lucidpress

Instructions: session 1

1 Discuss the importance of journalism with your young people. Where do they get their news? Do they get news from newspapers, online, TV or radio? Are they aware that some news sources may have some bias? Do they know how to spot fake news? How can they get important opinions/issues/topics heard when there is so much content? Some news outlets focus more on environmental issues like recycling and climate change – can they name any?

2 Explain that they are going to be journalists for the day to find out what their friends and family think about recycling and gather a variety of views.

3 During the first meeting, the young people should plan carefully what questions they are going to ask, such as open questions (when the answer could be anything) and closed questions (which have a 'yes' or 'no' response). Help them to explore what they want to find out. Some example questions could include: Do you think recycling is important? Why do you think it's important to recycle? Do

you think the actions of one person can make a difference? Is there anything you want to recycle but you don't know how?

4 Throughout the following week they can interview friends and family and record their responses (with their consent) by using a voice recording app, a tape recorder or by writing notes. Make sure you keep your interviewees' names anonymous. Use titles like 'Scout' or 'local community member' instead.

Session 2

6 Once they have the responses, they can use the views they've gathered to create the front page of a newspaper or website that highlights how important it is to recycle. They should think of a catchy headline based on the results, and use layout, images and text to make it eye-catching. To give a balanced and non-biased view of recycling, young people should include a few facts and stats on the front page, alongside stories from their interviews. There's some information on this page to get started.

7 The young journalists could share their news stories with the wider community to help raise awareness of the importance of recycling. Ask them why it's important to share news and access it, to think about who reads it and the impact this has, and why it's important to factcheck. They could include a link for finding out what can be recycled: recyclenow.com/local-recycling.

Time needed 90 minutes over several sessions

Badge



Recycle Now partners the Scout Environmental Conservation Activity Badge

Partner



Outcomes

The young people will explore the importance of recycling and share what they have learned with their peers, friends, family and community to spread awareness of an environmental issue.

More information

For badge resources, activity ideas or to find out more about the Recycle Now campaign, visit scouts.org.uk/supporters/recyclenow.