



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
INTERNATIONAL

Planning a Messengers of Peace Project

Planning and conducting a Messengers of Peace (MOP) Project can be a fun learning activity and an opportunity to serve your community. And, there's a patch! MOPs can be done by any age Scout group. Younger Scouts might need some guidance, but for Scouts BSA and older Scouts, it can be a great youth-led activity.

Launched in September 2011, **Messengers of Peace** is a global initiative designed to inspire millions of young people in more than 220 countries and territories to work towards peace through service to others. Using social media and other Scouting networks the initiative lets Scouts from around the world share what they've done and inspire fellow Scouts to undertake similar efforts in their own communities. The initiative is inspired by the World Scout Committee, administered by the World Scout Bureau, and driven by youth volunteers worldwide.

Scouts are already doing great things in their community. Through good turns and community service projects, scouts are making the world a better place and spreading a culture of peace. The Messengers of Peace program aims to highlight this work by supporting scouts' community service and encouraging Scouts to share their actions with others to help build a global network of service. **If a scout does a service action and shares it with other, they can earn a Messengers of Peace badge.** This is the "ring" patch that fits over the World Scout emblem on the uniform.

The main goal is to inspire Scouts to continue their community service or to join efforts with other scouts from around the globe. **You and your Scouts can earn the Messengers of Peace badge in 4 steps:**

1. **Inspire:** Explore and research about local problems, people in action and good practices.
2. **Learn and decide:** Identify your motivation and talents. Choose a field of action. Select useful knowledge, skills and ideas to apply.
3. **Do:** Plan your actions, execute, monitor, evaluate and report.
4. **Share:** Share what you did, your experiences, outcomes and lessons learnt in your community, and on social media (see links below).

After Scouts complete a qualifying service project, the unit leader reports service hours through their council online reporting mechanism. Leaders can purchase the award badge at your local scout shop or online. The MOP rings are available to all Scouts who complete a project.

Service projects, such as those led by Eagle Scout Candidates, qualify as MOP projects. MOP projects do not need to be complicated or extensive. Examples include:

- Picking up rubbish around your neighborhood
- A food drive for a local food bank
- Visiting a local nursing home and putting on a “campfire” program for residents
- Volunteering with a local, state or federal agency to improve a local park

You can read about MOP projects on the web sites below, but here is a concrete example that illustrates the four steps. One Scout troop’s meeting site is near a local food bank. Some of the Scouts of that unit met with the food bank managers to see how Scouts could help. They were given a tour of the facility, and learned about the challenges facing the community in regards to hunger, lack of shelter, and homelessness. They met some of the bank’s clients and learned about stereotypes vs. the reality of people experiencing economic challenges. Together with the bank’s managers, they identified a project that had a concrete impact on the community – cutting and stacking firewood. Some of the bank’s clients heated their home with wood stoves rather than gas or oil. The bank supplies firewood, but needed it to be cut and stacked in order to provide it to clients. The Scouts spent a Saturday cutting and stacking, and learning about a part of their community that had been unseen to them until the project. Pictures were posted on social media locally, and on MOP social media sites. And, all the Scouts earned their MOP award, which was presented at the next Court of Awards.

Links

WOSM Messengers of Peace Background and Video

<https://www.scout.org/messengersofpeace>

BSA MOP Information

<https://www.scouting.org/international/messengers-of-peace/>

MOP BSA Blog

<https://www.scouting.org/international/messengers-of-peace/blog/>

MOP on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/BSAMessengersOfPeace/>

MOP on Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/messengersofpeace.bsa/>