

From: Jonathan Hazell

To: All Scout Leaders, Assistant Scout Leaders and Sectional Assistants

Subject: Scouting at home in Northants

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Dear all,

Welcome to the fourth handbook – the choice this time is between the cosmos and the craft bench, it looks at the astronautics, astronomer, craft and hobbies badges. Also, a little challenge of my own – if your youth members could go on a Scout trip to northern France, i.e. between Calais and St Nazaire, for a week at Whitsun what would they like to do?

The handbooks have been prepared so that our youth members can produce their own evidence that you can assess when you decide whether to award a badge or not. We know that there will be lots of half-finished activity badges, but grab that opportunity when we get back and round up those ideas for your next programme planning session?

Please don't feel obliged to complete any of the handbooks, I am only offering ideas – there's no obligation on anyone and so please feel free to carry on your Scouting in a way that suits you, provided it is within the current health guidance!

Keep checking on-line for more brilliant ideas, especially Facebook.

Kindest regards,

Jonathan

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Astronautics

1 Find out how craters are formed, and what meteorites tell us about the universe.

You could experiment using marbles, rubber balls or stones as meteorites, and a tray filled with sand as your planet/moon surface.

2 Compare satellite images of Mars and the Moon with satellite images of Earth.

Point out similar landscape features such as craters, valleys and volcanoes. Discuss what Earth observation can tell us about the land, sea and atmosphere.

3 Build your own satellite dish.

Discuss what everyday items rely on satellites.

4 In a group, debate about life elsewhere in the universe.

Unfortunately, this requirement cannot be done within the current health guidance

5 Find out about the International Space Station and how astronauts live and work on board.

6 Research a current space mission, such as a mission to Mars.

Then, design a model of your own space probe or other spacecraft, including the instruments on board that enable it to complete its mission.

7 Build, launch and recover a model rocket.

Think about the shape of your rocket and why that's important. Make a second launch to achieve a specific objective, such as reaching a certain height or carrying a fragile payload, like an egg.

What to do now?

Use your usual search engines for your research, but also take a look in other places, such as <https://www.scouts.org.uk/the-great-indoors/>, the UK Space Agency <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-space-agency>, or the Space Store <https://www.spacestore.co/>.

When you think you're ready start to compose your answers, we don't mind whether that's hand written on paper or whether you work on screen – depending upon what you are doing may help decide how you respond. Please use your own words when presenting your response rather than simply printing off some pages from the internet.

Astronomer

1 Show what you know about the night sky and why the pattern of stars changes, night by night, throughout the year.

2 Learn the meaning of the terms celestial, equator, poles, circumpolar and zodiac.

3 Build a model of the solar system using everyday materials found in the home, such as different size fruit or sports balls.

Use an outside area to scale the solar system.

4 Explain how the Moon affects the tides.

5 Build a telescope from two cardboard tubes or two A4 pieces of black card, and lenses.

Compare what you can see through a telescope and what you can see with the naked eye.

6 Observe three constellations on a clear night and record what you saw.

7 Read a star map using a compass and red light.

Compare the differences between using a star map and a normal map.

8 Learn how to identify a satellite.

How do you tell it apart from an aeroplane, star, planet or a meteor?

Then complete these activities:

-  identify a satellite to observe
-  choose a clear night and use a clock and a compass to help you observe the satellite
-  plan an evening with your Scout Group and teach others how to observe the satellite

What to do now?

This is another “big” badge and probably deserves a scrap book all of its own to collect your notes, all sorts of paraphernalia, as well as video clips and audio.

Use your usual search engines for your research, as well as <https://www.scouts.org.uk/the-great-indoors/> and <https://www.scouts.org.uk/scouts/activity-badges/astronomer/>, also take a look in other places, such as the BBC Sky at Night magazine <https://www.skyatnightmagazine.com/>.

When you think you're ready start to compose your answers, we don't mind whether that's hand written on paper or whether you work on screen – depending upon what you are doing may help decide how you respond. Please use your own words when presenting your response rather than simply printing off some pages from the internet.

Craft

1 Make or decorate one or more articles using, whenever possible, original design ideas.

You should discuss this project beforehand with a member of your leadership team. It should take around six hours to complete the project.

Here are some items you could make:

- ✿ A container using basket making, woodturning, pottery, embroidery on plastic canvas, glass blowing or fibreglass construction.
- ✿ A belt, bag, wall hanging, tablemat or waistcoat by weaving, macramé, beadwork or from leather.
- ✿ An item of clothing or soft furnishing, by sewing or knitting. You may follow a pattern.
- ✿ You could decorate clothing or soft furnishing (such as a cushion or tablecloth) using embroidery, tapestry, lace making, tie and dye, wax and dye or fabric paints.
- ✿ A picture, using techniques like mosaic, staining glass, quilting, calligraphy, pyrography, pressed flowers, fabric collage, printing with potato, lino, string, drypoint, aquatint or silkscreen.
- ✿ Decorate a material (such as wood, metal or glass) by engraving or etching. You could even try painting metal with cold enamel.
- ✿ Make a decorative item through candle making, arranging flowers, carving (using materials such as wood, slate, stone or soap), fly tying, jewellery making, pewterwork, copper or silversmithing, stone polishing, stone masonry or sculpture.
- ✿ Make a small item of furniture.
- ✿ Decorate a cake for a special occasion.

What to do now?

Get creative!

Please present your own work in your response, thank you.

Hobbies

Option 1:

- ✿ Take up a hobby or interest that you do not already have an activity badge for.
- ✿ Keep a record of your hobby for at least four months.

Option 2:

- ✿ Make a collection or study of objects for at least four months.
You could collect books or magazines, films, cards, key rings, figurines or similar.
- ✿ Talk to your Patrol Leader or your Troop about the collection or study you chose.
Explain why you chose your objects and what you like about them.

What to do now?

Keep a diary or scrapbook, or use some other means to show progress in your chosen hobby.

Rather than talking to your patrol your response to option 2 will be an illustrated explanation of what you have collected, and why, and could well include some pages from the internet.

Overseas challenge

1 Plan a trip to Northern France.

You can be away for 6 nights

You are limited to the area between Calais and St Nazaire

-  What would you like to do?
-  How would you get around?
-  Where would you stay?
-  What would you eat?
-  Are there any attractions you would want to visit?

What to do now?

Use your usual search engines for research and for ideas, as well as map sites.

Be imaginative!

Your response for this challenge could well fill a scrap book with ideas and pages from the internet, and may well help plan the international camp pencilled in for Whitsun 2022.