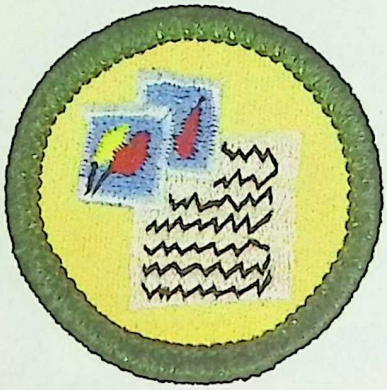
Communication



Do you ever feel there's a communication gap between what you say and what others hear? Do you know all the ways people can communicate? Try these activities and learn more.



1. Get the Message?

Think of a message you want to tell others. What's the best way to communicate your idea? Should you use words, images, colors? Show or read your piece to others. Did they understand your message? If not, what could you change so that they understand your message?

2. Signals

Put together a collage or poster with examples of different types of communication, such as semaphore, sign language, signal flags, international road signs, distress signals, or a referee's signals. Learn one set of the above examples and teach it to someone else.

3. Communication by the Dots

In the Braille alphabet, a pattern of raised dots represents each letter of the alphabet. A person who is blind can "read" with her fingertips by feeling the raised letters. Below is an alphabet written in Braille. The colored dots represent the raised dots. If you poke a pin through the back of each of the colored dots (on a copy of the chart), you can raise the letters. Try feeling the pattern with your fingers. Now try to write your own coded message using the Braille alphabet.

4. Express Your View

Participate in a debate, or prepare and give a two-minute speech on a favorite subject.

5. Share the News

Write a short news story about an event in your school or your troop. Submit it to the school newspaper, your Girl Scout council newsletter, or the "Just for Girls" section of the Web site for the Girl Scouts of the USA *www.girlscouts.org/girls*.

6. Play It!

Write a short play. Read a few scenes of your play aloud to others.

7. Brand Images

Notice all the advertising and commercial designs you see in a week, such as billboards, posters, signs, and ads on packages. Look at how color, lettering, and empty space are used. Create your own poster, sign, or package that uses what you've discovered.

8. Word of Mouth

Listen to several radio shows. Then create a script and sound effects for a news program, music program, talk show, or another kind of program you choose.

9. Making It Public

Think about what kinds of communication would be needed to do public relations work, then outline what you would do to promote one of the following:

- A party to open an art exhibit that introduces a new artist to the community
- A tour of your community to encourage businesspeople to open stores
- A presentation to show parents and children a new science center
- A ceremony for an awards presentation in your troop or group
- A conference for international visitors to introduce them to your community

10. Words for Life

Find out about careers in communication. Choose one of the following and explain why it could be an interesting job.

- Reporter
- Editor
- Speech therapist
- Interpreter
- TV broadcaster
- Web writer
- Audiologist
- Linguist

