



# HOME ALONE

Protect the Scout meeting place with the most innovative 'burglar alarms' your section can concoct

**W**e all admired Macaulay Culkin's ingenious ways of fending off the burglars in Home Alone, but how would your group guard against intruders? Ask them to think up DIY burglar alarm ideas – here are a few to get them started: across a doorway, tie a piece of string that's attached to bells, or balance a bag of feathers across the top of an open door to deter any intruders. How about creating the impression that someone is home by playing a recording of a barking dog or making a life-sized cardboard cut-out of a person so a silhouette is visible at the window?

Take some inspiration from Home Alone by smearing honey or a sticky substance on doorknobs to put off burglars and slow them down, or place netting on the floor that trips them up and entangles them. Perhaps your section can make a sign that will deter burglars, for example, one that says, 'guard dog inside'. Moving to the outside of the building, they could dig a trench underneath a ground floor window or create a muddy puddle in front of the door. Whatever booby trap the group invents, they're sure to have fun thinking up ways of keeping the Scout meeting place safe.



## WOGGLEBOX



**Zack says:**  
'I enjoyed this activity because it was interesting and funny to create our own traps and use our imagination to our advantage.'



MAKE SURE ALL  
WINDOWS AND  
DOORS ARE  
LOCKED



ASK YOUR  
NEIGHBOURS TO  
KEEP AN EYE ON  
THE BUILDING



DON'T LEAVE  
LADDERS LYING  
AROUND, OR LEANING  
UP AGAINST THE  
BUILDING

## ACTIVITY INVENT A BURGLAR ALARM

### You will need

- pens
- paper
- crayons
- felt tips
- scissors

### Instructions

- 1 Take your section around the meeting place – both inside and out – and talk them through the areas that might need extra security.
- 2 Next, divide your section into small groups and ask them to get paper, pens, felt tips etc. Ask each group to think up ideas for burglar-



LEAVE A LIGHT ON A TIMER SO IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE'S IN THE BUILDING, EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE NOT



KEEP THE SURROUNDING AREAS OF THE SCOUT MEETING PLACE NEAT AND TIDY



REMOVE FREE NEWSPAPERS AND FLYERS FROM THE DOORSTEP

proofing the meeting place and sketch them out. You can even show them footage from the film Home Alone to get their cogs whirring.

3 Next ask everyone in the group to share their designs with the section, talking through their ideas and showing how their methods might work.

4 Display all of the ideas on the walls of the meeting place.

5 Using the information in the yellow Burglar Deterrents circles on these pages, talk to your young people about how you would officially protect the meeting place prior to closing it down for summer.

## TIME NEEDED

30 minutes

## BADGE



Northern Powergrid partners the Cub Home Safety Activity Badge

## PARTNER



## OUTCOMES

Your section will learn how to protect the Scout meeting place using fun methods that nevertheless have a serious message behind them. They'll learn the importance of guarding their meeting place from intruders and pick up some useful safety tips.

## TAKING IT FURTHER

Share your findings for staying safe in the home with your parents or carers and with more vulnerable people in the community, for example, elderly people, anyone living at home with a serious illness, anyone with poor mobility, etc. Go to [northernpowergrid.com/care](http://northernpowergrid.com/care) for more in-depth information.

## MORE INFORMATION

To find out more about Northern Powergrid, visit [scouts.org.uk/northernpowergrid](http://scouts.org.uk/northernpowergrid).