

This activity contributes to the following badges:



Beaver Creative Activity Badge



Beaver My World Challenge Award



Scout International Activity Badge

The activity could also help towards:



Cub International Activity Badge



Cub Disability Awareness Activity Badge



Cub Our World Challenge Award

Beavers | Cubs | Scouts

Learn to say 'thank you'

Volunteers' Week, 1-7 June Explore some of the many ways of giving thanks

Time 60 minutes

Equipment

- large sheets of paper
- colouring pens and pencils
- craft materials such as glitter, glue, paint, brushes, etc
- list of ways to say 'thank you' in other languages (find online)
- coats or jumpers
- A4 paper

Instructions

1 Gather your section and explain to them that you're going to explore some of the different ways of saying 'thank you' around the world. Give them some examples of the customs surrounding gratitude, eg the Japanese practice of bowing to give thanks, or the Chinese custom of giving a gift to show appreciation. Ask your young people if they know of any other ways of conveying gratitude.

2 Now explore how to say thank you in different languages – for instance, do the young people know the French or Spanish words for 'thank you'? How might someone show gratitude using sign language? And when did the young people last say thank you to someone? Why is it important to let people know they're appreciated?



3 Next, you have two choices: you can either make a gratitude mural or play the 'thank-you game'. For the mural, get out all of your craft materials and ask your section to create a giant piece of artwork around giving thanks. Who are they most grateful to? Is there anyone in the community they might like to thank? What might they include on their mural and where would they display it?

To play the 'thank you game', turn your meeting place or local outdoor space into a map of the world, using cones or bundled-up jumpers to vaguely represent some of the main countries. Make paper signs to indicate which country is which, then gather the young people

into the centre of the room before shouting out 'merci' at which point the young people should run to France. Next, you can shout 'grazie', after which they should run to Italy. Run through a list of 10-15 of them if you can and throw in a few lesser-known ones to really challenge them.

Take it further

Your young people could explore a country in which they are interested in more depth for their International Activity Badge. Or why not organise an international evening where everyone can explore a different country, including their customs, cuisine and crafts? Older sections could even take the lead in organising this event.