

Experience Inequality

In order to understand inequality, or be able to recognize it, you may need to experience it.

Section: All
Time: 1 hour
Where: Home

5 GENDER EQUALITY

PLAN

You want each scout to set up a situation where they will be discriminated against! The aim here is to help them experience what this feels like, even just for a short while. The focus should firstly be on the unfairness of a persons' treatment. Each scout chooses a situation for themselves, where they are treated unequally. With younger sections this might be most easily achieved by choosing a couple of situations which everyone must use, while older sections should be able to make individual choices. Committing to sticking to the plan, especially when it becomes frustrating or annoying is essential. You might have somebody else, decide on the restriction for someone to experience so the element of choice and therefor control over the situation is removed.

DO

Set up the situation and discuss the plan with input from family or friends to help enforce it by contributing ideas or modifications. Here are a few suggestions:

- Restrict internet/screen usage compared to other family members or friends with time limitations or even an arbitrary cut off instruction out of the blue!
- Do more than your "fair share" of housework, with no input on what you have to do, and with other people sitting down!
- Play a game where extra restrictions apply to you, such as playing Monopoly but you never get to collect money while passing Go.
- Play outdoor games, with a specific disadvantage enforced on you, like kicking the ball with your "weak" foot.
- With family or friends online you must get permission from the group in order to speak, when nobody else must do this.

REVIEW

Discussing this issue with the scouts afterwards is a crucial element of the activity to link their experience to gender equality. While it might sound like a cliché, the starting point is to ask how it made the scouts feel. Scouts who put in considerable restrictions, or had very little control, or experienced the unfairness over a longer time, will likely have the strongest feelings. Give them time to share their experiences. Next, ask them how they might feel if this went beyond a few hours or a day. What if this was normal? What if they had no control over it? Finally, bring it around to the key point; what if this happened to you simply because of your gender, and society thought that this was okay?



In a nutshell...

- Scouts figure how to set up a situation where they will experience inequality
- They place themselves in the situation with family or friends
- They discuss how it made them feel, and link it back to gender equality



Follow-on

Having reached the point of understanding the unfairness of gender inequality, and maybe being better able to recognize it, the scouts might be motivated to do something about it in their own lives. Facilitate the scouts in making a plan as to how they could tackle it in their home, friend group or school. Also look to positive examples of gender equality, which might include your own scout group.



SDG 5 Gender Equality

SDG 5 commits to ending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere. Scouts can use this activity to understand the issue through experiencing inequality, and learning to recognise it.



Find out more!

Visit - www.betterworld.ie

Contact us - sustainability@scouts.ie

Produced by the Scouting Ireland Sustainable Scouting Team