



## Connecting Homeless Families to a Better Future

### 'A Heart for the Homeless' Scout Patch

Bridge Communities is a not for profit that raises awareness about the homeless community in DuPage county through events, fundraising, and offering free transitional housing to 131 homeless DuPage County families each year. The mission of Bridge Communities is to transition homeless families to self-sufficiency by working with partners to provide mentoring, housing, and supportive services. The 'A Heart for the Homeless' Scout Patch provides activities to help young people gain a greater understanding of how the issue of homelessness impacts their community as a whole, and how every individual can make a difference, no matter their age. It offers guidance on how they can help make an impact that could not only help change the life of someone in need, but also help the Scout grow as an individual.

The link for the full curriculum pdf is: <https://www.bridgecommunities.org/What-wedo/Homeless-Curriculum.html>

#### 1st - 3rd Grades

1. Purchase or borrow from the library either of the books, "Cooper's Tale" or "Fly Away Home," and use the discussion questions to explore why and how families become homeless and complete activities/ play the "Musical Chairs" game.
2. Identify an organization in your local area that serves the homeless. Choose and complete a service project that helps its clients.

#### 4th - 12th Grades

1. In addition to activities, use the questions and explore together as a group the reasons why families become homeless and why homelessness is harmful to children.
2. Identify an organization in your local area that serves the homeless. Choose and complete a service project that helps its clients.

For *middle and high school students*, there is the option to visit a homeless shelter or the offices of an agency that serves to homeless. Students can research and develop their own project that serves the homeless (participate in Bridge Communities 'Sleep Out Saturday' event.)

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