

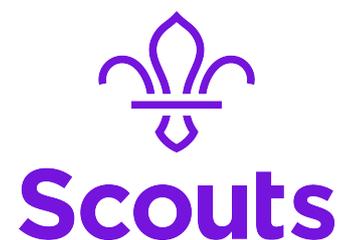
A MILLION HANDS

Disability resource pack

In partnership with



scouts.org.uk/join
#SkillsForLife



Disability resource pack

Contents

A Million Hands Big Moment	4
Calendar	4
Understand the issue	5
Plan action	6
Take action	9
Learn and do more	11
Tell the world	13

A Million Hands Big Moment

Make a difference with Guide Dogs

Improve access to books for children and young people with a vision impairment

There are an estimated 34,000 children and young people in the UK with a vision impairment. Through A Million Hands, Scouts of all ages can make a difference for their peers by supporting our CustomEyes® service. CustomEyes® provides access to bespoke large print books to children and young people with either a vision impairment or dyslexia, allowing them to be able to read their favourite books. One young person who uses CustomEyes® said:

“It’s great, I can read Harry Potter books just like my friends. I can read to myself at bed time instead of my mum reading to me.”

You can make a difference to the lives of children and young people by raising awareness both in your community and nationally with publishers. Your big moment can be all about reading, how stories affect our lives and how important it is to have access to them.

Calendar

September 2018	October 2018 Understand the issue Let’s talk books activity	November 2018 Understand the issue Let’s talk books activity	December 2018 Plan action Plan your CustomEyes® Big Read event Request a speaker	January 2019 National Storytelling week Hold a story session - Invite a Guide Dogs speaker in to tell their story	February 2019 Plan action Plan your CustomEyes® Big Read event
March 2019 Take action Hold your Big Read event	April 2019 Take action Hold your Big Read event	May 2019 Learn and do more Let’s look at technology	June 2019 Tell the world Share details of your event on social media and/or write to a publisher	July 2019	August 2019

Understand the issue

With Guide Dogs

Introduction to Guide Dogs and CustomEyes®

Stories are important. Whether we're telling them around the campfire or on the sofa reading a book, stories have the power to take us on amazing adventures without leaving the room.

About CustomEyes®

CustomEyes® is a service that makes large print, one-of-a-kind books for children and young people with a vision impairment or dyslexia. Without the service, they wouldn't be able to read the same books as their friends and could find it difficult to keep up with others in class. More information is available here:

guidedogs.org.uk/CustomEyes®

About Guide Dogs

Celebrate National Storytelling Week (26 January to 2 February 2019) with us by inviting a Guide Dogs speaker to visit your group and share their story. The speaker could be a guide dog owner, a person who is blind or partially sighted, a volunteer or a staff member - this will depend on the availability of our speakers, as well as what your group hope to get out of the talk. Book your talk online at guidedogs.org.uk/speaker.

Let's talk books activity

Overview: An activity to discover why some children and young people need large print books, and an opportunity to look at the importance of books and reading. You may want to ask your young people to bring in their favourite book as part of the activity.

Outcome: Through discussion, Beaver Scouts will talk about the importance of stories and reading, how having a vision impairment could affect a young person's access to the exciting world of literature, and how this could impact their education.

Time: 30 minutes

Equipment: Printouts of the CustomEyes® activity sheet (enough for one between two). The icebreaker 'Nonsense story' printed resource sheet (email scouts@guidedogs.org.uk for the resource pack).

Linked badges:



Community Impact Staged Activity Badge

Could contribute towards:

Beavers Disability Awareness Activity Badge

Beaver Book Reader Activity Badge

**Icebreaker activity – ‘Nonsense story’, 10 minutes**

In this icebreaker activity, the group creates a story together. Full details of the activity are in the resources pack: email scouts@guidedogs.org.uk for your copy of the pack.

Main activity, 20 minutes**Instructions:**

- 1 Discuss with your young people what we mean by vision impairment (an eye condition that affects a person's ability to see and which can't be corrected by wearing glasses) and how this could impact everyday activities, such as getting ready for school, college, work or going to Scouts.
- 2 Ask your group what their favourite hobby is, and how not being able to see very well might affect their ability to do the hobby.
- 3 Ask the young people to think about what adaptations/changes would need to be made to their hobby to make it inclusive for young people with a vision impairment. Put this into action: try a game you normally play in your section and think about how you could adapt it to make it more inclusive. Try it out.
- 4 Now, encourage the group to talk about their favourite books; why they like them and what they mean to them. Ask them to think about how they would feel if they couldn't read their book because of their eyesight. Can they come up with some creative ideas on how a young person with a vision impairment could access books? Some suggestions might be talking books, large print, Braille, magnifiers, and reading volunteers. Do they have any new ideas?
- 5 Share the large print sheet from the resource pack. This shows some of the different fonts and font sizes that children and young people need in print. Discuss the groups' thoughts on seeing these examples.

How do they feel? Were they surprised by the cost (an average of £250 per book)? How would that compare with the cost of a games console or the price of a book in standard font size?

If you have access to YouTube, you may want to show our video of Lauren, a visually impaired young person, talking about CustomEyes®. Use the link youtu.be/Xbmi0ivZ9Mw or search for the video on YouTube by typing 'Lauren and CustomEyes®'. Alternatively, ask the group to watch it at home with permission.

- 6 Now your young people understand the issue of having a vision impairment and getting access to books, they can start to plan an action in their community in support of CustomEyes®.

NB: You may wish to start the planning activity right after this session.

Plan action

With Guide Dogs

CustomEyes® Big Read

Overview: We challenge your group to share the message that access to books and stories is important for all children and young people, by taking part in a Big Read event, which will raise awareness and fundraise for CustomEyes®.

Outcome: Beaver Scouts will have planned their activity and identified the resources they need to start their fundraising and awareness campaign, using this quest activity.

Time: 1 hour +

Equipment: Paper, pens, print outs of the quest guide, answer sheet and clues, and a planning template (included in the resource pack).

Linked badges:

Community Impact Staged Activity Badge
Beavers Teamwork Challenge Award



Activity Instructions:

Your group are going on a quest to solve clues, which will help them come up with a Big Read event idea. As they move around the room from clue to clue, they will stop at each point and fill out part of their plan.

At the start of the session, you will need to have printed the clues and put them (out of sequence) around the room or around the general area if you are outside. All of the pictures should be in view so the group have a bit of help finding the right one. You may want to have a prize at the end for solving all of the clues and the scrambled word.

Use the clues and the planning template in the resource pack to finalise their plans. There are helpful questions and things to think about in the resource pack. Email scouts@guidedogs.org.uk for your copy.

Some event ideas might be a readathon, book swap, campfire story telling, book reading relay, poetry workshop/reading, book club or a play. What's your idea for a reading event?

Some questions you could ask:

- What kind of event do you want to hold?
- Who will be involved? Could we reach out to other Scout groups or the local community?
- When will you run your event?
- How will you fundraise?
- How could you promote the work that CustomEyes® does?
- Are there any authors in your local community who could come to the event?

Take action

With Guide Dogs

Time for your Big Read

Overview: Your group will use their plan to work towards and run their Big Read event.

Outcome: Through the Big Read, the group will have thought about the value of reading and access to books, and what it would be like for a young person with a vision impairment if they had to fund the full cost of every book they wanted or needed to read.

Time: Use the timings in your plan.

Equipment: Books, sponsorship forms, customised bookmarks (see the resource pack for how to make and customise an origami bookmark), and any other equipment in your plan.

Linked badges:

Community Impact Staged Activity Badge
Beavers Teamwork Challenge Award
Beavers My World Challenge Award



This could contribute to:

Beavers Photographer Activity Badge



Activity instructions:

1 Encourage other young people or people in your community to join in with the Big Read. You could also collect

sponsorship or do some fundraising for your Big Read.

- 2 Arrange the date for your Big Read.
- 3 Start your Big Read; this may last a few weeks or just be for one day.
- 4 Make a record of what you are doing and why. You could also take pictures at your Big Read to remember all the exciting things that happened.
- 5 Don't forget to take the time to reflect on your community action and how it makes you feel.
- 6 Celebrate your success.
- 7 Once you've completed your Big Read, remember to ask an adult to pay in any fundraising from your event through the options listed in the resource pack. Alternatively, contact Guide Dogs on 0800 953 0113 and quote SCOUTS.
- 8 Let Guide Dogs know how your Big Read went by emailing scouts@guidedogs.org.uk and we will send everyone in your group a **Guide Dogs bookmark**. Remember to also log your actions through the A Million Hands website. Why not ask your leaders if they can use social media to post about your Big Read, so that others can see what you've been doing?

Learn and do more

With Guide Dogs

Overview: This activity looks at reflecting on the Big Read and deepening knowledge on how technology enables people with vision impairments to access the world around them.

Outcome: Beaver Scouts will have reflected on their action and learned where they can gain additional information to continue to share the message.

Time: 30 mins to one hour

Equipment: Laptop or tablet/smartphone with internet access.

Linked badges:

Community Impact Staged Activity Badge



This could contribute to:

Beaver Disability Awareness Activity Badge



Activity instructions:

- 1 In your meeting place, reflect on your Big Read. Use your original plan to talk about what went well, what your group enjoyed, and what they might do differently if they did it again.
- 2 Spend some time looking at the other services that Guide Dogs provide for children and young people visit www.guidedogs.org.uk/cyp. Were you aware of the work we do?

- 3 Discuss how new technology is giving people with a vision impairment greater independence. This includes future plans for driverless cars and current technology which includes smart phones and watches, or apps like:
- Seeing AI - an app that narrates the world around you. It can read labels and documents all through the camera on a smartphone. It can even describe pictures! Visit www.microsoft.com/en-us/seeing-ai or download from the app store.
 - Soundscape – an exploration app that tells people about the world around them. Visit guidedogs.org.uk/services-we-provide/technology.
- 4 Now that they've had a look at some new technology can they think of any other inventions to help people with a vision impairment?

Tell the world

With Guide Dogs

What can you share from your Big Read?

Overview: Sharing your understanding of CustomEyes® and your Big Read with the media (local press), your local community and publishers.

Outcome: Beaver Scouts will have raised awareness of CustomEyes® by telling people what they did. They may have also written to publishers and told them how they can support the CustomEyes® service.

Time: 30 mins

Equipment: Pens, paper, computer/ tablet (if available) CustomEyes® letter template (from the resource pack).

Linked badges:

Community Impact Staged Activity Badge
Beaver Book Reader Activity Badge



Media activity instructions:

- 1 Beavers should make a bookmark to show one thing they have learned about CustomEyes® or from their Big Read event.
- 2 Leaders could collect together the bookmarks and send them to local newspapers to share with the wider community.

Write to Publishers Activity

The aim of writing a letter to publishers is to encourage them to support CustomEyes®. Some publishers are already doing this and it dramatically cuts the costs and waiting time for readers; remember, the average cost of a book without this is £250. Unfortunately, some are unaware of the difference they can make to young readers with vision impairments. By writing to publishers about your favourite book (that they publish), saying why it's your favourite and explaining the importance of CustomEyes® to young people with a vision impairment, they will hopefully support us in future.

The following publishers are already supporting us by providing manuscripts:
Hachette, Usborne, Simon & Schuster, OUP, Child's Play, Pearson.

- 1 Write a letter as a group, using the template in the resources pack to help. Be mindful of the language used and how you come across in the letter. This is about encouraging cooperation by using the knowledge gained to hopefully convince publishers to support the service.
- 2 You could also send off some of the bookmarks your Beavers have created to show they are passionate about the issue, and add some photos from the Big Read.
- 3 The young people should take the time to read their letters through.
- 4 A leader should check all of the letters for content and tone of voice before sending them.
- 5 Find the publisher's address and send it to them by post.
- 6 Let us know their reply by emailing scouts@guidedogs.org.uk