



Joint Lions/Scouts Eyeglass Recycling Project

The Bloomingdale Lions Club initiated a joint eyeglass recycling project with their sponsored Cub Scout Pack.



Project goals:

1. Teaching youth about the importance of recycling.
2. Teaching youth that used eyeglasses are valuable to others.
3. Teaching Scouts about project responsibility.
4. Providing a source of pride for Scouts.

To initiate the project:

1. Contact a Scout leader. Ask if the troop would be interested in a participating in a joint project with the Lions. Explain the Lions eyeglass recycling program.
2. If the Scout troop is connected to a local school, contact the principal and district superintendent for permission. **Here is a sample e-mail message:**

Dear Principal or District Superintendent,

My name is (insert your name). I am a homeowner who resides within the school district. I am also the President of the (insert your club's name) Lions Club.

I'm writing to you today to request placement of a cardboard Lions eyeglass recycling box in your school office. Our club sponsors your school's Cub Scout Pack #(insert the Pack number). Therefore, the Lions and Cub Scout leaders felt that placement of an eyeglass recycling box would teach the Scouts - and their fellow students - the importance of reaching out and helping others. I believe this concept coincides with the Character Counts program.

The (insert your club's name) Lions and Cub Scout Pack (insert the Pack number) leaders will make sure the boxes are emptied whenever necessary. Eyeglasses will be donated to a Lions Recycling Center. More information can be found at:

http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/vision_eyeglass_recycling.shtml

The (insert your club's name) Lions see this as a community outreach opportunity. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at: lionperry@hotmail.com.

Regards,

Lion XXXXX

3. Assuming the school district approves of the Joint Lions/Scouts Eyeglass Recycling Project, reiterate to the school official (principal, superintendent, etc.) that the Scouts will be

responsible for emptying the eyeglass recycling box. Just in case, provide the school with both Lions and Scout contact numbers.

4. Be certain that the Scout leader(s) understand that the Scouts are responsible for emptying the recycling box and delivering the eyeglasses to the Lions.

As a result of the joint project:

1. Your Lions club members will become positive role models for Scouts and local students.
2. Your club will gain added exposure among young people, their parents, and school officials.
3. Your club will recycle more eyeglasses.

When initiating this joint project, seek local publicity. **A sample press release appears below.**

For immediate release

Contact: (insert the contact's name)

Phone or e-mail address

Joint Lions/Scouts Eyeglass Recycling Project

(Name or name with town) Cub Scout Pack XXX is helping the (your club name) Lions Club to collect used eyeglasses. Lions Eyeglass Recycling Boxes have been placed in (name(s) of schools). Adult and children's eyeglasses as well as hearing aids can be deposited in the recycling boxes.

When the boxes are full, the Scouts will deliver the used eyeglasses to the Lions. In turn, the Lions will deliver the eyeglasses to a Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center. In 2003-04, the Centers collected more than 5 million pairs of eyeglasses. Once cleaned and graded, the eyeglasses are provided free-of-charge to needy persons in developing countries.

Additional (your name) Lions Eyeglass Recycling Boxes exist at (list locations of other local eyeglass recycling boxes). For more information contact: (e-mail address or phone)

After implementing the project, reward the Scouts for their participation. Order the **Lions Scouting Service Patch (A-65)** from international headquarters. Your club president can present the awards to the Scouts during their annual end-of-the-year awards ceremony.

Every Lions club that sponsors a Boy Scout troop can purchase the **Lions Scouting Banner Patch (A-64)** from international headquarters.

If you have any questions about implementing this simple Lions Youth Outreach project, please feel free to contact me at lionperry@hotmail.com.

Lion Perry Knutson

District 1-J

Lions Opportunities for Youth Chairperson, 2004-06