

Matthew's Money

An activity from the County Commissioner to get Beavers and Cubs thinking...

Sometimes it's a good idea to check in on the broad consensus of your colony or pack towards issues, causes, life issues and events.

Finding out how they feel about these things can help you to guide your programmes in a youth shaped way, perhaps deciding on guest speakers or a community impact project.

In this exercise you will give each young person 'money' that they can choose to spend on a number of spending options.

The spending options could be a number of charities or world issues that need support or Government departments, the options are limitless really.

What you will need

- A jar or box for each spending option
- Toy coins or counters to represent £1 each
- Each person will need the same number of coins as spending options

How it works

Set up up your spending options containers with labels. You might need to provide some supporting information for each option or explain to the young people a little bit about each.

Give the young people their coins and explain that they need to spend or invest all of their money.

They do not have to spend on each option and there is no maximum investment (they could put all their coins in one option)

Give them sometime to spend their money and then at the end review the spending.

It might be very even – the young people are equally interested in all or it might be more mixed.

Use the outcomes to create discussions.

Remember

This exercise will only give a broad consensus because the system is open to manipulation.

A small core of young people could invest all their coins in one option to drive it forward, however this in turn demonstrates a high level of motivation and advocacy in those young people and it's not unhealthy to have a bit of passion on a topic.

How you can mix it up

Informed spending - It is interesting to watch opinions change; you can play the exercise but giving the spending options but not really explaining what they are. The young people will use their existing knowledge to spend their money.

Afterwards explain each option in full detail, then run the exercise again to see how (if) spending patterns change.

Cut backs

Run the activity in reverse have a number of options, maybe local services like parks, hospitals or Scout related HQ repairs, camping equipment.

Put the coins in the option containers (a diferant colour in each). Tell the young people that an emergency has happened, and they need to pay of it by taking three coins from the options available.

Then have a discussion about why they chose to take funding from the options they selected.



This POP is based on a youth forum idea by the County Commissioner and tested by the Youth Commissioners.

