

Light Patrol's Interactive Children's Workshop



Workshop Outline

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Reading of *The Cardboard Shack Beneath the Bridge*, followed by questions and discussion (15-20 min.)
3. Introduction of stations for interactive experience, and instructions (10 min.)
 - The 5 stations are designed to give kids a chance to imagine and experience a little bit of what it might be like to not have a home. Children will be divided into small groups for this segment, and each group will get a list that will tell them the order in which they will visit the stations. (Stations described below)
4. Station time (each group will spend 10 to 15 min. at each station)
5. Debrief time and final gathering (10 to 15 min.)
 - During this time, children will be encouraged to give feedback on what they have experienced, seen and heard, and what it made them think and feel.

Interactive Stations:

Station 1 - The Cardboard Shack:

- At this station, children will be encouraged to enter a cardboard shack (specially made to look like the one on the cover of the book) and note what it is made of and looks like. They will be led in discussion about how someone who is homeless might build a makeshift 'home'. When inside, they will be encouraged to sit down and talk about the noises they hear, the breeze they might feel and what it might be like to live in a 'house' like this.

Station 2 – Wet feet:

- At this station, children will have the opportunity to put on wet socks and mittens, as well as an item of ill-fitting clothing. They will be encouraged to talk about how it must feel to always have feet that are wet and cold, where and how people who are homeless get clothing, and how it often doesn't fit, isn't clean or very nice. The children will then take turns getting into an old (but clean) sleeping bag, and led in a discussion about what that would feel like if it wasn't just for fun camping or a sleepover.

Station 3 – Seeing is Believing:

- Children will be shown images from a DVD scrapbook of photos, featuring visuals of places that homeless people live/sleep/hang out. Most of the visuals are of "street friends" of the Light Patrol team, and also show Light Patrol team members interacting with them. Children will be led in talking about the images they see, how lonely it can be living on the street, and invited to ask questions about the pictures they've seen.

Station 4 – Heart Art:

- Children will be invited to draw pictures that express what they are learning and feeling. They may also be given the opportunity to draw pictures or make cards for the Light Patrol to share with their street friends.

Station 5 – On Base:

- Finally, children will get a tour of the Light Patrol mobile base (a customized 30-foot motorhome). While the children are receiving a snack on the mobile base, they will have

an opportunity to discuss what the vehicle is used for, and the kinds of helps the Light Patrol team provide.

Cost

A suggested honorarium for a team of 5 staff and the Light Patrol mobile base is \$450, if the school or church is within the GTA.

Costs may vary, depending on length of program, number of staff required, and distance outside the GTA.

All proceeds from the workshop will go directly to the work of Youth Unlimited's Light Patrol.

Contact

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