

Methodology for the integration of Ukrainian girls & boys into Scout groups or other activities – Junak Cesky Skaut



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*Note: This is a simple translation of the methodology for “UAct 360” users. This translation has not been proofread.
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Introduction

There are many ways in which we as Scouts can contribute to solving the consequences of the war conflict in Ukraine. What we know and have tried for years is a meaningful educational activity for young people. Hundreds of thousands of young people come to us, they need to find a safe environment from which they were torn, and to return some joy and security to their lives. And so our role is quite clearly defined - let's offer them activities in which they can forget about the difficult situations they have experienced, meet great friends and buddies, have the opportunity to experience a foreign environment and start adapting to it.

This role of ours can take many forms, from involvement in our scout troops to offering other activities. However, questions can be associated with all of them: How to reach the refugees? How to overcome the language barrier? How will they behave? How to organize it so that everyone is safe? Where to get the money for it?

We offer answers to these and other possible questions in this methodology. If you are just deciding whether to go this way, we recommend reading [this article](#). Flipping through the methodology itself can also undoubtedly help you.

We also consulted this methodology with professional institutions that help refugees, work with children in difficult situations, with experts on Ukraine and its cultural specifics, etc. If you do not find something you need here, write to program@skaut.cz. Via the same email, we will be very happy if you share your experience with us on the integration of Ukrainian refugee kids and adolescents.

We believe that the methodology will help you gain basic confidence for the first steps.

Thank you for everything you do for Czech and Ukrainian girls and boys!

1. First steps

Discuss the options at the scout troop / department council

Discuss what your current options are (personnel, time, space...) and what you could/would like to offer. It is clear that we are faced with a challenge that we have no experience with and that may be accompanied by doubts, perhaps fears, certainly questions. Share your concerns and questions with each other and discuss them - this methodology can help you with some of them.

What you should definitely have clarified:

- Which one of you will be the person in charge?
- Who is involved in this new agenda and what is their role in it?
- What will be your specific activity (invitation to the unit, organization of a Saturday afternoon for families with children, etc. - see the range of options below)?
- That no one goes into it against their will or beyond the limits of their current capabilities.
- That it will not limit your normal scout activity.

You can find more answers to your possible questions about the involvement of girls and boys in the sections in the chapter How to prepare yourself and other volunteers.

What form can our activity take?

To involve Ukrainian girls and boys directly in our unit. We know that it already happens, usually girls and boys come who are somehow connected to one of the existing members (they live with them, they become classmates, etc.). It is the most natural and good way of recruitment for newcomers - to go there with a friend.

To get involved in the unit, we offer another line of tips and recommendations on how to do it below.

Organize a one-time afternoon event for children (or mothers also) from refugee families. It can take many forms. In the afternoon in the clubhouse, where you will offer small activities of different natures, possibly for different ages, and mothers will then have the opportunity to make coffee and chat. A walk around the city, which is new for newcomers, and familiarization with key points such as the school, shops, office, playground, etc. A creative workshop of varying difficulty, where girls and boys can make something to decorate their current home, something practical, take advantage of the approaching Easter holidays and dye eggs, etc.

Agree on regular (not directly unit) activities offered to Ukrainian girls and boys or their families. You can open a children's club for mothers with children regularly once a week in the morning in the clubhouse (ideally if one of the mothers from your scout ranks takes charge of it). Every second Thursday afternoon in the clubhouse - or in the accommodation of refugee families - a club with an offer of small activities, etc.

Suburban camp. Quite a few scout districts organize suburban camps for Czech children. Offering places to Ukrainian kids, or maybe opening one extra run to create capacity for Ukrainian kids, might be the way to go as well. You can plan for the summer as we are used to, but you can also consider (if you have sufficient capacity) a suburban camp in the spring

months or during the Easter holidays (Ukrainian children have three months until they are obliged to start school here. Some families are in a hurry regarding the involvement of children in school, others are not, experts also mention that children and families as such need time and gradual adaptation to a new environment, rather than being thrown into the water quickly in the form of daily school attendance.). For this type, we add that we will be looking for ways (and we will certainly not be the only ones) how this already more demanding activity can be financed, and we will inform you about it.

None of the mentioned or other activities should limit your main activity - leading the scout troops and educational activities in them. Try to involve former or no longer active members of the center into the activities - the tribe of adults, maybe even friends of your rovers and rangers, also students can help. Parents of your members may be happy to help, and with the passage of time Ukrainian people themselves may get involved - either mothers or teenagers.

Except for the first tip, we consider these activities to be more of a response to current needs, rather than a long-term activities that we should offer. Even from the point of view of experts, the situation is perceived in such a way that the following months until the summer are the search and testing of paths, the first steps in the adaptation and integration of people who often do not even accept the option of staying here for a longer period of time and they therefore do not search for long-term activities for themselves or your children. At the same time, the mentioned low-threshold (meaning one-time, short-term, freely organized) activities can be a good way for children and their parents to get to know scouting, and joining the troop can thus become a good long-term solution for them in the future.

TIP:

There is a high demand from Ukrainian families for language courses for their children. We are rather unable to offer them, but it is perhaps interesting to talk about the offer of our activity as another possibility of language acquisition, as about learning the language in practice and through play.

For the future good coexistence of Ukrainian families in Czech society, it is possible to consider whether our offer should also include integration activities within the framework of mutual coexistence - a cultural evening for Czech and Ukrainian people in the village, a common breakfast with a sample of traditional dishes of each culture and opportunities to get to know each other and introduce etc.

2. Integration of Ukrainian girls and boys to our troops

The vast majority of the information in the entire chapter 2 can also be used for other forms of activities for Ukrainian girls and boys, not only the troop activity itself.

Practical information

- To invite Ukrainians to your troops, you can use the posters that we have attached for inspiration. In the coming weeks, we will also prepare a flyer in Ukrainian for you, into which you can add your information (meeting time, address of the clubhouse,

contact, etc.). You can leave the leaflets and posters in the contact centers for refugees, an organization that you know takes care of refugees in your city (e.g. Charity), schools where Ukrainian children go, etc.

- Don't expect a massive interest from the very beginning. At this time, the priorities of many refugee families may be elsewhere, they need to find their way around, provide basic needs, etc. But be prepared, there are also families whose children, on the other hand, try to join as soon as possible, usually for the sake of language acquisition and smooth integration.
- Scouting as such is not completely widespread in Ukraine and known in the society. So it is not sure that the parents will understand what your offer is. For these purposes, we are preparing a simple material that you can provide them.
- There is no need to officially register the Ukrainian children into your troop right away. Give them time to get to know each other and see if they want to participate in the long term (many don't even consider a long-term stay yet). Even without registration, girls and boys at our events are insured as participants of our events for the public. But it is important that you and the parents are clear about how the children can leave the meeting - whether by themselves, whether the parent picks them up, etc. (we are preparing a form translated into Ukrainian) and that you have contact with the parents.

TIP:

You may be wondering why some of the materials prepared by us are not only in Ukrainian, but also in Russian. The reason is that in some Ukrainian regions Russian is the primary language, and we followed the recommendation of the META organization, which always prepares materials for the Ukrainian community in both languages so that everyone, regardless of the language habits of their place of residence, can understand well. Even Russian-speaking Ukrainians, however, understand the basics of Ukrainian.

What about the financial costs?

- It is likely that Ukrainian families will not have resources to spare. We recommend you not to ask them for membership or participation fees. Ideally, make an agreement in advance in the troop/department whether you can finance the small costs of the activities for Ukrainian girls and boys. We assume that it will be minor expenses such as a ticket for an expedition, a contribution to a meal together, etc.
- As for larger expenses - prospectively, e.g. participation fee for camp, suburban camp, etc., in the coming weeks or months, we will investigate the possibilities of how we can help with the payment of costs and we will inform you about them. It is possible that local governments, in whose jurisdiction refugees are accommodated, etc., will start offering support.
- We recommend being very careful with the attempts to organize a financial collection for the girls and boys. The conditions of financial collections are set by law, it is necessary to have them approved by the local authority, etc., and with a single local collection, you could be walking on the edge of the law (for details, see #article "Collection as a tool to help Ukraine"). Safer option is to join the SNJF initiative. On the contrary, what is fine and can help girls and boys is to make a **material collection**, for example among families in the troops, which will help you put together basic equipment for the refugees (which does not have to be a sleeping bag and mat, but perhaps a welcome package in the form of a notebook, sets of pencils or crayons, knots and a scarf).

Communication with parents

- For the first meeting, try to find someone in your area who speaks Ukrainian or Russian and could help you. The existing Ukrainian community in the Czech Republic is quite large and many of us have such people in our surroundings. You can have a translator on the phone, for example, when they cannot be there in person.
- With the help of friends/translator, prepare basic information in advance that summarizes the most important things for the beginning (time of meetings or other activities, method of communication between parents and the patrol, type of the program, etc.).
- Have a translator prepared (#SayHi application, #Google translator, etc. - both mentioned offer translation of the spoken word).
- Don't overwhelm parents with a lot of information at once. It is important for them to know where, when and with whom their child will be, what will roughly happen there and how they will meet again. That's enough for a start.

3. How to prepare yourself and other volunteers?

You have already made the basic decision and discussion. What other questions might arise?

We recommend that, at least in the first meetings, Ukrainian newcomers keep meeting with the same leaders. Getting to know someone new every week, who will be in charge of me, with whom I will again look for a common language and who I do not know at all, will not contribute much to the children's safety and will be challenging for them.

How do we communicate with each other?

We offer more tips and recommendations for this in this part of the methodology.

Should we notice newcomers significantly more? Should we be interested in what they have been through, ask them about it?

No, let's not make their arrival a big event. Newbies need to be accepted as normal as possible, because they already get more attention than they would like. If they want to talk about their experiences, let's listen and be there for them. But we should not be the initiators of such conversations.

Is there anything we can prepare in advance?

A welcome package that the newcomer will use at the meeting (notebook, pencil, scarf, etc.) can be useful. For children who are already reading, a few very basic phrases in Czech and Ukrainian can be useful, which will help with the first contact. Your existing members can also get the same. Similar equipment will help girls and boys to integrate well with others. When the newbies accommodate well, you can collect equipment such as a sleeping bag, mat, flashlight, etc. But there is no need to rush.

Should we require newcomers to follow the rules of our patrol?

It's okay to require newcomers to follow the rules we have in place in the group. Of course, it is necessary to familiarize them with our rules first, to be sure that they understand them and to approach them with a certain sensitivity. Do we clean up after the meeting? Then it's okay if the newbie joins in as well.

Should we force the child into all activities?

Certainly not. Let's respect if the newcomer does not want to participate in the activity. Let's definitely not try to force him into the activity.

What should we watch out for?

Beware of excessive load - when children are traumatized, they are tired earlier and in extreme cases they can collapse. At the same time, let's keep in mind that newcomers may not have the same physical performance as existing members of the group.

Let's also avoid activities with blindfolds, games in the dark, trails of courage, leaving children alone in any uncertain situation, fighting games that will resemble fights, hide and seek games in dark corners, sounds reminiscent of a siren, ... simply all activities that could be reminding of the situation from which they fled.

What activities are appropriate?

Physical activities that involve physical movement are certainly a suitable choice, because thanks to them we can get rid of tension. But let's not include too many competitive games, where the performances of individuals or teams are compared, which can cause conflict, demanding situations and haggling.

When it comes to communicative games, you need to think about overcoming the language barrier. More on this topic in the chapter "What activities to include on the first meeting with a newbie/newbies".

How can we help a newcomer to feel better with us?

Rituals will increase the feeling of security. For example, do you have a ritual for starting or ending a meeting? Teach it to newcomers and repeat it at every meeting. The one who is well oriented will feel good. Give girls and boys time, space to look around, explain what is happening and what will happen. In general, the younger the children are, the faster they adapt, although this is of course somewhat simplistic and each individual may experience it a little differently. However, experience also shows that children at the age of Benjamins, Wolf cubs or Fireflies usually get involved relatively well and quickly without major obstacles. Older girls and boy scouts are probably more withdrawn, will guard their space more and will need more time.

Hugs? It's alright?

Be very careful with any touch. Children have increased sensitivity and even a well-intentioned hug can cause negative feelings in them. If we want to hug a newcomer, let's ask the person if we can, so that he is not surprised.

Should we divide potential sibling pairs and friends into different groups?

Even after consultations, having the children ideally in pairs, appears to be a better option. That way, no one will be thrown alone into a new, unknown team, they will have a partner with whom they get along, they can be mutually supportive. But it is possible that they will get involved with others very easily and that it will not be a problem for them. It is difficult to find any working rule in this. If the language barrier allows, try asking them how they would like it to be able to feel comfortable. At the first meeting, let them choose what they want to do and with whom.

When we have more Ukrainian newcomers, isn't it better to create a separate Ukrainian troop?

At first, it may seem like a better solution - the children will stay among their peers, there will be no need to solve the language barrier, etc. However, we do not consider it a good solution in the long term - girls and boys will not have as much motivation to talk and cooperate with others. It may happen that the worlds of the Ukrainian and Czech groups will become unnecessarily distant from each other and it will only be more difficult to connect them again.

Is Ukrainian culture and children's behavior different from ours?

The answer to this question is offered in this chapter "What is useful to know about Ukraine and Ukrainian children?".

4. How to help a Ukrainian newcomer with the integration into the patrol?

Read tips for some initial activities with the newcomer and general tips that help you for the following meetings..

Let's prepare our existing members for their arrival

Before a new member of the group comes to the first meeting, it is advisable to inform and prepare the existing members. How to do it?

Let's talk to them, but let's not make a big deal out of it.

Let's tell the children directly that a newcomer from Ukraine will join the group. At the same time, let's invite them to tell us their feelings - they can share enthusiasm, curiosity, but also uncertainty or fear.

Try to show the children what kind of situation the newcomer will experience.

How about starting to speak to scouts in a foreign language at a meeting? Or bring a visitor who only speaks a foreign language? How will they suddenly feel if they don't understand? After this experience, let's discuss together how they felt, what it was like for them and what we can draw from this experience for the newcomer.

Let's talk about the country the children come from.

Before a new member arrives, let's talk about the country they come from. Where is Ukraine located? How big is it? What is the religion there? What about the locals? What are the customs? For this we can use the [#Bedýnku příběhů o Ukrajině](#).

What program to include before the first meeting with a newcomer?

Tips for activities with Czech scouts before the first meeting with a Ukrainian newcomer:

- Learn together to say hello or a few simple phrases in Ukrainian.
- Agree on who will act as the newcomer's "patron" / "buddy" (see below)
- Create illustrated rules. Post them in the clubhouse. This will help newcomers to better navigate our group. Let's be clear and concise when coming up with rules - we can help ourselves with pictures, painting or pantomime. Let's not forget to familiarize newcomers with these rules and make sure that the new member understands them.
- Think about the most important words, phrases, and instructions for your patrol that you say most often - translate them together using Google Translate.
- Label important things in the clubhouse with Czech and Ukrainian names.
- Prepare your names or nicknames written in Cyrillic (Latin and Cyrillic can be used for various encryption games :-))
- Learn how to use google translate with all the gadgets.

- A movie “Journey with Carly” - This is an activity for children in the 1st - 3rd grade of elementary school. It is an animated film that tells the story of a little girl who runs away from home due to tragic events. The film introduces the fate of refugees in a non-violent way and is a starting point for various activities not only on the subject of migration.
- Activity “We all came from somewhere”. An activity for scouts about the fact that migration is a phenomenon that accompanies us throughout history.

TIP

Every smartphone offers you a simple tool for the first communication - you can use, for example, Google Translate. The translator not only translates phrases, but also entire sentences. A great feature is the spoken word translation - just click on the microphone and say a sentence, and the translator will immediately translate it into the selected language. The camera function works similarly - you point your phone at the text and the text will be translated on the display.

<p>How to find a “patron” for a Ukrainian newcomer?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ask who would like to help the newcomer, or think of one or more members in advance that you could approach. - Provide support to the buddy, tell them what exactly they should help the newcomer with (if you have a system of patrons in the group already in place, explain what the Ukrainian newcomer might need differently than the Czech one) - Get regular feedback from patrons, take an interest in how they feel. - The patron does not have to become a friend forever, but it is important that he/she can mediate social contacts for the newcomer. 	<p>Initial support for the patron:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You can best help a newbie if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - you will be nice to them - you will listen to them - you will help them understand how the unit works - you introduce them to the patrol - you will help them to understand things he doesn't understand - you will help them have all the information he needs - you will help them orient themselves in the clubhouse (where to leave the shoes, where there is a toilet, ...) - you will talk to them if they look sad. - you try to say something in their native language. - you will find out what their hobbies are, maybe you have the same interests. - you will show them that they are important.
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And what about the language - how do we communicate?

The official language of Ukraine is Ukrainian, for writing it uses the Cyrillic alphabet. In Ukraine, it is not a problem to communicate in Russian. The difference between Russian and Ukrainian can be compared to the difference between Czech and Polish. Children understand Russian. They can speak English similarly to our children (some more and some less). You can try explaining games in English slowly with gestures. Maybe they will master Czech in a certain time.

The Ukrainian alphabet contains letters in the following order:

capital letters:	А	Б	В	Г	Ґ	Д	Е	Є	Ж	З	И	І	Ї	Й	К	Л	М	Н	О	П	Р	С	Т	У	Ф	Х	Ц	Ч	Ш	Щ	Ь		Ю	Я
lowercase letters:	а	б	в	г	ґ	д	е	є	ж	з	и	і	ї	й	к	л	м	н	о	п	р	с	т	у	ф	х	ц	ч	ш	щ	ь		ю	я
italics:	<i>а</i>	<i>б</i>	<i>в</i>	<i>г</i>	<i>ґ</i>	<i>д</i>	<i>е</i>	<i>є</i>	<i>ж</i>	<i>з</i>	<i>и</i>	<i>і</i>	<i>ї</i>	<i>й</i>	<i>к</i>	<i>л</i>	<i>м</i>	<i>н</i>	<i>о</i>	<i>п</i>	<i>р</i>	<i>с</i>	<i>т</i>	<i>у</i>	<i>ф</i>	<i>х</i>	<i>ц</i>	<i>ч</i>	<i>ш</i>	<i>щ</i>	<i>ь</i>	<i>ю</i>	<i>я</i>	
Approximate transcription (in the Czech alphabet)	a	b	v	h	g	d	e	j e	ž	z	y	i	j i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	r	s	t	u	f	c h	c	č	š	š č	měkký znak	j u	j a	

Basic words and phrases:

Similar with Czech	Different
Dobrý den – добрий день (dobryj deň)	Na shledanou – до побачення (dopobačenňja)
Dobré – добре (dóbre)	Prosím – будь ласка (bud' laska)
Děkuji - дякую (djakuju)	Ano – так (tak)
Ne – ні (ně)	Ahoj - привіт (pryvit)
Jak se máš? / Jak jsi na tom? - як ти (Jak ty?)	
Můžu ti pomoc? / Chceš pomoc? - допомогти тобі (Dopomohty tobi?)	

Je všechno v pořádku? / все добре (Vse dobre?)	
Hi five / plácnutí - дай п'ять (daj pjať)	

Understanding can be perhaps the biggest challenge for us and for girls and boys. Let's look together at simple rules that could help you with communication. Explain it not only to the leaders, but also the members of our groups.

Let's speak simply, clearly and concretely

Let's use simple sentences and remember that every sentence is one piece of information. Let's try to use the same words, so we have a better chance that the child will learn the new word faster. Let's not forget to follow the appropriate pace of speech - but be careful, slow does not mean loud :). And let's intonate correctly. Did we ask something? Let's raise our voice at the end of the sentence. Also, avoid slang and jargon. On the contrary, let's try to use more basic vocabulary and words of daily use. And last but not least, let's pay attention to good pronunciation and articulation.

Let's help each other

How? How about picture cards, concrete objects, a demonstration of an activity or pantomime? Don't be afraid to draw and point to the given objects. You can also use the Ukrainian-Czech dictionary, e.g. DeepL, Google translate or other.

Let's say clear and concise instructions

It is very stressful for newcomers who do not understand us, not knowing what will be done and what is supposed to happen. Therefore, let's try to simplify the instructions as much as possible - we can show it with two examples.

- a) So, now let's get ready for the next game that Liška has prepared for you today. You can look forward to it because you haven't played such a game before. Well, now I would like to ask you to make a circle.
- b) Let's make a circle!

Let's be predictable

Children who are affected by trauma need to be in control of the situation and to have an overview of everything. Therefore, it will be more than necessary that things in the scouting environment are predictable and structured. This will increase their sense of security. Sometimes it may seem silly, but for example, if you want to close the window in the clubhouse, first say: "Now I'm going to get up and close the window," and only then do the action. Or if you arrange to meet at 3:00 p.m., newbies will demand that someone actually be there at that time to tell them what's going to happen. Of course, it can happen that your plans don't work out and things turn out differently. In this case, reach the child and explain what happened and how you will handle the situation.

Let's check our understanding

We must be sure that the newcomer understands us - let's agree with him (perhaps through the parents) that he will give us some signal (the word YES, nodding his head, etc.) that we understand each other and that he knows what is going to happen.

TIP

For communication, you may also find a (comenio.cz) useful, which helps to break down the language barrier by allowing Ukrainian children to send messages in their mother

tongue, and this message will reach the lecturer/teacher/leader already translated into Czech.

What activities to include on the first meeting with newbies

Familiarize the patrol with how to write and read the newcomer's name, by what name they wish to be addressed (we do not make the name sound "czech", adjust, we do not give nicknames, they are not customary in Ukraine).

You can combine subsequent games as you like.

Handicraft.

When making a craft, show yourself the result first, and then all go step by step together to see what needs to be done.

Handicrafts are published regularly #in Světýlko magazine (can also be used for boy and girl scouts), e.g. stone painting, charms for luck, friendship knot...

Games with numbers.

Place paper numbers from 1 to 30 (differentiated in color for each group) in a certain area and divide the patrol into groups of about 4-6. The boy and girl scouts run out one at a time to find #1 first and return. Then the next one runs and has to find No. 2, ... When running, numbers must not be shouted, but only pointed on the fingers and on the cards.

Prepare several sudoku difficulties for the rovers and rangers (copy each difficulty as many times as there will be groups, do not tell the groups what the difficulty of the sudoku is).

Divide them into groups of 3-4. Set a time, pass the Sudokus and let them solve it.

Listening to music.

The music is playing, when it stops playing, the fireflies and wolf cubs are tasked to sit on a cushion (or whatever). The game can be varied in various ways, e.g. lying on the pillow, putting your hand on it, ... (it is always necessary to demonstrate this clearly at the beginning). They can run individually, then in pairs, threes, etc. During the game, there are the same number of pillows as the children (it is not about getting of the game when you are not fast enough).

Rovers and rangers divide into groups and choose a song they like as a group. The group listens to the song and tries to create a plot for it. Then the individual groups perform it.

Pantomime (some children may know it as the "crocodile" game).

Prepare cards with pictures of individual sports/animals. The pair always draw a card and try to demonstrate the sport (they find out how the sport is in Ukrainian). The others guess and their goal is to say sports in Czech and Ukrainian. Sports can be ones you can play afterwards.

For older participants (scouts, rovers, rangers), shops and institutions (office, bus stop, library, restaurant) can be depicted. They are then pantomimed by a larger group of people (e.g. the whole patrol), the group also agrees to pantomime the performance.

Search games around the clubhouse.

Prepare cards with pictures that fireflies, wolf cubs, boy scouts, girl scouts have to find in groups around the clubhouse. When explaining the rules, act out a scene where one person holds a paper with pictures in his hand, sees the given thing and calls "there". When searching, you can then tell yourself how the given thing is in Czech and how Ukrainian. Which of the following is the most similar in Czech and Ukrainian? Recommendation of words that are pronounced the same/similarly in Czech and Ukrainian: brouk, strom, pes,

kočka, písek, dub, kámen, písek, auto, autobus, list (stromu), šiška, fialka, topol, buk, kaštan, oříšek, lavička, moucha, ptáček, pes, ovce, oheň. Uvnitř klubovny: stůl, lžice, nůž, papír, klíč, dveře, svetr, hodiny, kniha, fotoaparát, guma, voda, čaj, kafe, dřevo, křeslo, houba, mobil.

Shared snack - sandwiches.

For the meeting, buy the basic ingredients for making sandwiches. Divide the ingredients into groups and let the kids create the most creative sandwiches. Then eat them together. Allocate a certain amount to the group for the younger kids to buy the ingredients for the sandwiches (the bread will be given to the group). Let them plan what to buy (they have to write a shopping list in a foreign language) and then let them buy it (groups can agree to buy only one butter, for example). From what they bought, they make sandwiches, which everyone then eats together.

Rovers and rangers are tasked with creating and eating sandwiches as well, but creatively. They will split into several groups and each group will come up with a unique way to achieve this. One group, for example, can work silently the whole time, in another group everyone can give out some handicaps, in another everyone can only speak English, ...

How about the next meetings?

General tips on how to help a newcomer who does not speak Czech:

Engage him. Create space for the newcomer to engage in practical and meaningful activities. Always demonstrate the activity first and then have them do it in pairs (if possible). Let's not be afraid to give a newcomer a function where the language barrier will not be an obstacle. E.g. photographer, cartographer,...

More time. Give more time to start the activity, e.g. give a trial run, the child first only watches the activity...

Keywords. Explain the key words for the game. You can also try saying them in English and ask if they understand.

Repetition. Give space for the child to repeat the Czech word (you can all repeat together), it is likely that the child will want to learn it.

Expression cards. Check for understanding. Create cards that you will be if you understand the assignment, how are you, etc. (use them all).

Visuality and gestures. To explain the program and how it works, use as much visual support as possible, e.g.

- mark when the meetings are in the calendar, have the patrol's rules in pictures, ...
- use gestures, facial expressions

Be patient. Appreciate any effort to communicate - verbal or non-verbal, give the newcomers enough time to express themselves, if they doesn't want to talk, respect that; have a translator available that anyone can use during the meeting (e.g. on mobile, computer).

Games without Czech. Look for games where Czech is not needed - use art, craft, movement, music activities and games with numbers.

Let's use the newbie's mother tongue. It is advisable to give the child space and the opportunity to use his mother tongue during communication - singing, counting,...

Subtitles. Use samples with subtitles (e.g. download Ukrainian subtitles for your favorite fairy tale, story)

Modify it. Use and modify board games where knowledge of Czech is not necessary (e.g. pexeso, ligretto, UNO, dobble), together you can solve puzzles, solve sudoku

The same games? Try to look for the games that both Czechs and Ukrainians know, for example, Ukrainian children know "rock, scissors, paper", but they say: "chu va chi".

Let's support rotating groups. By alternating groups or pairs during the activities, the newcomers get to know everyone in smaller groups, which can be more enjoyable for them.

Inspiration. What does the newcomer like?

- ask for a favorite Ukrainian song, learn it (if the newcomer has a favorite English song, sing the English song together)
- cook the newbie's favorite meal together
- find out a favorite book - maybe it was also published in Czech and you know it (e.g. Harry Potter, The Lord of the Rings)
- ask about his life experiences - how does scouting work in Ukraine? How is it the same and how is it different?

Nobody's coming?

Have you posted flyers inviting Ukrainian children to join your ranks and no one came to the meeting or other event? Give it time. We have to realize that children have often gone through a traumatic experience and now need more time with their families. If they don't come to the first meeting, be patient and be open to their eventual involvement in your troop later. It is also important that they see that they are invited and welcome.

3. What is useful to know about Ukraine and Ukrainian children?

Ukraine is a huge country within which you may encounter cultural differences. We have selected for you several Ukrainian specifics and similarities that can be reflected in the life of the unit.

The language was already discussed above.

How to understand traditional Ukrainian symbols?

Flag

It consists of two horizontal stripes, the upper one is blue and the lower one is yellow. The most common explanation is that the stripes represent the typical Ukrainian landscape. Blue color: sky and yellow fields full of sunflowers and corn.

State coat of arms - Tryzub

The Ukrainian national emblem is used more often than the Czech one. Children learn to paint it. The trident is a traditional symbol.

What are Ukrainian children like?

Similar to Czech. They like pizza, burgers, playing minecraft and have cell phones and computers (on which they play games and they can't tear themselves away from them). Ukrainian children like to invite their friends home and entertain them (it is common to spend the night at a friend's house).

It is customary to organize a big family celebration on birthdays. Children are used to bringing candies to kindergarten and school for everyone. Ukrainian children (and adults) like to sing often. Before meals, after meals. For sitting together with the guitar.

How are holidays celebrated in Ukraine?

Religious holidays

In Ukraine, as an Orthodox country, Christian holidays are celebrated according to the Julian calendar.

Christmas is thus celebrated only after our New Year, more precisely from January 6 to 19 (the baptism of Jesus). A twelve-course dinner is served on Christmas Eve, January 6. The first Christmas holiday is January 7. St. Nicolas brings gifts to children on December 18.

They don't know Little Jesus, who brings gifts to Czech children. Don't be afraid to include Ukrainian children in Christmas gatherings, they will be happy for gifts other than December 18.

The most important church holiday is Easter. This year they come a week after the Catholic Easter. Many people observe fasting.

On Easter Sunday, they go to consecrate dishes in baskets that contain sweet bread, painted eggs and meat dishes. Then there is a common breakfast, where everything is eaten. This custom is ubiquitous, followed by believers and non-believers alike.

Then, there is Poured Monday. As the name suggests, water is poured on each other. It is similar to our Christmas Monday. Some people do the pouring, some not. Ukrainian children won't understand our tradition with the Easter willow stick.

Eggs are painted with wax, often together with family and friends. You can invite moms and paint eggs together and share with each other how we do it and how they do it. Baking of the Easter sweet bread is the same as here.

Non-religious holidays

The main non-religious public holiday is Independence Day, which is celebrated on August 24. On that day, in 1991, Ukraine declared independence. Everyone wears embroidered clothes (a part of the national costume that everyone has, the pattern is, on the other hand, specific to each region).

Similar to our country, there are two holidays at the beginning of May - Labor Day (May 1 and 2) and Victory Day (May 9). These holidays are currently associated with the Soviet Union and have negative connotations.

4. Scouting in Ukraine

Like the Czech one, it was banned several times - by the Communists and the Nazis.

There are several thousand girl scouts and boy scouts in Ukraine, but scouting in public is not as well known as here. NOSU (National Organization of Scouts of Ukraine) is, like us, a member of WOSM and the Union of Ukrainians Girl Scouts – AGU (Association of Ukrainian Guides) is just like us a member of WAGGGS. There are also several other organizations in Ukraine, which avow to Scout ideas (e.g. Plast, Association of Ukrainian Scouts, Orthodox Scouts of Ukraine, SPOK...).

Wolf cubs and fireflies are up to 10 years old. Scouts, ages 11–14. Younger Rovers are 15-18 years old and older are 18-24 years old.

Scouts in Ukraine do many expeditions, live with nature and work in groups. On expeditions, they sleep in tents in sleeping bags and cook over a fire. They have their own scarf, which is blue with a yellow ribbon for the national level - at divisional levels they can choose their own. On uniforms, they have, like us, a badge of where they came from, what they accomplished and badges of the events.

In conclusion

It was already mentioned in the introduction, but we will repeat it here at the end. Any feedback on the methodology and suggestions on what else you would need in it, please send us an email to program@skaut.cz. Likewise, we will be very happy if you send your experience with Ukrainian girls and boys to the same address. Thank you!

We assume that we will continuously update the methodology for new information and practical suggestions.

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