



RESPECT COPYRIGHTS: Curriculum for the Los Angeles Area Boy Scouts of America

Intellectual Property is no different than physical property. Stealing intellectual property that is copyrighted is against the law and can have serious consequences. Movies, music, games and software are forms of intellectual property that are usually copyrighted to protect the people who make them.

Copyright theft, often called “piracy” is the theft of copyrighted materials. Some copyright thieves have so-called “bootleg” operations on the streets where they sell illegal copies of such materials while others may post them on the Internet for people to download illegally. Both forms of copyright theft are illegal and carry various penalties under the law.

This program is meant to teach the value of a copyright whether it’s a movie available on the Internet or in the form of a bootleg product on the street.

Activities:

Demonstrate your knowledge of the following:

- a. What is a copyright?
- b. Why do copyrights matter?
- c. Identify five types of copyrighted works (two may be your own). For each, give the author/creator and the date the work was copyrighted.
- d. Name three ways copyrighted materials may be stolen.

Presentation:

Complete ONE of the following activities:

- Create a Public Service Announcement/Copyright Protection Advertisement - With the help of your counselor and/or troop leader, prepare a 1-minute (60 seconds) video that demonstrates the importance of copyright protection.
- Write a Pamphlet/Brochure - Create a presentation (either in power-point format or a pamphlet/brochure) that demonstrates why copyright protection is important.
- Perform a Skit - Write and perform a skit about why copyright protection is important.

- Book - Create your own original illustration depicting the importance of copyright protection (i.e. comic book, comic strip, etc).
- Visit a video sharing network or peer to peer website and identify which materials are copyrighted and which aren't.
- Make a list of your favorite movies and then list all the ways people can download those movies legally without violating copyright law.
- Research peer to peer websites – describe to your troop what they are and how they are sometimes used to illegally trade copyrighted materials. There are peer to peer groups who offer legal downloads and those who offer illegal downloads – make a list of both. Suggest ways to detect peer to peer software like the MPAA's Parent File Scan.
- California specific: Visit a movie studio with your troop. Upon your return list all of the things you saw that went into making a movie. Have a discussion with your troop leader about how much each item cost or how much it costs to make a movie (information on MPAA website).
- **Movie**

Go to a movie and stay through all of the credits. Tell your counselor and/or troop leader who you think, in addition to the main actors and actresses, would be hurt if that film were stolen?

Explain what a bootleg DVD looks like and how people can avoid purchasing counterfeit DVDs on the streets.

- **Video Game**

Play your favorite videogame. Identify who the designers are and describe the elements of the game which are copyrightable. Discuss with your troop leader.

- **Music**

Play your favorite CD for your troop leader and explain why you enjoy listening to it. List all of the people that contributed to making this CD and what their individual responsibilities were.

Materials/Research:

Research materials can be found at the following links:

Motion Picture Association of America
www.mpa.org

Wired Kids and Wired Safety
www.WiredKids.org

Respect Copyrights
www.respectcopyrights.org

Peer2Peers
www.peer2peers.org

Download Legal
www.Downloadlegal.org

The Copyright Society of the U.S.A.
www.csusa.org

Pause Parent Play
www.pauseparentplay.org