



Semaphore Whispers

S E M A P H O R E W H I S P E R S

This can be done as a patrol activity, either as individuals signaling to each other or patrols signaling to each other, an ideal park or camp activity.

Participants stand a far enough distance apart that messages cannot be transmitted by yelling or mouthing words, but within line of sight of each other. Each individual or group is given a pair of semaphore flags, and code key. (See Guiding Traditions – Craft for making semaphore flags if you have none available.)

Now the first group/individual makes up a short message and signals it to the next group/individual and similar to the game “Chinese Whispers” the message gets passed around and compared when it returns to ‘base’ The next group or individual then has a turn to make up and pass round the message. A fun website for semaphore is <http://www.sartori.com/nhc/flags/>

WHY NOT (WHY NOT)

- ❑ Have a patrol competition to get the message around correctly; scoring could be done by deducting marks for each incorrect letter between the original message and the last translation or even progressively around the game.
- ❑ Challenge another patrol or unit to a competition on a unit visit night or use as a region competition.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

DID YOU KNOW (DID YOU KNOW?)

It was apparently the English scientist Robert Hooke who first gave a vivid and comprehensive outline of visual telegraphy to the Royal Society in a submission dated 1684; in it he outlined many practical details, but his system was never put into practice. The newer flag semaphore system uses two short poles with square flags, which a flagman holds in different positions to signal letters of the alphabet and numbers. The flagman holds one pole in each hand, and extends each arm in one of eight possible directions. Except for in the rest position, the flags cannot overlap. The flags are coloured differently based on whether the signals are sent by sea or by land. At sea, the flags are coloured red and yellow (the Oscar flag), while on land, they are white and blue.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Semaphore>