Light Wand That's Highly Visible!

Need a very visible signaling light that can be seen from all directions?

Make one from a flashlight and 2 to 4 Styrofoam cups. In the bottom of Cup #1, cut a hole the diameter of the bottom of your flashlight. Put your flashlight into the cup, with the back of the flashlight sticking out through the hole (see top illustration). Secure the lip of Cup #1 to the lip of Cup #2 with Scotch tape or duct tape.

To make a longer light wand, cut the bottom out of Cup #2. Get Cup #3, and cut out its bottom also. Get Cup #4 and secure it to Cup #3, lip to lip. Secure the bottoms of Cup #3 and Cup #2 together. Your cups should look like those in the illustration above. By the way, you do not need to cut the bottom out of Cup #4. Cut the bottoms out of all the cups except the last one.

Turn the flashlight on, hold the flashlight in your hand, and make waving motions with your light wand. **You'll be amazed how far this can be seen at dusk or at night!** If you work out a signal code with a friend, you can send simple messages. This works better if both of you have two light wands each.

The military and the Boy Scouts have signal systems you can learn.