

Daisy Eco Learner



OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Have you ever wanted to know how to help keep nature beautiful? In this badge you will learn how to protect and maintain the nature around you and learn how to always leave a place better than you found it.



Step 1 - Be prepared to protect nature before you go outdoors.

Before you go on an adventure outdoors, it's important to be prepared. Think of how you need to dress and what you should bring with you. Gather everything you think you will need to go on a trip outdoors. With an adult, take another look at everything you have. Do you have everything you need to be prepared and stay safe? What should you leave at home to keep nature clean and safe? When you're done, put on a "Be Prepared" show-and-tell for an adult of what you're bringing with you and what's staying home and why.

Step 2 - Keep living things safe when you walk in nature.

When you step outdoors, you step into the home of many plants and animals! Some wildlife is large and easy to see but many are easy to miss. When you go on a hike it's important to stay on the clear path and be careful of where you step to be sure you're not disturbing what could be something else's home. The next time you are on a trail or sidewalk, stop to look at what's next to the path. Count how many different plants or animals you can find. What might happen to the things living there if you walked off the path? For some more fun, you can take a magnifying glass or a camera that can zoom in to take a closer look at some of the smaller creatures.

Step 3 - Learn how to protect nature from trash.

One of the biggest differences you can make when going outdoors is keeping trash away from where it doesn't belong. Litter is trash that has not been thrown away in the right place and is outdoors where it can hurt animals and the places they live. Think of sometimes you've seen litter in your neighborhood, your community, or in nature. The next time you're going outdoors, try to bring items that don't produce trash like a reusable water bottle instead of a plastic bottle or reusable food containers instead of individually wrapped snacks. If you are bringing items that create trash or if you find trash while in nature, with the help of an adult, keep your trash with you until you can find a place to properly throw it away where it can't hurt wildlife.

Brownie Eco Friend



OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Whenever you spend time outdoors, you can take care of the environment. As a Girl Scout, you probably do this already! In this badge, you'll learn more about how to treat outdoor spaces with kindness and teach others how they can, too.



Step 1 - Think of ways to help the outdoors.

It's important to protect nature when you're outdoors. You can help yourself and others be friends with nature by designing a flyer that reminds everyone how to Leave No Trace. Choose four of the 7 Principles of Leave No Trace that you think are most important for your trip outdoors. Design a flyer with the name of each principle and what they mean or why they are important to you. You can find all about Leave No Trace [Here!](#)

Step 2 - Observe outdoor spaces.

When you're outdoors, think of it as being in nature's home. When you take a hike, you're walking in many animals' neighborhoods. Count how many "houses" you can see. Most animal homes will look very different from your own home. Find a few rocks or branches and gently turn them over. See if you can find who lives there. Instead of taking something with you, tell an adult or a friend all about what you found!

Step 3 - Build a safe campfire.

Campfires are a perfect place to share stories, songs, and s'mores, but they can be dangerous too. Learn some of the basic rules of fire building and talk with an adult about some other ways to stay safe around a campfire.

- Always have adult supervision
- Use existing fire rings
- Keep water buckets near the fire ring
- Keep your fire small
- Never leave a fire unattended
- Thoroughly extinguish the fire after use

Step 4 - Take care of wildlife

Think of your favorite animal that lives in nature. Learn what that animal eats and what kind of home they live in. When exploring the outdoors, look to see if you can find what your favorite animal's might eat and where they might live. Remember, when you're in nature, you're a guest in wildlife's home. The best way to help the animals and plants is to respect their home and keep it the way they like it.

Step 5 - Practice being kind.

Nature is something that everyone should be able to experience. Think of three ways you can be kind to others in nature. You might suggest a friend to go on an outdoor adventure with their family, lead your group in a game, or bring a group snack that everyone can enjoy and won't create trash! Go into the outdoors to practice your three ideas!

Junior Eco Camper



OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Whenever you step outdoors, you are a guest in nature's home. This is especially true when it comes to camping. You will earn this badge by learning how to protect the environment on your trip. It will shape the way you camp forever!



Step 1 - Learn the Leave No Trace Seven Principles

The Leave No Trace Principles help us protect the environment when we are exploring the outdoors. Learn the Seven Principles and their hand signs to get a better understanding of how to minimize your impact when camping. Teach everyone in your outdoor exploring group each hand sign so everyone can practice Leave No Trace. Learn about each principle [Here](#). Learn the hand signs [Here](#).

Step 2 - Plan meals with the environment in mind

One thing that can make up the biggest part of your environmental impact is the food you eat and how it's packed. Before your outdoor adventure, make you and your group a no-trash snack. Many snacks are individually wrapped with plastic packaging, leaving you with a lot of trash. For your outdoor adventure, choose a snack that can be packed in a reusable container or that creates no trash. Remember that anything that is not naturally existing in the environment and left by campers, is trash. That means that even compostable food trash like banana peels need to be considered when making your snack. If you don't know if your snack will produce trash, try a small version at home before taking it outdoors.

Step 3 - Prepare a minimal impact campsite

When spending an extended amount of time in one environment, it's important to select a campsite that is best to keep yourself and the wildlife safe. You should always camp on established camping sites or on a durable surface at least 200 feet away from water sources and trails to minimize your impact. Before setting up tents or other materials, choose an area that is flat, dry, and clear of sticks, stones, and vegetation. If you are not camping overnight, evaluate what areas might be best for a future campout.

Step 4 - Have fun with Leave No Trace

Who says you can't have fun while protecting the environment? Play a Leave No Trace themed game with the people you're with. You can play Wildlife Charades and see if the other campers can guess what animal you're acting like, play a Trash Timeline matching game, or make a game of your own to play! Trash Timeline Game instructions and materials [Here](#).

Step 5 - Take a conservation hike

The best way to take your experience of the outdoors with you is to record what you experience. Record sounds, take pictures, and sketch or take notes on what you see. If you see an animal, record what it looks like and what it's doing. You might be able to see where it lives and how it acts in its natural habitat. Remember to respect the animal's space and keep your distance while observing. After observing and recording, share with others what you experienced!

Cadette Eco Trekker



OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

An outdoor trek can mean anything from a walk in the woods to a long-distance hike. As an eco trekker, you will discover your important role in nature and find an environmental issue to explore. You will become responsible for the choices you make outdoors. You will learn how to conserve, preserve, and protect, and then share your knowledge with others.



Step 1 - Learn how to make minimal impact on a trek

As a Girl Scouts, you have pledged to protect nature by being considerate and caring and using resources wisely. Take the Leave No Trace Online Awareness Course to learn more about the history of Leave No Trace and its mission and how to apply each principle on your outdoor trip. Take the Online Awareness Course [Here](#).

Step 2 - Plan an eco trek with a purpose

Minimizing your environmental impact is all about knowing how to protect the environment and the natural species found there. One important way to protect the environment is by limiting invasive species introduction. Before your trek, research how you can help prevent invasive species from being introduced to the area. One simple way to avoid moving species from one environment to another is brushing your shoes free of mud and debris. Cleaning your shoes, clothes, and gear before you leave one place to go to another helps avoid invasive species catching a ride with you away from its natural home. Taking a few minutes to remove dirt, plants, small seeds, and bugs can make a huge difference.

Step 3 - Practice an eco-skill on your trek

One incredibly useful skill to practice on your trek is being able to find a source of water and purifying it. On your trek, find a safe water source, collect it, and bring it home to purify. First, filter your found water. Run it through a coffee filter or even a clean T-shirt. Next, boil it. The safest way to kill bacteria and viruses in water is to bring it to a rolling boil for at least 60 seconds. Do a taste test. Does water from a found source taste different from bottled water? If you don't want to drink the water, what was the water like before and after the purification? Did it work how you expected it to?

Step 4 - Make a difference on your eco trek

Act as an environmental explorer on your trek. Find an issue related to local species that you are passionate about. What species are thriving? What species aren't? How can you help protect the species that are endangered? On your trek, observe, make notes of any issues you see first hand, and come up with possible solutions to help.

Step 5 - Make a difference after your eco trek

Now's the time to put your ideas into action! You can make a difference by creating awareness and inspiring others to act on the environmental issue you explored. Start an awareness campaign in your school or community by creating a flyer, designing a newsletter, or starting a social media page dedicated to the issue. Awareness is the first step to action and change.

Senior Eco Explorer



OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

An eco explorer is a person who investigates environmental issues and works to make positive changes to the environment. In this badge, you'll be an eco explorer as you take a look at different environmental issues and choose one to explore further.



Step 1 - Meet an eco explorer

Research an eco activist from the past or present who made a difference in an environmental field. Find out what issue they focused on, what inspired them, and what steps they took to help the environment. How can you and others follow in their footsteps. Share what you find with your friends and family.

Step 2 - Explore biodiversity

Visit a local or state park or nature preserve to learn about the biodiversity in your area. Observe the park for signs of how they practice the Leave No Trace Principles to protect the environment and biodiversity. If you can, talk to a staff member or volunteer to ask them about the facility and how they minimize their environmental impact.

Step 3 - Investigate a global ecosystem issue

Go global and explore what species are on the endangered species list worldwide and how many of those species are in your area. Research about one species that was once threatened of extinction and was successfully brought back. What methods were used by environmental activists to help that species? How can other species be helped? Keep track of your thoughts for parts four and five.

Step 4 - Plan a trip to explore and work on an issue

Take a trip to a state park to learn and address your chosen environmental issue. If you can, talk to someone who works or volunteers at the park about how you can plan and carry out a project to address your chosen issue.

Step 5 - Share what you learned

Increase awareness about your environmental issue by starting an online campaign, school action club, or youth environmentalist organization. Share your message online or in person to raise awareness and promote action backed by your research.

Ambassador Eco Advocate




girl scouts
louisiana east

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

It's called Mother Earth or Mother Nature because every living thing depends on nature to survive. What are your priorities when it comes to valuing and protecting nature? As an eco advocate, you'll learn how environmentalists work on issues from endangered species to the destruction of rain forests. Then you'll discover a nature issue important to you, find solutions, and make a difference.

Step 1 - Learn what eco advocates do

Attend a meeting for a local environmental advocacy group to learn what they do. Explore their mission, priority issues, and the techniques they use to successfully advocate. Take inspiration from their actions to influence your own advocacy.

Step 2 - Find an issue you're passionate about

Read the local and global environmental news. Browse environmental newsletter, blogs, and websites to discover an issue that interests you and that you want to advocate for. Research your chosen issue to dive deep and start your advocacy.

Step 3 - Come up with a solution

Find an environmental group that researches and comes up with solutions about your issue. If you can't find a group, organize a group of your own to do research and brainstorm solutions for your issue.

Step 4 - Advocate for your issue

Create a campaign where you and others can advocate for your issue. Establish a mission, encourage discussion between family and friends, and share your message. Test how to maximize your influence through flyers, organized events, or a social media campaign.

Step 5 - Teach others how to advocate for your cause

There is strength in numbers. Share your passion for environmental advocacy with others and ensure that your work will continue to make a difference. Invite younger children or a younger troop of Girl Scouts to learn about your campaign. Lead them in games, songs, and activities that teaches them about your issue and the steps they can take to help the environment and be young activists themselves.