

At-Home Eco Learner Badge

Girl Scout Pillar: Outdoors

Purpose: Learn three ways to protect the environment when you go outdoors.

Materials Needed:

- Leave No Trace handout
- Wildlife Chart
- Craft supplies (markers, crayons, or pencils)
- String at least 3 feet long, or small hoop



Learn about being prepared from the Leave No Trace handout. Talk about what you need to be prepared for when you go outside (water, snack, wear layers, etc.)

Activity 1: Play a wildlife game with your family

Print the attached wildlife chart. In the blank squares, draw pictures of creatures you might find in your backyard or the park—like ants, birds, and worms. In other blank squares, draw pictures of wildlife you probably won't see near your home—like a lion or an elephant. Play a game with your family by having them circle the pictures of things you are likely to see in your backyard and crossing out the ones you are not likely to see.

Activity 2: Make a Nature Circle

From a sidewalk or other path, lay a circle of string in the grass. Carefully look in the circle and count how many things you find that live there, like plants or bugs. What would be injured if you walked off a path? (Optional—Use a magnifying glass to get a closer look. Draw a picture of everything you see in your circle.)

Activity 3: Create a Trash Tale

Come up with a story that tells why it's important to not leave trash in nature. Share your story with your friends (and scout leader). It could be a story about how a bear found food trash at a campsite and ate all of it. Or about a flower that was surrounded by trash and couldn't grow. If you want, you can draw pictures for your story.

Resources:

Leave No Trace handout, Wildlife chart

Extra Fun:

Have a "Be Prepared" show-and-tell—When you go outside, there are some things you might want to bring, and some you'll want to leave at home. Gather items from around your house and make two piles. One is for "take outdoors" and one is for "leave behind." Think of things like a toaster or a toy (leave behind) and water bottle, sunscreen, and bug spray (take outdoors). Then show an adult your two piles and have them guess what each is for.