

Eco Friend Badge

Purpose: Find new ways to protect our natural world and the living things in it.

Step 1: Think of ways to help the outdoors

Think about the different things you do outdoors and the places you go. Design a poster showing all the ways you can care for the environment—like look at but don't touch living things when you go to the beach, or make sure your soccer team leaves no trash behind after your games. Be as creative as you'd like! Share your poster with friends or family and talk to them about it. Is there a place where you can hang it up and see it every day?

Step 2: Observe outdoor spaces

Take a closer look—look closely at a flower, plant, rock, pinecone, or other natural object and see if anything lives on it or in it. Instead of picking it up and taking it with you, make an art project about it. You might draw or paint a picture, take photos, or sculpt it out of clay. Why do you think you should leave the object in nature?

Step 3: Build a safe campfire

Learn how to build a fire. With an adult's help, go online and watch this educational video on how to build a fire: youtu.be/63h9CP5fey0.

If you'd like to use a campfire on your next camping trip, you'll want to learn how to build one that is safe and leaves nothing behind as well as how to safely put out a fire. It's important to stay safe when building a campfire, but you need to be safe when putting it out, too.

Step 4: Take care of wildlife

Can you imagine what it would feel like to have a guest in your home who ate all your food, broke all your toys, and left trash all over the living room? Now imagine your favorite wild animal and think of ways that humans can be disrespectful of its living space. Maybe there are no flowers left for a rabbit to eat because people picked them all, or a deer is afraid to come to its favorite place in the woods because it hears loud music playing. Draw or paint a picture of your animal and talk to your friends or family about how humans can treat its living space kindly when they are outside.

Step 5: Practice being kind

Come up with three ways you can be kind to others when you're outdoors. You might try using your "indoor voice" when you're outside to keep from disturbing others, or you could invite a new friend to join a hike or outdoor game. Visit an outdoor area and practice all three ideas.

Congratulations! You've earned the Eco Friend badge!

Girl Scout Brownies

