

Eco Learner Badge

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

Step 1: Be prepared to protect nature before you go outdoors

Talk to an adult about how you should dress for the weather and what you should take to go outdoors, such as water and snacks. Find out what kind of plants and wildlife you may see and how to treat them. Then play this fun wildlife game with your family. Make a wildlife chart by drawing a large square on a piece of paper. Draw lines to divide it into 16 squares. In some of the squares, draw animals you might find near your home, such as squirrels, birds, and worms. In the other squares, draw animals that live far away, like lions and elephants. Ask members of your family to circle the animals you are likely to see in your backyard and cross out the ones you're not. You can talk about the animals with your family and the importance of staying a safe distance from them when you're outdoors.

Step 2: Keep living things safe when you walk in nature

When you walk on a trail, you must stay on the path. This simple rule is important because when you walk off a path, you might trample plants, flowers, insects, and other living things. Do this activity to discover the reason. Ask an adult to help you make a nature circle outside. Lay a circle of string at least 3-feet long next to a sidewalk or walking path. Look in the circle and count how many things you find that live there, like plants or bugs. Tell your family what you found that might be injured if you walked off a path.

Step 3: Learn how to protect nature from trash

When you toss a snack wrapper on a trail, how long do you think it will last out there? If you guessed hundreds of years, you are right! Not only is trash a mess, it's also dangerous for plants and animals outdoors. Trash may damage plants and soil and cause health problems for creatures that eat it. Create a trash tale about the dangers of leaving trash outdoors. Write a story about why it's important not to leave trash in nature. Share your story with your family. You can also draw pictures for your story to illustrate your lesson to others.

It's very important to learn the Seven Principles of Leave No Trace to help us keep nature safe. Talk about these with an adult and what each one means.

1. Know before you go
2. Choose the right path
3. Trash your trash
4. Leave what you find
5. Be careful with fire
6. Respect wildlife
7. Be kind to other visitors

Congratulations! You have earned the Eco Learner badge!



Girl Scout Daisies

