

WORLD SCOUT ENVIRONMENT BADGE
PROGRAMME ACTIVITY RESOURCE



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Nature Art

Aim 2

Scouts are working towards a world where sufficient natural habitat exists to support native species.

Educational objectives

Explore a local natural area.

Understand the ecosystem connections of native species of plants and animals and their habitat needs.

Be aware of global conservation issues affecting biodiversity.

Age range

11 to 14

Summary

An outdoor activity where the Scouts have the opportunity to be creative in nature and with nature.

Aim

To gain an appreciation of the variety, form and beauty of nature through creative activities.

Equipment

Paper and pens

Preparation

Find a suitable place to visit

Duration

Up to one hour

Setting

A local natural area, for example, forest, beach, mountain or park

Background

The natural world is full of variety and beauty. One way to become aware of this and begin to understand and appreciate it is through art. Being creative in nature and with nature is a fun way to connect with, observe and work with the natural world.

Step by step guide to activity

1. Find a suitable local natural area and take the group there.
2. Ask each Scout to find a comfortable space in the natural environment and spend a few minutes looking around them at the local nature.
3. Gather the group together and talk about what they noticed in their surroundings.
4. Ask each Scout to choose one thing in the environment and draw a picture of it. Hand out paper and pens. Once they have finished they present their picture to the rest of the group.
5. Ask the Scouts to form into small groups (of between three and five). They are going to use the natural objects around them to create some art - a picture or a sculpture. Make sure they respect the natural objects and do not harm any living creatures. They can use leaves, branches, stones, soil, trees, shrubs etc. If you want you can give them a theme for their art work.
6. Once they have finished gather the whole group together and go on a tour of the art work. Each group should explain their work.

Evaluation

1. Find out what the Scouts learnt about the natural environment they visited. What animals and plants did they see? Did they discover things in the natural environment that they hadn't seen before? How do the different natural elements work together to create the environment? Discuss how the ecosystem works.
2. Find out how much the Scouts enjoy being in the natural environment. Did the activity help them to connect with nature?

Further activities

1. Carry out a proper investigation of the local natural environment. Use survey techniques to record the plants and wildlife, make plaster casts of tracks, collect animal droppings and so on to build up a picture of the creatures that live there.
2. Encourage Scouts to keep their own nature journal where they can record their observations with different senses.
3. Learn about the native species and non native species in your local area. Do the non native species cause a problem for the native species? Find out how the non native species were introduced.

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