

Environmental Service Projects
Bronze/Silver/Gold Award Projects
and
Eagle Award Projects
for Scouts & Homeschoolers



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Thanks for thinking of The Wetlands Institute in planning your Environmental Service Project!

Wildlife (including us!) depends on a healthy environment to survive. Clean water, healthy food, and safe cover, all in an adequate arrangement, are the basic necessities that make up an organism's habitat. And habitats are all interconnected.

Environmental Service Projects offer opportunities to help others and improve the natural community on which we all depend; meet new friends and gain personal growth; and learn new skills and information, acquire work experience, and find out what's involved with careers in the field.

Your time and efforts will make a ripple effect benefiting not only your academic needs and the needs of your targeted wildlife or wildlife habitat, but the needs of other organisms in the ecosystem and the human community as well. Thanks for making a difference!

Service Projects/Bronze/Silver/Gold Award/Eagle Award Projects for Scouts & Homeschoolers

Issue	Description	Appropriate Age Range	Needed Skills or Knowledge to Research	Suggested projects
Marine Debris or Community Debris	Participate in a Beach Clean- up or a community clean-up. Gather data about what you find. Analyze the data and make inferences as to where the majority of the debris came from. Then develop a public service announcement (PSA) that can be posted to educate the community. The PSA can be in any form you choose: poster, bumper sticker, presentation, video, etc. which can be displayed at the local library, municipal building, recreation center, etc.	K-12	Marine debris impact on coastal wildlife Community debris impact on wildlife, both on land and in the sea	Organize a Community or Beach Cleanup , collect data, analyze the data, then: Option #1: Create a PSA and a plan to distribute to the community. Option #2: Create a public display, write an article for the newspaper or local television news, make a presentation to the environmental commission or town committee
Ospreys & Marine Debris	Osprey's are notorious trash pickers, and thieves! Just about anything you can think of has been found in their nests: rope, plastic sheeting and bags, flip flops, cd cases, Christmas lights, hula hoops, towels, bathing suits, garden hose. They line their nests with debris that can potentially	K-12	Osprey nesting activity, their use of marine debris and its impact on chicks and adults	Option #1: create a PSA to educate the community about resolving the issue. Option # 2: create a debris box display to educate the public
Bluebirds, Purple Martin & Tree Swallows	These birds are important insect foragers. They are cavity nesting birds which means they need to be provided with nest boxes. You will learn about these species and select one species as the focus for your project.	Grades 4-12	Species nesting needs and the ways humans can help them.	Option # 1: Adopt a bluebird trail and manage the nest boxes Option # 2: Set up a purple martin colony and manage the nest boxes Option # 3: Build and manage tree swallow nesting boxes Option # 4: Create informational literature to inform people about these tropical migrants, their nesting habits, and how they benefit us.
Wetland Conservation	There are many types of wetlands and they all provide habitat to many species and provide ecosystem services for us. Flying Wild is a students' guide to planning and implementing festivals. The Junior Duck Stamp program is a collection of activities that teach students about the importance and conservation of wetlands and wetlands species. (These guides are available for browsing at The Wetlands Institute via appointment.)	Grades 4-12	How to create a wetlands festival or activity day. General knowledge about wetlands and wetlands species	A festival is where the public can come and learn about wetlands conservation through a variety of activities. An activity day is a smaller event for a targeted audience, such as younger scouts, families at your school or group meeting place.

Service Projects/Bronze/Silver/Gold Award/Eagle Award Projects for Scouts & Homeschoolers ...continued

Issue	Description	Appropriate Age Range	Needed Skills or Knowledge to Research	Suggested projects
Turtle conservation	Late spring and summer turtle species are leaving their normal watery habitats to find higher, dryer land for laying their eggs. Often the turtles need to cross streets and highways to do this - frequently with lethal results. In addition turtles are faced with numerous other dangerous issues such as debris, habitat loss and damage.	Grades 4-12	Turtle species and their habitats. Locate local habitats. Turtles and debris. Other turtle conservation issues.	Option # 1: Create street signs or other PSA to inform drivers Option # 2: Create a turtle "garden" or habitat in your community
Climate change & Sustainability	Climate change is not just about the changing seasons and how warm or cold it is on any given day. It's about how the Earth is changing, what makes this time on Earth different than how the Earth has changed in the past, what those changes are, how we need to change our habits and adapt, and how we can make positive sustainable changes for habitats and natural resources we share with wildlife.	Grades 5-12	Climate change and its issues, sustainability and sustainable practices	Option # 1: Create a No idling campaign at your school or local shopping area. Option # 2: Prepare for Disaster relief in your community Option # 3: Develop an energy conservation challenge to get people to decrease their energy footprint Option # 4: Planting/Growing: trees, Spartina, dune grass ...And much more
Native Gardens for Pollinators, birds, & other wildlife	The number one reason why species become threatened, endangered, or extinct is loss of habitat. One of the biggest, most positive impacts everyone can make starts right in their backyard. Going native means replacing non-native, invasive, or decorative plants with native plants which provide wildlife food, shelter, and a place to raise young.	K-12	What makes a place a habitat, native vs. non-native species, designing a habitat	Create a wildlife habitat garden at a school, church, library, etc. and develop a maintenance for at least the first 2 years.
Frog Watch	FrogWatch USA is AZA's citizen science program and provides individuals, groups, and families opportunities to learn about wetlands in their communities by reporting on the calls of local frogs and toads.	Grade 4-12	Frog and frog call identification Frog Watch training	Option # 1: Create a frog pond Option # 2: Create a map of frog habitats in your community.



All Issues can incorporate CAPE - Community Awareness & Public Education

CAPE-able Kids

Kids can make incredible changes and are often better heard than adults and authorities. Soon the world will be on their shoulders. Give them the confidence, skills, & experience to "Be the Change"



For more information contact: Sue Slotterback, Environmental Educator & Merit Badge Counselor



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About the list... “Issue” is the topic or problem that needs to be addressed. “Description” gives a very brief overview of the Issue, more research into the topic would give an expanded idea of what it entails. “Appropriate Age Range” can go up or down depending on the abilities of the people involved in the project. “Needed Skills or Knowledge” will help in understanding the concepts behind the issue or methods involved in the suggested activities. “Suggested Projects” are just a few ideas that can be done among many.

First Steps toward Project Completion

1. Read over the Issues and select one of interest.
2. Do some research on the issue and come up with a list of questions and ideas.
3. Discuss and brainstorm your list with others.
4. Using the Scout project or awards guidelines, come up with a draft of the project plan.
5. Sue Slotterback, Environmental Educator and Merit Badge Counselor is the Service Project Resource at The Wetlands Institute. Contact her to schedule a educational program about any of the Service Project Issues for your group. The program will help with understanding the scope of the issue and offer suggestions and details about the projects. Once a project has been selected, contact Sue to make an appointment to discuss your project plan and set the timeline. She can be contacted via email: sslotterback@wetlandsinstitute.org

Ideas and Resources for other Environmental Service Projects

- ⇒ Learning to Give’s “Environmental Service-Learning Toolkit” - <https://www.learningtogive.org/resources/environmental-service-learning-toolkit>
- ⇒ National Geographic Society’s “School-Based Environmental Service Learning” - <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/idea/school-based-environmental-service-learning/>
- ⇒ World Wildlife Fund’s “Ideas for Environmental Learning Projects” - http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/teacher_resources/project_ideas/
- ⇒ Youth Service America’s “55 Environmental Service-Learning Project” - https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/gysd/pages/3176/attachments/original/1387251965/55_Environmental_Service-Learning_Projects.pdf?1387251965
- ⇒ PrepScholar’s 129 Great Examples of Community Service Projects - <https://blog.prepscholar.com/129-examples-of-community-service-projects>

