

YEA! Day Camp

Girl Scouts of Ohio Heartland's Toe Program

Desired Outcomes

- Participants will gain an understanding of what they can do at their day camp to lessen the impact on the environment
- Participants will explore their Day Camp surroundings and make observations of the natural environment
- Participants will use creativity to spread the message about caring for the Earth

Objectives

- To help Day Campers understand their power to help the natural world through small acts
- To develop environmentally sounds practices at day camp that could be transferred to year-round lifestyle changes.

Method of Presentation

- A girl or adult reads aloud to the group the information that explains each activity.
- Work together to complete each activity

Required Activities for this Toe

- All activities in this Toe must be completed.

Evaluation and Patches

Once a group has completed the suggested activities including a commitment to a follow up activity, "YEA! Day Camp" toes can be purchased from the council Girl Scout Resource Store.

YEA! Day Camp

Girl Scouts of Ohio Heartland's Toe Program

Activity #1- Inventory your Day Camp unit site

With your unit make a comprehensive list of as many natural objects as you can in 15 minutes, in your unit site (allow your unit leaders to set the boundary for your search). **Remember: natural objects are objects that were not put there by people!**

1. What is the largest item that your group found?
2. What is the smallest item you can see with the naked eye?
3. What do you imagine might be too small to see without a magnifying lens or microscope?
4. What is the most colorful thing that you saw?
5. What is the least colorful thing you saw?
6. Did you smell anything nice?
7. Did you smell anything not nice?
8. What textures did you feel? (Please be careful of Poison Ivy!)

Once you have finished your discussion on your Day Camp site inventory, have your group pick one item that is unique to the area you are in, or something that you find very interesting! (this unique item will be used in activity #2.

Activity #2- Focus on Your Unique Item

Learn what you can about your unique item. What makes the items so unique/unusual/interesting? Study the item from all angles. How does it fit into the surrounding natural environment? "Show Off" your unique item to any visitors or guests to your unit. Be prepared to explain the uniqueness of the item (use your imagination). The point is to develop a personal kinship with the item so that it would be difficult to injure or destroy the item-stewardship.

Activity #3- Keep records of your unit trash for the Day Camp Session

At the end of the review your unit trash:

1. What are the categories of trash? (food waster, metal, paper, glass, plastic?)
2. What items might be re-usable? (lunch bags, sandwich bags, glass bottles could become vases, etc.)
3. What could each person do to help reduce the amount of trash tomorrow? (Pack lunch in a re-usable container, each person bring and use a bandana instead of paper napkins and towels, eat all food packed in your lunch, on cookout day use no paper plates and no aluminum foil, etc.)
4. Weigh your unit trash daily and record the weight. See if you can cut down on your trash weight by the end of the week. (It might help to set out grocery bags or other containers to sort the trash: food waste, metal, paper, glass, plastic, etc.)

Activity #4- Make up a poem, skit or story about taking care of the Earth

With your group, find a way to creatively express one practical way that Girl Scouts can help take care of the Earth!

Activity #5- Landfill

At the end of the week, after you have really worked to bond with your unique object, think of how it would make you feel if someone decided they wanted to build something on top of the object, or destroy it.

Now pretend that what they decided they wanted to build on top of your unique object was a landfill. The landfill will contain trash you personally have generated at home, school and other places you go. What changes can you make in your lifestyle to stop the destruction?