



4-H Adventures in Nature

Service and Stewardship Challenges

We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.

~Native American Proverb

In this challenge, we're learning to care for and preserve the earth and natural areas that we explore, especially focusing on service and environmental stewardship!

Citizen Science

Help others and help the earth by becoming a Citizen Scientist! You can contribute to crowdsourced research by volunteering for citizen science projects. That way, you're helping scientists and agencies to collect important data that they wouldn't be able to get on their own. [The Great Sunflower Project](#), [Ant Picnic](#), the [Lost Ladybug Project](#), and [Nurdle Patrol](#) are all great ways for you and your family to get started as citizen scientists. Or, you can find lots of other projects at [citizenscience.gov](#) or [scistarter.org](#).

Clean-up Walk

Turn your next walk into a service project! Grab some gloves and a trash bag before you head out around your neighborhood or to your favorite park. Then, keep an eye out for litter along your route. Pick up any trash you see to help beautify your community and clean up the planet. Be sure to take any necessary safety precautions, like wearing visible clothing, using caution along roads, and not handling objects that may be dangerous. Snap a picture during your clean-up! And try to pay attention to what you find. What's it made of? Where do you think it came from? What kinds of trash are you seeing most? Then, recycle or responsibly dispose of the trash you collected.

Outdoor Ethics

Did you know there are guidelines to help us know how to behave in nature? Just like the expectations at school, work, and home keep us all safe and working well together, the [7 Principles](#) from [Leave No Trace](#) (LNT) keep nature - and us - safe and working well together, too! Learn more about these principles from the [Junior Ranger Program](#) of the [National Park Service](#) or [LNT.org](#). Then, visit your favorite park and design a brochure for the park explaining why the 7 Principles are important to that area. (If you can't get to a park, the [National Park Foundation](#) and [Google](#) have great virtual tours!) Use this [LNT template](#), or create your own.

(This activity was adapted from [Leave No Trace](#). Find this and other great LNT activities at [lnt.org/our-work/youth-education](#).)



Illinois Extension

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