

Conservation Matters

Material:

- Paper
- Ruler
- Ecological Footprint Calculator (Parent Permission To Use Online Calculator)

Objective: Explorers will learn the importance of protecting our environment and how to increase their conservation efforts in their everyday life

Lesson:

Conservation

Conservation is to preserve natural resources and to prevent the misuse or waste of these resources. We encourage explorers to research what their ecological footprint is and see what improvements they can make to their everyday lifestyle. The goal is to decrease ecological impact and to encourage mindfulness in daily living. Some examples include decreasing your water usage, monitoring your waste of food, and of course to reduce, reuse and recycle.

- Go online and research your ecological footprint (Ask for parent permission before using)
- Once you have your score, see your biggest consumption usages
- Write down at least three on a piece of paper
 - Write at least two ways to help reduce your footprint for these
- Create a daily checklist/ to do list to make sure you and your family are implementing these new practices
- After a week of implementing these new practices, retake the ecological footprint calculator and see if your score has improved



Questions to keep in mind while focusing on this project:

- What alternative product can I use to reduce my ecological footprint?
- Can I recycle this product or reuse it?
- Can I save my leftover food for later or tomorrow?
- Do I need that light on or can I open the window shades instead?
- Does the water need to be running right now?
- What can I do to reduce my footprint and product consumption?
- How can I teach others to reduce their footprint and product consumption?
- What is the change I wish to see happen?
- What is the most impactful thing I can do to help conservation efforts?

