

Conservation Project Ideas

The Conservation Good Turn is an opportunity for Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops, Varsity Scout teams, and Explorer posts to join with conservation or environmental organizations (federal, state, local, or private) to carry out a conservation Good Turn in their home communities.

- The Scouting unit contacts a conservation agency and offers to carry out a Good Turn project.
- The agency identifies a worthwhile and needed project that the unit can accomplish.
- Working together in the local community, the unit and the agency plan the details and establish the date, time, and location for carrying out the project.

Participating Agencies

Many federal agencies are resources for the BSA's Conservation Good Turn. These agencies include

- U.S. Department of Agriculture
 - Soil Conservation Service
 - Forest Service
 - Extension Service
- U.S. Department of the Interior
 - United States Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - National Park Service
 - Geological Survey
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- “• U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Project Ideas

- Trail building or repair to stop soil erosion.
- Planting large amounts of trees and shrubs for wildlife habitat.
- Rip rapping a stream edge with stones to stop soil erosion and improve water quality.
- Creating brush piles for wildlife habitat.
- Constructing bird boxes for nesting sites.
- Construct squirrel boxes for nesting habitat.
- Place fencing around critical wildlife habitat.
- Removing ladder fuels on trees to prevent ground fires from climbing trees.
- Removing invasive plants from stream fields and streams beds.

- Marking all the drainage holes in your town to prevent hazardous material dumping.
- Remove stream debris to enhance a natural waterway.
- Plant open space in native grasses and flowers to reduce invasive plant encroachment.
- Construct an interpretive kiosk explaining the importance of habitat enhancement.
- Construct vehicle barriers to keep vehicles off of trails, grasslands, and sensitive areas.
- Construct a xeriscape demonstration garden.
- Mark all dead trees with “wildlife tree” markers.
- Place windbreak and snow fence plantings along roadsides for wildlife habitat.
- Use netting, straw, and appropriate seed to restore an eroded soil bank.
- Thin a forest or woods area to enhance tree growth.
- Place water bars or “waddles” on hillsides to prevent erosion and slow water flow.
- Construct a wetland by controlling water flow and planting water plants.
- Construct and place water tank “ramps” to prevent bird drowning.
- Restock fish in a stream or lake.
- Collect Christmas trees and place on lakes and ponds so they sink to form fish habitat.
- Construct a hard surface walkway or path to reduce dust air pollution and control run-off.
- Establish a spring fed watering site for wildlife.
- Remove cattails encroaching on a pond or waterway.
- Place fencing around trees and bushes to prevent beaver and deer damage.
- Remove Tamarisk from waterways.
- Create a large wildflower planted garden for butterflies.
- Construct and install bird feeders at senior citizens homes.
- Plant trees and shrubs to make a visual and noise barrier between a road and a park.
- Construct and place bat boxes to increase number of bats to eat more mosquitoes.
- [USFS Adopt-A-Trail Program](#)
- Plant shrubs to provide food and cover for wildlife.
- Build and set out bird and squirrel nesting boxes.
- Conduct stream improvement projects to prevent erosion.
- Plant grasses and legumes to provide ground cover in schoolyards, public parks, and recreation areas.
- Plant tree seedlings as part of a managed forestry plan.
- Help thin and prune woodlands in a managed tree improvement project.
- With a local forester, take part in or conduct a forest fire prevention program.
- Make an exhibit on conservation for a county fair.
- Develop a nature trail in a public park.
- Assist a local forester in a tree insect- and disease-control or public education project.
- Conduct a stream, river or lakeside trash collection project.
- Assist a local agency with a trout stream restoration project.
- Participate in a wildlife or wildfowl count.
- Conduct a rodent-control and public health education program under the guidance of the local health department or agency responsible for rodent control.

From *The Conservation Handbook*

You'll find:

- Dozens of sample projects and project ideas
- Instructions for proper tree planting
- Guidelines for wildlife habitat improvement, like building birdhouses
- A primer on hand tools for conservation projects
- Trail maintenance tips
- Safety reminders
- A conservation project planning checklist

Sample project they list

- Develop a Scout camp nature trail for use as an outdoor classroom.
- Help organize and promote a neighborhood recycling effort.
- Prepare posters and presentations for elementary school classes about ways students can practice living sustainable.
- Work with council Scout camp rangers to repair hiking trails and overused campsites.
- Plant vegetation that will provide food and shelter for wildlife. Monarch butterflies, for example, must have healthy stands of milkweed for nourishment. Learning about monarchs and planting milkweed in the right places can help them thrive.
- With permission from owners, clean up a vacant neighborhood lot. Plant vegetation and build benches. Check on the lot from time to time to keep it in good shape.
- Research which species are native to your area. Then plant them in community wildflower gardens. Include educational signs for the public.
- Organize anti-letter poster competitions among junior and senior high school students.
- Become involved in a local environmental/recycling issue. Attend community meetings, talk to public officials, and report to other Scouts about what you have learned. Explore how you can become further involved in finding solutions for environmental challenges.
- Help improve fish and wildlife habitat, riparian areas, streams, and shorelines.
- Assist meteorologists conducting regular measurements of snow depth at backcountry monitoring stations.
- Stabilize threatened stream banks with root wads and anchored boulders, using natural stream channel design techniques.
- Revegetate damaged meadows and hillsides.
- Return unwanted campsites and trails to their natural conditions.
- Plant trees, shrubs, and grasses to control erosion, produce shade, and provide wildlife with resources of food and shelter.
- Remove invasive plant species and restore native vegetation.
- Monitor the quality of streams
- Conduct an ongoing census of selected wild animals.
- Maintain picnic pavilions, lifeguard towers, boat docks, playground equipment and other outdoor recreational facilities.
- Prepare and install educational signs along nature trails.
- Build fences to prevent the overgrazing of riparian areas.
- Help care of urban greenbelts, neighborhood parks, or other open spaces.
- Take part in the cleanup of urban waterways, stencil "Dump No Waste, Drains to Stream" near storm drains, and distribute informational fliers that outline acceptable ways for disposing of oil, chemical, and other toxic wastes.

- Help fisheries experts stock lakes and streams.
- Clean and report statues, gravestones, and other public monuments.
- Restore historic buildings.
- Inventory significant landmarks and develop documentation to safeguard their stores. Prepare and present research about the people and events important to the heritage of an area.
- Aid archaeologists in protecting and studying significant sites.
- Develop interpretive demonstration, tours, and living history exhibits, and help present them to visitors of resource areas.
- Increase accessibility of trails and other facilities in resource areas for visitors with mobility challenges.
- Help construct, upgrade, and maintain trails for hikers, horseback riders, bicyclers, and other users.
- Teach environmental awareness skills to young people visiting resource areas.
- Provide training in appropriate camping, hiking, and other recreational skills that are easy on the land.
- Prepare informational brochures for distribution at agency visitor centers.
- Offer conservation-oriented presentations and slide shows to outdoor-oriented organizations and civic groups.

Check out Camp Berry and Camp Lakota for ideas the camps may have.

Check out Hornaday Projects

- Energy conservation
- Soil and water conservation
- Fish and wildlife management
- Forestry and range management
- Air and water pollution control
- Resource recovery (recycling)
- Hazardous material disposal and management
- Invasive species control
-

Recognitions

- A Conservation Good Turn certificate is available at the council service center for units that participate and report on their efforts. A Conservation Good Turn patch is also available for purchase at the council service center to recognize individual youth and adult members who participate in a meaningful conservation project.
- The World Conservation Award provides another opportunity for individual youth members to “think globally” and “act locally” to preserve and improve our environment. This program is designed to make youth aware that all nations are closely related through natural resources and that we are interdependent with our

world environment. Applications for this award are available at the council service center.