

Simple Examples of the Pathway to Stewardship Framework:

| <i>For Young Children (Ages 3 to 6)</i> | |
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| Core Stewardship Principle | Stewardship Opportunity: |
| A time for deepening relationships and understanding. | Choose an outdoor place to explore and play in. Visit regularly. Provide loose parts for kids to manipulate (sticks, stones, tree slices). |
| Reinforce and expand the developing sense of empathy. | Plant, tend and harvest something that can be eaten. Raise butterflies, care for an animal. |
| Celebrate Seasons. | Find simple ways to recognize and enjoy the change of each season. |
| Cultivate sensory awareness of nearby nature | Identify natural sounds and smells. Explore micro-environments (peek under rocks/logs, create a mini trail) |
| Encourage the idea of “neighborhood”—the idea that our community consists of other living things as well as humans and built structures | Get to know plants, birds, and five insects living in your area. Create a mural that depicts the characters of your “neighborhood.” |
| Offer a creative response to time spent outside | Develop art projects using natural materials. Create a story or a play about the characters in your “neighborhood” |
| <i>For Middle Childhood (Ages 7 to 12)</i> | |
| Core Stewardship Principle | Stewardship Opportunity |
| Develop more complex outdoor skills. | Try non-motorized outdoor activities, such as hiking, survival skills (shelter building, fire making, foraging wild edibles), orienteering, birding, and astronomy. Spend at least seven hours a week practicing these skills. |
| Explore human impacts on the environment, develop leadership and decision making skills by planning and implementing a simple community based project. | Create a small naturalized area. Manage a school recycling or composting project. Plan a small stream/river clean-up project. Make a poster or video to educate your community about your project. Research and write about the history of the piece of land you occupy. |
| Expand understanding of the relationships between living things and their habitats. | Explore biodiversity in a nearby natural area. Conduct a small scale bio-physical inventory, finding at least 10 species each of plants, animals and insects. Explain three ways this ecosystem helps the environment. Get involved in citizen science projects: monitor bird, butterfly and amphibian populations. Monitor ecosystem health by conducting basic water and soil tests. |
| Expand understanding of sustainable lifestyles | Be an energy detective. Find out what kind of energy is used for heating, cooling, lights and appliances at home or school. What different renewable energy systems can you observe in your region? Design an energy efficient home that’s healthy for both people and the planet. Think about using natural materials, passive solar design, rainwater harvesting, renewable energy, innovative ways to treat human waste. |
| <i>For Older Children (Ages 13 and older)</i> | |
| Core Stewardship Principle | Stewardship opportunity |
| Expand skill and confidence in outdoor awareness, responsibility and survival | Research the meaning of sustainable harvest. How can the environment provide our needs without being damaged by human impact? Learn how to find your way in a natural area using maps, compass and/or GPS. Learn how to recognize at least two constellations in the night sky in each season. Learn how to tell the four directions using clues in the sky. |

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| <p>Deepen understanding of how modern lifestyles affect the environment. Expand leadership and problem-solving skills by seeking solutions to ecological imbalances.</p> | <p>Calculate your ecological footprint. Research how your country's lifestyle consumes global resources, and how this compares with other countries. What does sustainability mean? Make a goal for yourself on reducing your ecological footprint. Try it for a month and assess how successful you've been. Get your family and school involved too.</p> |
| <p>Expand abilities to understand and empathize with others while exploring and responding to local social and environmental issues.</p> | <p>Find an organization that is making a difference in your community. Volunteer. Teach someone younger than you an outdoor skill. Find someone to tell you how your area has changed over the years. Find a local hero who is working to protect the environment. Arrange for them to speak at your school. Volunteer in a natural area to help with trail maintenance, ecological restoration or control of invasive species. Help with a community tree-planting project. Participate in planning, planting, maintenance and monitoring. Do you think it was a successful project? Would you make any changes in future projects?</p> |
| <p>Learn about social and environmental justice.</p> | <p>Find an issue of local concern that you feel strongly about. What problem needs to be solved? How does this issue align with global issues? Get involved. Learn simple action skills: how to make a presentation, how to write a convincing letter, how to organize an event. Learn how to listen and try to understand multiple points of view. Find a mentor who can help you learn and do more to solve this problem.</p> |
| <p>Express your feelings about your local environment.</p> | <p>Write a story, a poem, create a visual art piece, or write a play that captures your feelings about the land you occupy. Write a letter to your ancestors. What would you say is worth protecting for your children and for their children?</p> |