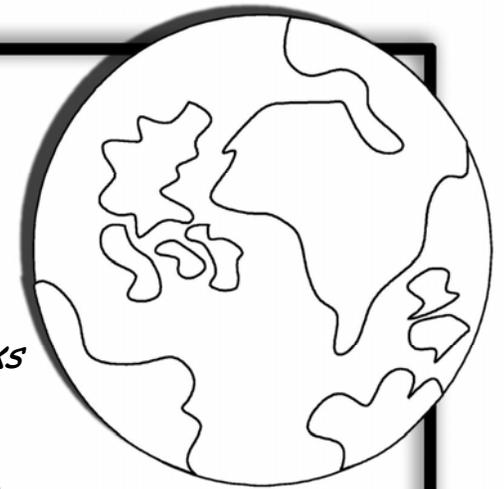


Take some time each week to get outside and help improve the environment around you. Here are just a few ideas for things you, your family and friends can do to help. As you complete each activity, mark it off. If you complete all the activities, you are an environmental super star!



- ★ **Grow up** - Plant a tree or flowers, vegetable or butterfly garden.
- ★ **Take a hike** - Go to a local or state park. See if you can visit all the parks in your area over the course of the summer.
- ★ **Get a guide** - There are field guides for just about everything - rocks, trees, bugs, flowers, birds. Pick a topic and work together to learn how to read the guide and identify what you find. Keep track of what you find and have a contest to see who finds the most.
- ★ **Hunt and click** - Hold a nature scavenger hunt and use a camera to document what you find. Some ideas for your list include animal tracks, wildflowers and leaves, bugs and birds. Use the pictures to create your own field guide or memory album of your day.
- ★ **VirtualCache** - Instead of finding a hidden container (as in GeoCaching), the challenge is to use your GPS to find, and then answer a question about a location or interesting spot, perform a task, etc. This is a great way to learn mapping skills and patience.
- ★ **Clean up** - Volunteer for a litter patrol, stream cleanup or beautification project. This is a great family or group activity - combine it with a picnic for even more fun!

A note to grown-ups: These are just a few examples of activities you can do with kids to help them explore the outdoors. Give kids a sticker or color the star for each activity he or she completes. If your child completes all the activities, we've posted an environmental super star certificate online so you may print it out and present it to them for their hard work and dedication. For the certificate, and more activities and helpful links, go to www.epa.ohio.gov/pic/explore.aspx. Have fun and enjoy the great outdoors!





Keep the earth clean.