

## Greening up your camp

Here are a selection of partial tips from Lough Dan Scout Centre to help your section run more environmentally friendly camps and activities over the summer.

### Camp tips

- Make a waste segregation unit (clean glass bottles & jars, recyclables, cans, batteries & general waste)
- Train your members & make good waste signage of what goes into each bin to ensure best practice
- Make a camp Grease trap / waste water filter for draining food and dishwater
- Look into a camp Solar battery / phone recharger
- Implement the Leave No Trace principles
- Don't purchase gear that will get thrown out after one use e.g. camp chairs, cheap throw away festival tents,
- Implement Minimal Impact Camping by reducing the amount of stuff you need to bring on camp.
- Convert to "Pitch & Get Out" camping that's all about keeping the camping simple & using it to reconnect kids with nature. The original "scouts" BP use for our symbolic framework could be comfortable on camp with the minimal of stuff.
- Investigate the use of Bio toiletries
- Try Hay box cooking\* to conserve fuel
- Use a Conservation stove
- Try a kelly kettle (volcano kettle)
- Plan menus that reduce Carbon miles, reduce packaging and food waste
- Camp out in May to hear the amazing dawn chorus\* a wonder of nature
- Go on a mountain top bivvy to see the awesome night sky and amazing sun rise



## Activity tips



- Use wildlife Spotter Sheets to reconnect kids with nature (Google search Field Study Council fold out laminated ID sheets)
- Go Pond dipping
- Bring Magnifying glasses/bug boxes and do a Mini Beast Bug hunt
- Use your smart phone camera to do a Nature Curio Hunt to look for unusual things in nature (colours, shapes, insects)
- Have a Photo competition (close ups, butterflies, wildflowers, landscapes, clouds)
- Use ID apps; for stars, wildflowers, animal tracks, birds & tree IDs.
- Go on a night hike to see the night sky just like your forbearers did.
- Go Bird watching or wildlife stalking
- Tracking signs are always popular
- Make Plaster casts of animal foot prints
- Organise Wildlife Observation games
- Go foraging to find food for free

**The World Environment Badge**

When your Group or sections start doing these activities you might consider going for the World Environment Badge. This World Scouting Award endeavours to connect young people and the natural world through meaningful action projects. The projects should be carried out in small teams following WOSM’s age-appropriate time commitments.

The programme encourages Scouts to have a holistic awareness of the natural world and how their everyday actions can impact upon this, progressively building a sense of personal responsibility for the environment. Participation in the programme follows a simple structure:

1. Register: A section or small team registers to begin the programme by emailing [betterworld@scouts.ie](mailto:betterworld@scouts.ie)
2. Plan: Using activities, such as those suggested above, explore and reflect on each of the five areas in the programme - Clean water and clean air, natural habitats, risks of harmful substances minimised, suitable environmental practices, and environmental hazards and natural disasters.
3. Take Action: Complete an environmental project based on your exploration of the issues and which helps the local environment.
4. Review: Evaluate your project and each scout reviews their role.
5. Submit an application for the World Scout Environment Badge which records all your exploration activities and the environmental project.

