

K-12 IYS Activity



Summary

Members can use this fact sheet to discuss importance of soils to outdoor recreational activities, and to discuss ways to conserve and protect soil resources. This handout can be used in informal settings, or to talk with an interested group. It provides ideas as well as links to resources.

Ages of Audience

– Adults

Learning Objectives

- The audience will learn about a number of web sites with resources on how to participate in the great outdoors (identifying trails near them, for instance).
- The audience will learn how to minimize their impact on soil and other natural resources (the Leave No trace program, for instance).

Materials Needed

- The attached fact sheet to print out and share.

Soil and the Great Outdoors

Ages of Audience

Adults

Recommended group size

Unlimited

Where could you offer this

University, local school, library, or local civic organization

What type of room do you need

Informal setting - outdoor expo, hunting and fishing event, etc.

Type of Lesson

Fact sheet (information-sharing) that supplements a talk about soil or at a public event

Time Needed:

1. Scientist prep time + clean up time - 15 minutes
2. Participant/class time 20-30 minutes

Method

Just hand out the fact sheet and talk with folks!

Discussion questions

1. How do we enjoy the outdoors without damaging the soil?
2. What sorts of activities can you do in the great outdoors that require consideration of soil?

Celebrating the



2015
International
Year of Soils

soils.org/IYS

Soil and the Great Outdoors Fact Sheet

WALKING, HIKING, BACKPACKING, TRAMPING....

Whatever you call it, you're putting your feet to soil, and exploring the great outdoors!

Where to walk:

There are many web sites that can help find trails near you

www.scout.me/hiking-trails--near--me or get the Scout App

www.americantrails.org/resources/statetrails/

www.discovertheforest.org/

What to know:

www.hikingupward.com/hiking_tips.shtml

How to minimize impacts to soil:

Most importantly, stay on the trail.

Additional guidance on how to minimize your impact:

treadlightly.org/education/learn/tread-principles-2/

<https://lnt.org/learn/7-principles>



“Of all the paths you take in life,
make sure a few of them are dirt.”
John Muir

TRAIL RIDING: MOUNTAIN BIKING, HORSES AND OFF-ROAD VEHICLES

Where to ride:

www.mtbproject.com/

www.active.com/cycling/mountain-biking

www.recreation.gov

What to Know:

<https://www.imba.com/>

How to minimize impacts on soil:

- Stay on the existing trail, and don't create switchbacks.
- When the trail is wet and soft, consider other riding options.

www.imba.com/about/rules-trail

treadlightly.org/education/learn/tread-principles-2/



“It is by riding a bicycle that
you learn the contours of a
country best, since you have to
sweat up them and coast down
them.”

Ernest Hemingway

BIRD WATCHING, WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY AND HUNTING

Many kinds of wildlife, including these burrowing owls, live in and depend on the soil. Soil provides food, shelter, minerals, and cover for wildlife.

Where to go:

www.watchablewildlife.org/

www.wildlifeviewingareas.com/

www.recreation.gov

What to Know:

www.nwf.org

How to minimize impact to soil:

- Plants and the landscape are important parts of wildlife habitat. Do not damage or remove them.

- Stay on designated trails or roads.

wdfw.wa.gov/viewing/responsible/

CAMPING

www.reserveamerica.com

www.gocampingamerica.com

www.discovertheforest.org/

What to know:

For tips, check out: www.theultimate-campingguide.com/

www.active.com/outdoors/camping

How to minimize impacts to soil:

- Camp on durable surfaces, and where possible use designated camp sites.
- Dispose of waste properly.
- Be careful with your campfire. Wildfires can damage soil over thousands of acres.

- To learn more, visit <https://lnt.org/learn/7-principles>