



Terra Nova: Local Environment

The Crean Award:

Terra Nova:

Get to know your local environment

SPICES

Intellectual

Spiritual

Adventure Skills

Various

Special Interest Badge

Environmental

The Activity:

Objective:

To complete route where you and your patrol can explore the natural environment in your area.

Activity Type:

Patrol/Troop Activity

Roles:

Activity Leaders

First Aiders



Scouter's Edition





Plan

Part of the Environmental section of the *Terra Nova* award requires you to 'Get to know your local environment'. This resource suggest different ways that you can do this and things that you can think about when doing it.

Picking an Area:

Think about an area of natural environment in your locality. This should be somewhere that can be explored over a day's activity. Part of the challenge is to work on appreciating your locality, so the area should be fairly close, maybe within walking distance or only a short drive.

Any forests or woodlands offer plenty of opportunities for programme. If you have mountains or hills nearby, they would be a great location. Some urban areas have very large parks which could help city/town based groups. For rural based groups, bogs/peatlands are very interesting areas. Don't forget that beaches or coastal areas such as sand dunes, lagoons or river estuaries, would be suitable. You can also explore the local environment on rivers, canals and lakes.

Programme

You need to consider an active programme that will keep your patrol busy for the time you are at the area and will enable you to explore the environment. It is important to set clear goals for the day, otherwise the activity may lose focus. In planning think about using the activity to look at :

- Understanding connections between plants and animals and their habitat needs.
- Looking out for harmful substances in the local environment and identify their source.
- Examining environmental practices for your local area.

Logistics

Look at different ways of getting to the location, because the activity is about the environment try to walk or cycle there or maybe get a bus some of the way.

Jobs

Make sure everyone in the patrol has a specific job, while you will be organising the overall event, others can take on certain jobs, such as First aider or photographer.





Do

Quick Explore:

Individually or in pairs, have the scouts take five minutes to explore their surroundings. Ask them to discover five or six things of interest; maybe give them categories, like plants, animals, natural features and hidden things. Gather everyone and compare what they found.

Sketch Maps:

Having each scout draw a detailed sketch map of a small area is a great way to both explore the place and practice your mapping skills. Have the scouts pay particular attention to the natural aspects of the area, mapping different types of plants or other features.

Orienteering:

Make out a simple orienteering course based around the natural environment. The markers could be placed near natural features which can help Scouts identify them, such as a marker by an oak tree or the confluence of two rivers.

Photo Diary:

Have some of the scouts take photos of different things they find, such as plants, types of stone or ruins. The photo can then be used to identify these later. Perhaps one of the scouts could put together a collection of them or a slideshow for a patrol blog or for the Group website?





Do

On the water:

Give each scout a section of waterway or coast to examine. What do they find along the way? Look at plants and wildlife, litter and other interesting features. Maybe collect water samples along the way to examine later.



Beachcombing:

If your area is near the coast think of doing a beachcombing activity. Walk along the tideline and look at the different types of material that have been washed up on the shore. Count the different types or take photos. Was there much drift wood? How about litter? Did you find any unusual objects?

Examining water:

Look at the water you find in the area. When they find some they should think about the following questions. Where is the water? What is it used for? How much water is there? Is it there every day? What colour is it? Does it smell, is it discoloured? Can humans drink it? Can animals drink it? Make out a poster of the different types of water found in the area. Look for patterns and reasons for differences.

Litter Audit:

Collect all the litter and rubbish you find in the area, this will make the activity a community service, but also helps you examine the types of waste you find. How much is recyclable? How much is litter and much much is household waste or electrical appliances? Can you think of any initiatives you can do to help the situation? Be careful collection materials, use appropriate equipment and avoid dangerous substances.





Review the SPICES

Social

- Relationships
- Communication Skills
- Other Cultures
- Community Involvement
- Promise & Law

Physical

- Eat Well
- Personal Hygiene
- Balanced Lifestyle
- How Body works
- Physical Limitations
- Health Choices
- Access Help

Intellectual

- Achieving Goals
- New Ideas/Creativity
- Learn from Decisions
- Team Member

Character

- Promise & Law
- Friends & Friendships
- Plan before do
- Ensuring Fairness
- Respect
- Differences & Views
- Following Dreams
- Live the Scouting Spirit

Emotional

- Aware of feelings
- Asking/Giving Help
- Responsibility for Emotions
- Controlling Emotions
- Going Further
- Beliefs & Values
- Developing Talents

Spiritual

- Promise & Law
- Impact on Environment
- Reflection
- Changing Beliefs





Adventure Skills

How did this activity help towards getting a Stage in an Adventure Skill?

Special Interest Badge

Can this activity help you plan an Environmental Special Interest Badge?

Patrol Review

What will we do next?





Scouter Notes

This activity is about helping the Scouts doing their **Terra Nova** award to complete the section on getting to know the local environment. The scouts completing the award should take an active role in organising the activity. If they are the activity leader, their PL or other scouts should help support them, if they are not the activity leader they should still have responsibility for aspects of the programme as it is about them completing this section.

Work with the organisers to help develop an interesting programme, which can achieve the objective, while also being interesting and challenging. Advise the Scouts to pick an area in your locality that will offer a variety of programme opportunities. Small areas or areas without much variation will be boring. Forests, waterways, uplands beaches or bogs are all excellent places, also if you are picking an urban park make sure it is a large area.

It can be useful to help Scouts make out a programme which can combine the activity with Adventure Skills or Special Interest Badges. For example, the drawing sketch maps, planning a route on the hills or completing a backwoods activity. The activity could also be the first stage in planning a Special Interest Badge or a Community Service Project.

Learning Objectives from the **Intellectual** and **Spiritual** SPICES are most relevant here. The Learning Objectives of using information to achieve your goals and being open to new ideas are relevant to developing a programme that allows the Scouts to explore the natural area in an interesting way. The activity can also help Scouts to look at the impact of their activity and other people's on their local environment.

