



# Conservation in Ireland

For your Crean Endurance Award, you need to 'Find out about Conservation in Ireland'. With your PL or a Scouter try to come up with a practical way you can do this through a project, a patrol activity, a Special Interest Badge, etc. Here is some information on conservation in Ireland to help you.

- National Geographic explains that conservation involves the careful management of natural resources. It is an important way of helping protect our precious natural environment.
- In Scouting Ireland we follow the principles of *Leave No Trace*, which is often summed up as “leave a place better than you found it”. These ideas are important for conservation: having a minimal impact on the environment and where possible improving it.
- There are many laws about conservation of the environment, reflecting its importance. The website [conserveireland.com](http://conserveireland.com) describes some of the laws around protected species, as well as explaining the criteria required for regions being declared as protected.
- One of the most important forms of conservation is water conservation. With a few interventions it is easy to avoid having an unnecessarily negative impact on the environment; such as collecting rain water for watering plants or not leaving taps dripping. Every small act has an impact. A great resource for learning about water conservation is: [conservation.ie](http://conservation.ie)





## ***Possible Activities***

Here are a few ideas of activities that might be appropriate for you in helping complete this section of your Crean Endurance Award.

- Make out an energy and waste conservation plan for your home and Scout Group. Research how you can conserve on water and energy consumption, and look at how you can reduce the amount of waste you produce. Help implement the plan.
- 'Adopt' a local natural area to maintain over a set time period, such as two to three months. You can help clean it up, plant trees, or ensure proper facilities. Get your patrol to help you. You could also work with local community groups or tidy town committees.
- Carry out a natural habitat improvement project. Research different ways in which you can help improve the habitat conditions for wildlife in your area. Look at how additions, such as new plants or feeder boxes, could encourage and support animals and plant life. This would be a good project to carry out with an environmental or conservation organisation.
- Run a conservation activity with another section, such as the Beaver or Cub Scouts. You could do things like clearing up a local area; running an anti-litter campaign; planting native trees; or, making and maintaining a bird feeder or bird nesting box.

