



Making the Character Connection with...

Outdoor Adventures

Backpacking
Camping
Hiking

Being a person of good character means you follow the Six Pillars of CharacterSM every day. This project will show you how to interact with nature and become more capable of being outdoors alone. As you work through your project think about ways Outdoor Adventures relate to being a person of good character. You will learn about respecting nature by always using only what is available to you. You may also need to remind others in your community to keep their campsites clean and safe (Respect and Responsibility). You may even have the opportunity to lead a group of friends or family on a camping trip (Caring). No matter what skill you are able to exhibit think about how you can show that you are not only learning about the outdoors but also trying to be a person of good character.

In this character lesson you will find:

- Explanation of the Six Pillars of Character.
- Explanation of how the Six Pillars of character relate to your Outdoor Adventures project.
- Activities on how you can demonstrate good character while practicing your Outdoor Adventure skills.
- Questions to help you think of other ways you can demonstrate good character in your life.

Character Connection: Outdoor Adventure

Trustworthiness	Respect	Responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓Always go where you say you will be. ✓Don't wander off the trails. ✓Remember that wild flowers and animals are there for enjoyment of everyone, don't pick them or take them if a park ranger or leader has told you not to. ✓Be Dependable- Carry your own pack! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓Don't quit if it gets too hard; remember you made a commitment to do your best. ✓Set goals you know you and your group can accomplish ✓Set a good example for less experienced outdoors people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓Forgive others for their shortcomings. ✓Be thankful for people who lead your hikes and adventures. ✓Help people in need, even if they are not part of your group. ✓Clean up after your group and any other trash you see.
Fairness	Caring	Citizenship
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓Respect Mother Nature ✓Move at the pace of your group's slowest person ✓Choose places to camp based on the good of the group. ✓Take good care of the property and land around you 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓Make decisions as a group, don't make up your mind before hearing everyone's ideas. ✓Be open-minded about trails and campsites. ✓Treat everyone equally. ✓Make decisions based on information and past knowledge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓Be a good citizen; clean up your camping area and keep your area safe from outdoor hazards ✓Obey the laws of the area you are in ✓Take the time to learn the rules and guidelines of the area you are in. ✓Volunteer to help clean up your favorite outdoor areas.

Character Connection: Outdoor Adventures

Activity: Take Only Pictures, Leave Only Footprints

Supplies: 20-30 man-made objects

DO:

You have learned to observe whatever “Leave No Trace” practices are being used in your local outdoor areas. Now it’s time to help others think about things they can do to respect nature and ensure that the areas they visit are better when they leave than when they arrived. Plan this activity for a local youth organization, school group or even your Clover Kids group.

Place the man-made objects you have collected in a wooded area. Make sure some of the objects are easy to see and some of them are more difficult. Have the group walk through the area just as if they were walking on a trail to see how many of the objects they can see and/or identify by name. Talk with them about the importance of picking up trash they see in nature, even if it isn’t theirs. Remind them that you want to keep your community clean for years to come, and everyone can do their part to be a respectful, responsible citizen.

REFLECT:

1. What was it like for you to share your knowledge about the outdoors with others?
2. Do you think this activity will make you and those you taught more likely to observe nature more closely? Why or why not?
3. Can you think of another time when being observant is important?

APPLY:

Leaving no trace of our presence in nature allows everyone to enjoy the sights and sounds without being reminded of those who have visited before them. Cleaning up after ourselves and protecting our campsites from hazards also helps keep disasters from happening. By showing that we have respect for nature, we show that we care about our earth and want there to be outdoor areas for people to enjoy for years to come. Remember to respect the world around you, even if it means going out of your way to pick up someone else’s trash or teaching someone else how important it is to be observant of their environment.

Expand on this Activity: With the same group, talk about how life has changed with the introduction of cars, internet, trains, etc. Have the group sit outside, close their eyes and identify what sounds they hear. Many will probably hear things like cars and people. As a group discuss what you would hear if you were 100 miles from any city or town.

