



Stewardship Activity Guide

This guide will help you find activities that deepen your students' understanding of environmental stewardship and how they can make positive change in their communities and beyond.

We'd love to stay in touch! Feel free to send us updates and pictures on your progress and successes to education@mtsgreenway.org.

Getting Started

Review with the students what environmental stewardship means and why it is important. This can be done as a think-pair-share, group discussion, or free-write activity. Use the questions below to guide the activity.

- What is environmental stewardship?
- What are examples of environmental stewardship?
- Why is stewardship important?
- How is stewardship related to what you learned about during your field trip with the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust?

Environmental stewardship – taking care of nature through our actions and choices; the responsible use and protection of the natural world. Environmental stewardship can be practiced by individuals, communities, governments, and/or businesses, and involves any activity that improves the environment. Examples include picking up trash, planting native trees and shrubs to restore a habitat, recycling or reducing the amount of waste we produce, using less water, or promoting awareness about an environmental issue. All people are part of the natural world – it is our home, and all its' inhabitants (plants, animals, rivers, soil...) are interconnected. Therefore, our actions - big, small, positive, or negative - have effects across scales. Environmental stewardship can enhance ecosystem resilience (the ability of an ecosystem to withstand or recover quickly from stress) as well as human well-being.

Stewardship Project

Investigate

Have the students identify environmental issues they have observed in their communities/at school. What is the issue, the need, and can it be addressed by the students?

Plan and Set Goals

Have the students brainstorm stewardship activities that may help address the issue and make a plan of action. What stewardship activity will they carry out? What steps will they need to take? What will be accomplished? What resources are needed to be successful (funding, materials, partners, school permissions)? Who will be involved and in what ways? How will you measure and track success?

Note: Stewardship can be a hands-on project, advocacy, or building awareness through education. Below are several project ideas that you can suggest, but we also encourage the students to design their own!

- Educate your community/school about an environmental issue (ex: importance of salmon, healthy forests, local water health, pollution awareness, single use plastics, etc.), using:
 - Art installations – posters, murals, sculptures throughout campus
 - Presentations – create a video or write and perform a play
 - Themed awareness weeks
- Design a school campaign/program:
 - Waste-free lunch at school
 - Bike/walk/public transit-to-school
 - Recycling or composting
 - Partner with local growers to supply food for lunches
- Host a trash pick-up on campus and/or in nearby neighborhoods
- Build a rain garden or community garden on campus
- Improve habitat on campus
 - Plant native trees/shrubs and wildflowers
 - Remove non-native species
 - Provide resources for wildlife (birdfeeders, insect hotels, shelters, water source)
- Host a fundraiser for a local environmental nonprofit
- Write a letter to your representatives about an environmental cause they should support
- Start an environmental club

Take Action!

Students will implement their plan.

Reflect

Students reflect on their experience. What were the successes and challenges of the project? This can be done as a facilitated conversation, free write, letter to the principal or to their families, group posters, etc.

Other Resources and Inspiration

[Video: How to Take Care of the Environment - 10 Ways to Take Care of the Environment | Smile and Learn](#)

[Student Stewardship Examples: Service Learning - Education Beyond the Classroom | EPA](#)

[Guide: Humans and the Environment Toolkit | Learning to Give](#)

[Lesson Plan: Student Stewards | NOAA](#)

[Partnership: EarthGen – Learning sparks action | EarthGen](#)