

AMC's Earth Day 50th Anniversary Badge Series

Everyday Conservation, Make it a Habit Micro-Badge

To earn AMC's *Earth Day 50th Anniversary Badge*,
you must complete both micro-badges:

1. Citizen Science and Advocacy Micro-Badge
2. Everyday Conservation, Make it a Habit Micro-Badge



Welcome and Thanks for Participating in AMC's Earth Day 50th Anniversary Badge Series

While the call to “Make Every Day Earth Day” still rings true, Earth Day’s 50th Anniversary offers an important opportunity to review the history of this world wide event and to revisit the impact of citizens working collectively to protect the planet.



Earth Day, April 22, 1970 galvanized 20 million people in the U.S. to take action on behalf of the Earth. As one of the early events of modern environmentalism, Earth Day laid the foundation for science-based approaches to curb pollution, such as the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act.

While we continue to enjoy the benefits of the 1970’s legislation, Earth Day 2020 finds us facing rollbacks of these foundational laws as well as a vocal minority who disregard the science of Climate Change.

MAKE EVERY DAY EARTH DAY

Outline/Overview

Everyday Conservation, Make it a Habit Micro-Badge

Thanks for your interest! This micro-badge is a pilot supporting the development of AMC's badge series for outdoor leadership, outdoor skills, and conservation actions. As a result, you will receive a certificate and a sticker for your participation along with our *heartfelt thanks!!*

How to Complete the Micro-Badge:

1. Complete this self-led, self-paced slideshow (about 2 hours). You will need pencil and paper for short thought questions and some drawing supplies for the activity.



2. There are a variety of conservation actions listed towards the end. Choose a few that are new to you and give them a try! We encourage you to *Make Them a Habit* once the badge is over and physical distancing ends.

3. We would like you to verify your participation in the conservation activities by posting to your social media and/or by sending verification to AMCbadges@outdoors.org.

4. To complete the badge, you must complete a feedback survey using a link on the last slide.

The deadline for completion is June 15, 2020.

Mission

The Appalachian Mountain Club fosters the protection, enjoyment and understanding of the outdoors.

Vision

We envision a world where being outdoors is an integral part of people's lives; where our natural resources are healthy, loved and protected.

Core Values

- Respect for people and nature
- Lifelong Engagement
- Prepared Leadership
- Intrinsic Worth of the Outdoors
- Fun



Learn more at www.outdoors.org

The AMC is in the early stages of implementing a micro-credentialing and badging program to build pathways for outdoor leadership, skills development, and conservation. **Micro-credentials** are gained through competency-based educational experiences and can apply to formal and informal learning. Micro-credentials can be offered by non-profits, for profits, or educators and are supported by an approval process for quality and consistency. This current Earth Day Badge series is a pilot and not credentialed in this way.

~ Thanks for Participating

Reflective questions

So much is owned in this world.

Take five or more minutes and answer these questions for yourself.

What are the good things about ownership?

Are there downsides to ownership?

What do we “own” collectively?

How does ownership affect how things are treated?



The Tragedy of the Commons

The Tragedy of the Commons is an economic theory that assumes individuals will consume a finite, shared resource in accordance with their self-interest. It dates back to 1832 (William Forster Lloyd) then was further developed in a 1968 scientific paper by Garrett Hardin.



As a result of the tendency to optimize for oneself and in the absence of a mechanism to control or exclude others from consuming a finite, shared (or common) resource, it becomes depleted. Without investment to restore the resource, that depletion erodes its benefits for individuals and society into the future.

In other words, demand greatly outweighs supply, and the resource becomes unavailable.

<https://www.econlib.org/library/Enc/TragedyoftheCommons.html>

<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/t/tragedy-of-the-commons.asp>

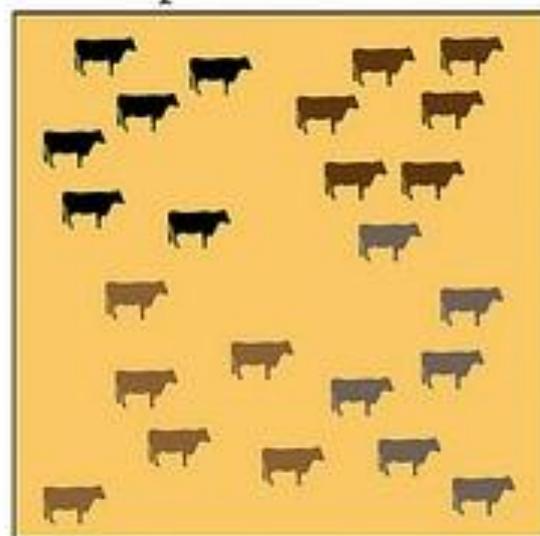
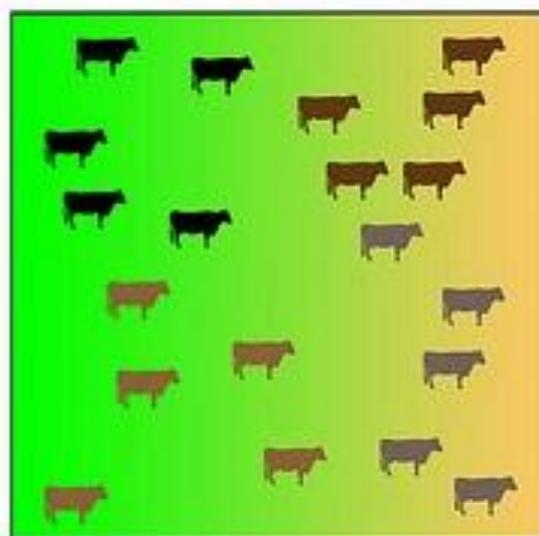
The Tragedy of the Commons

Imagine an open pasture shared by multiple cattle owners. Each owner increases their herd to maximize their benefit. With an unregulated resource this is "logical" since the benefit is enjoyed by the individual and the impacts are shared by all. This leads to the ultimate overgrazing of the pasture.

Shared Resource

Sustainable Use

Depleted Resource



40 acres [16 hectares]
1,320ft² [400m²]

20 Cows
Carrying Capacity

20+ Cows
Tipping Point

Atmosphere CO₂ 400ppm?

The Tragedy of the Commons applies to numerous environmental, economic and social phenomena and has particular relevance to greenhouse gas regulation related to global warming.



The Tragedy of the Commons has relevance to many environmental issues, over fishing in public waters is a classic example.



Kirk Anderson Cartoons



Idiots



Reflective questions

Take five minutes or more and answer these questions for yourself.

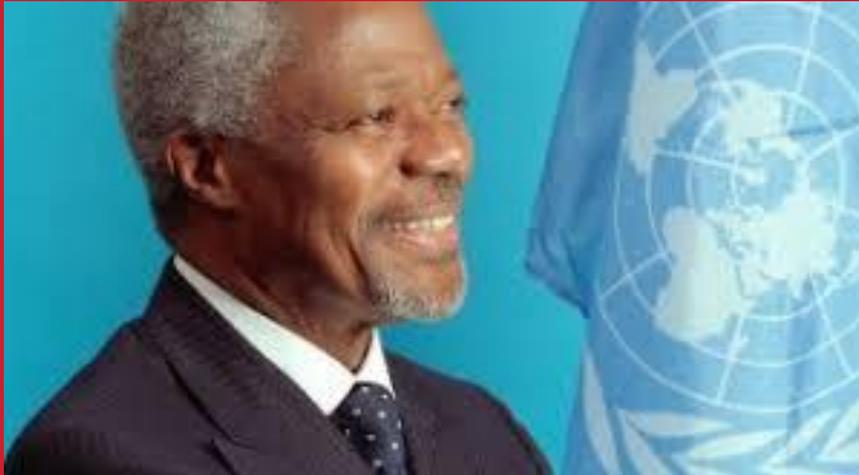
In what ways do humans act as if we own the Earth?

In what ways do humans care for, misuse, and overuse the Earth?



Let us be good stewards of the Earth we inherited. All of us have to share the Earth's fragile ecosystems and precious resources. If we are to go on living together on this earth, we must all be responsible for it.

~ Kofi Annan



Annan was a Ghanaian diplomat and seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations from January 1997 to December 2006. Annan and the UN were the co-recipients of the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize. Annan died in 2018.

Conditions leading to the first Earth Day, April 22, 1970



North Birmingham industrial smog. Known as “Smoke City” to Truckers in the area in the 1960’s. (BusinessInsider.com)

SILENT SPRING



The CLASSIC that LAUNCHED
the ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT

RACHEL CARSON

Introduction by LINDA LEAR // Afterword by EDWARD O. WILSON

In 1962, Rachel Carson published Silent Spring selling more than 500,000 copies in 24 countries. The book outlined the dangers of synthetic pesticide use and promoted the perspective that all life on earth should live in balance.



The George Washington Bridge

“In 1965, a study by New York City Council found breathing New York's air had the same effect as smoking two packets of cigarettes a day (BusinessInsider.com).”



Also in 1965, there were oil spills in New York Harbor surrounding Lady Liberty. “April and June of that year, 487,000 gallons of oil were dispersed in the New York Harbor and its tributaries (BusinessInsider.com).”

Earth Day, April 22, 1970



Senator Gaylord Nelson, Earth Day Founder overlooking the St. Croix River between Minnesota and Wisconsin, a waterway he worked to protect as the first 'Wild and Scenic River' in the United States.

<http://www.nelsonearthday.net/nelson/>

Gaylord Nelson, U.S. Senator from Wisconsin devised the idea for a day to focus on the environment after observing an oil spill in Santa Barbara, California in 1969.

Inspired by the student anti-war movement, Nelson fused the energy of anti-war protests with an emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution into a movement to put environmental protections on the national political agenda.

He persuaded Pete McCloskey, a conservation-minded Republican Congressman to serve as his co-chair and hired a 25-year-old named Denis Hayes as national coordinator. Hayes built a staff of 85 to promote nation-wide events.



Timed with spring break and nature's fabulous return to green, April 22, 1970 found 20 million Americans, 10% of the US population, joining together in support of environmental protections. Protests were organized by thousands of colleges and universities.

Brad Frank, 11, wearing a gas mask, joins about 100 classmates in Los Angeles on the first Earth Day, April 22, 1970. (George Fry / Los Angeles Times)

“Groups that had been fighting individually against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness and the extinction of wildlife united on Earth Day around these shared common values. Earth Day 1970 achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, urban dwellers and farmers, business and labor leaders. By the end of 1970, the first Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts

“It was a gamble,” Senator Gaylord recalled, “but it worked.”

<https://www.earthday.org/history/>

Earth Day - History

1970 – First Earth Day, 20 million Americans participate.

1990 – 20 Years, 200 million people in 141 countries participate with recycling efforts as a focus.

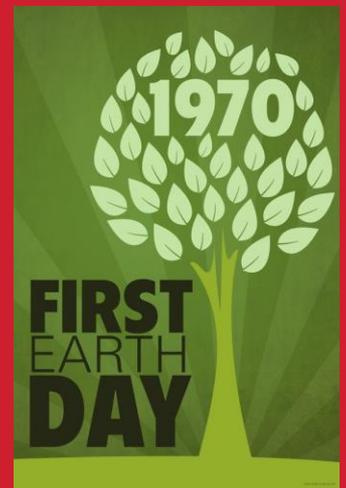
2010 – 40 Years, in the time of Climate Change deniers, Earth Day is reestablished as a major moment for global action. Earth Day Network brought 250,000 people to the National Mall for a Climate Rally and introduced a global tree planting initiative.

2019 – 49 Years, a billion people participate in what is widely recognized as the largest secular observance in the world. As in 1970, conditions of youth activism exist. Concerned citizenry can now organize digitally as well as in traditional ways to take on the greatest challenge that humankind has faced, Climate Change.

2020 – In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the first Earth Day, AMC is organizing virtual events all month.

<https://www.earthday.org/history>

Earth Day Poster: Debra Lee Toth
<https://www.behance.net/gallery/931734/Earth-Day-Poster-Design>



Inspirational Earth Day Action

2019 - #TrashTag Challenge (sadly no good for 2020)



Using social media to inspire action, Byron Román's post went viral after he issued the challenge:

“ Take a photo of an area that needs some cleaning or maintenance, then take a photo after you have done something about it, and post it.”

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/trevornace/2019/03/12/trashtag-challenge-goes-viral-as-people-share-beforeafter-photos-of-their-cleanup/#4a7e4e7a95e8>

#trashtag challenge photos by Byron Román on Facebook, which prompted a resurgence of the #trashtag... [+]

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PHOTO.PHP?](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?)

Environmental Legislation Timeline – Liam Martens, 2/27/2020 (excerpted)

<https://www.outdoors.org/articles/amc-outdoors/how-the-first-earth-day-sparked-an-environmental-revolution>

1970

January 1: The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) establishes a federal responsibility to “preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage.”

December 2: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is formed.

December 31: Congress amends the Clean Air Act of 1963 (CAA). The EPA is granted the power to set air quality standards.

1972

October 18: The Clean Water Act becomes the primary federal law in the United States governing water pollution.

1973

December 27: The Endangered Species Act passes and protects “critically imperiled species from extinction as a consequence of economic growth and development.”

1974

December 16: The federal Safe Drinking Water Act becomes law.

1975

The Clean Air Act (CAA) emissions standards take effect. All vehicles must now feature catalytic converters to control exhaust emissions, and lead is phased out of gasoline. Lead concentration in the air has dropped by more than 90 percent since 1980.

ERIK CALONIUS, Mary Workman, of Steubenville, Ohio, held a jar of undrinkable water from her well and filed a damage suit against the nearby Hanna Coal Company.



Environmental Legislation Timeline - Continued

1977

August 7: Congress amends the CAA to protect air quality in national parks, wilderness areas, monuments, and seashores.

1997

October 15: A multi-year EPA report shows that the CAA's public health protections and environmental benefits exceed its costs by a four-to-one margin.

2015

The EPA finalizes the CAA's Clean Power Plan, the first limit on Green House Gas from existing power plants, the largest source of carbon pollution at the time. This pivotal clean air program was [rolled back](#) in 2019.

2016

Earth Day, April 22: 196 nations sign the historic Paris Agreement, a global commitment to address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Despite fiery objections from the environmental community, the United States [exited the agreement in 2018](#).

2019

March 12: Permanent re-authorization of the [Land and Water Conservation Fund](#) is signed into law, after receiving bipartisan congressional support. Since 1964, LWCF has invested royalties from federal offshore oil and gas leases to improve and expand public lands. Join AMC's campaign to [permanently fund the program](#).

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, [Almost half the land on Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge in N.H. and Maine has been conserved through Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars.](#)





“An environmental revolution is taking shape in the United States. This revolution has touched communities of color from New York to California and from Florida to Alaska - anywhere where African Americans, Latinos, Asians, Pacific Islanders, and Native Americans live and comprise a majority of the population. Collectively, these Americans represent the fastest growing segment of the population in the United States. They are also the groups most at risk from environmental problems.”

~ROBERT D BULLARD

azquotes.com

“Robert D. Bullard is often described as the father of environmental justice. ... Professor Bullard currently is Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy [at Texas Southern University (TSU). Prior to coming to TSU,] he was founding Director of the Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University.”

<https://drrobertbullard.com/biography/>



Among our shared resources are air, water, and **PUBLIC LANDS**



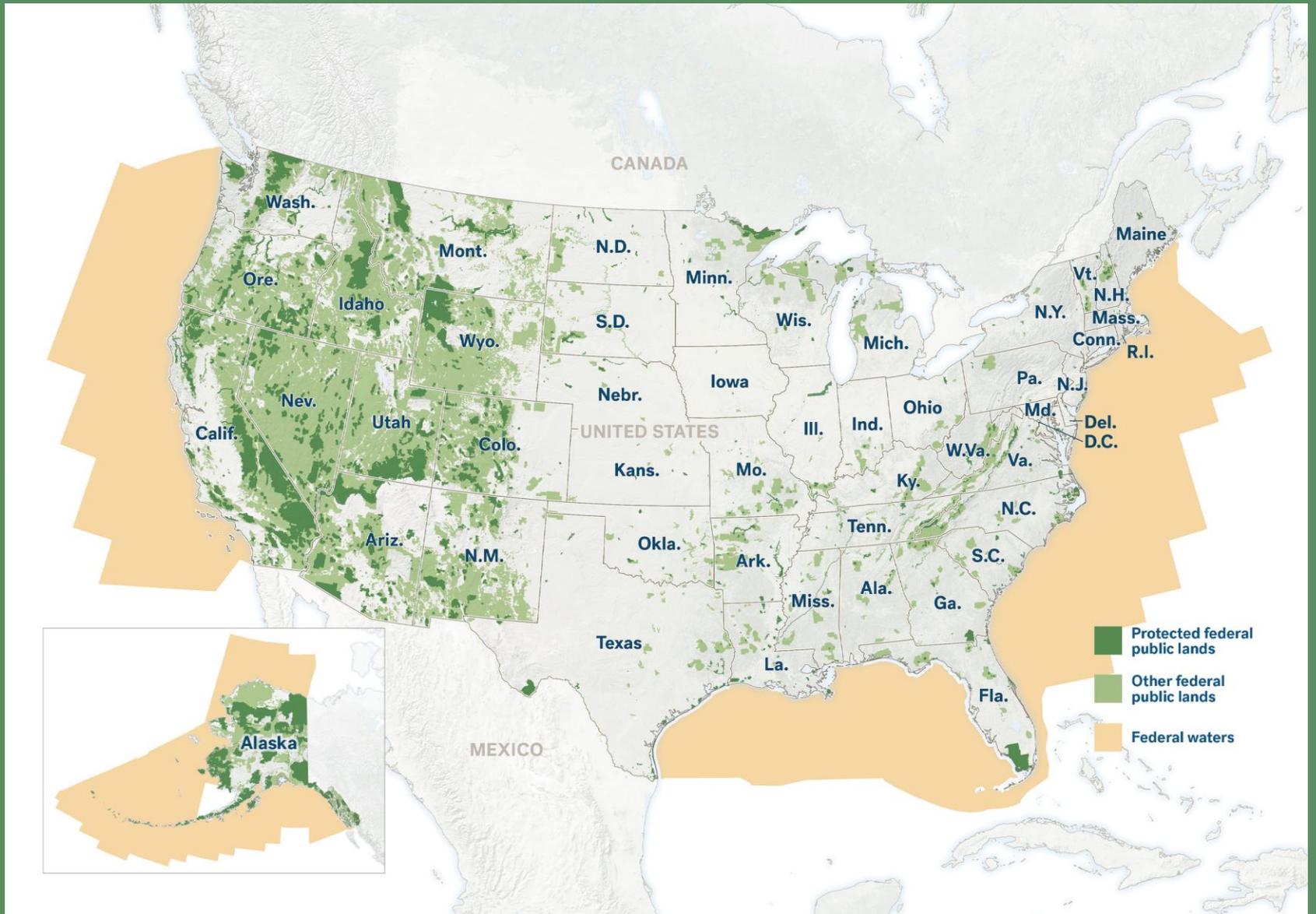
*Public Lands in the United States:
A Public Lands Curriculum from The
Wilderness Society and the Avarna Group*



Public lands are owned collectively by U.S. citizens and managed by government agencies. They include both land and water. Federal, state, county, city, and town governments all manage land across the U.S. There are also publicly accessible lands in land trusts, conservation easements, and other non-governmental management.

Today there are 640 Million Acres of Federal Public Lands in the U. S.

“Lands considered “public lands” are often ancestral homelands for Indigenous Peoples who have been forcibly removed historically and currently.” There are a number of protected parks and other lands in the U.S. that are managed and protected by tribal governments.



Map from: The Wilderness Society Public Lands Curriculum

Three of the Many Faces of Public Lands

MaVynee Betsch (1935-2005), American environmentalist and activist who financially supported environmental causes starting in the 1970s. “She convinced the National Park Service to protect 8.2 acres of sand dunes on Amelia Island’s American Beach. Her great grandfather had purchased it in the 1930’s so that black people could live on and go to the beach in Florida during Jim Crow segregation.”



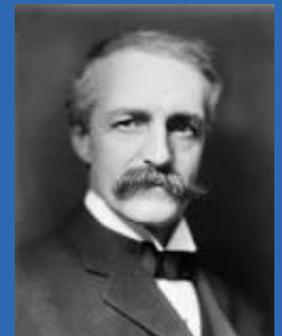
Lyndon B. Johnson (1908-1973), 36th U.S. President

“We must not only protect the country side and save it from destruction, we must restore what has been destroyed and salvage the beauty and charm of our cities ... Once our natural splendor is destroyed, it can never be recaptured. And once [people] can no longer walk with beauty or wonder at nature, [their] spirit will wither and [their] sustenance be wasted.”

<https://www.wilderness.org/articles/article/famous-wilderness-quotes>



Gifford Pinchot (1886-1946), first Chief of the U.S. Forest Service in 1905, maintained the philosophy that humans were entitled to sustainably extract and use wilderness resources, thereby keeping them available for future generations.



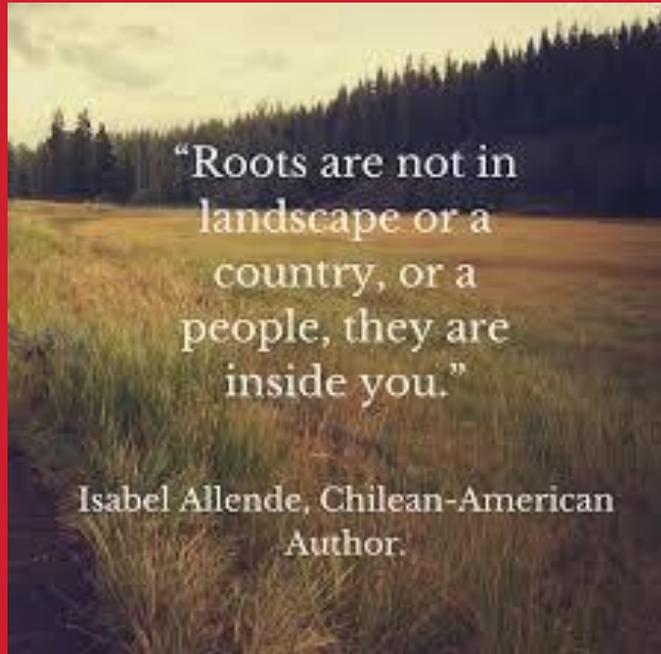
What Would You Do?

Design YOUR public lands or waterway! Sketch a map and/or create plans for a public space and send it to: AMCbadges@outdoors.org

- Where is it? In the city, a rural area, or the suburbs?
- What are the landscape features?
- Create a mission statement. Complete the sentence: Created in 2020, these public lands are for the.....
- Do people visit? How do they access it? What do they do when there?
- Is there wildlife? What types?
- What guidelines or rules would you implement to manage the property?
- What happens to help care for it?
- Can resources be used off the public lands? What and by whom? Are there guidelines or rules for the use of those resources?



If imagining public lands isn't your thing, research a real public area that interests you, such as your local park or the national park you hope to visit. Answer some of the same questions above about that land/water.



Born in 1942, Isabel Allende is a Chilean writer and has been called "the world's most widely read Spanish-language author."

Giving Back is Good for You too!

DOING
GOOD
DOES YOU
GOOD

Evidence shows that helping others can have a positive effect on your own mental health and wellbeing.



<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/doing-good-does-you-good/health-benefits-altruism>

There is evidence that, during gift-giving behaviors, humans secrete “feel good” chemicals in our brains, such as serotonin (a mood-mediating chemical), dopamine (a feel-good chemical) and oxytocin (a compassion and bonding chemical).

<https://health.clevelandclinic.org/why-giving-is-good-for-your-health/>

How can you help?

While maintaining CDC guidelines for physical distancing this spring,

Engage in at least two of these Earth friendly behaviors.

MAKE IT A HABIT and keep it up after the Corona Virus is over!

Deadline: June 15, 2020

1. Make an Earth Day poster, use something big, like a sheet and hang it from your house.
2. Calculate your carbon footprint and decide how to reduce. Free ones are online.
3. Eliminate meat one or more night/day a week. Use your home time to learn about tasty, healthy vegetarian meals.
4. Set up a compost spot. Start to grow vegetables in pots or a garden.
5. Install a clothes line or order an inside clothes rack, commit to using the outside to dry clothes in your yard, porch, or near windows.
6. Got kids? Make a list of needs and wants, help them distinguish between them and consider ways to replace high-energy use wants with energy conserving wants.
7. Turn off all devices (phones, computers, tablets) and play games one night a week.
8. Buy groceries that are minimally packaged and commit to cooking from basic, minimally packaged ingredients.
9. Look around your living space, what can be done for energy efficiency? Bulbs, heat controls, furnace cleaning, extra blanket at night?



To earn your AMC Everyday Conservation, Make it a Habit Micro-Badge, we want to see what you've done!

1. This is a pilot AMC badge, and we want your feedback. There is a feedback questionnaire at the end of the presentation. All badge recipients are required to complete it.
2. Please post photos of you (your family) engaging in your energy conservation and earth day project(s) (maintaining physical distance) to your Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter page.



Connect with AMC's social media pages by using the hashtag #amcoutdoors. Tag our accounts @AppalachianMountainClub on Facebook and Instagram and @AppMtnClub on Twitter. We know this won't work for all the activity suggestions, but for some it will.

Please send documentation (pictures of you and your family in action, public lands map, etc.) of your participation to AMCbadges@outdoors.org.

THANKS!

The Earth is what we all have in **common.**

~Wendell Berry



Read the blog

***ECO-FRIENDLY ACTIONS FOR
KIDS DURING THE PANDEMIC***



**It is located after the next slide,
which is black and has the
survey link. Don't forget to do
the survey. Thanks!**

AMC's Earth Day 50th Anniversary Badge Series

Thanks for completing the AMC's Everyday Conservation, Make it a Habit Micro-Badge

Please finish off with the survey at
<https://forms.gle/oeHeRT4qudFvto79A>



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ECO-FRIENDLY ACTIONS FOR KIDS DURING THE PANDEMIC

[HTTPS://WWW.EARTHDAY.ORG/AUTHOR/LINDSAYSTEINBERG/](https://www.earthday.org/author/lindsaysteinberg/)

APRIL 8, 2020

The COVID-19 outbreak has drastically altered daily life. For millions of students and parents, that means homeschooling.

Social distancing is a necessary and effective measure to keep us safe, but it also commands widespread school closures, which can make for a challenging transition for many children. Home from school, many children are feeling anxious about the future, unsure of how to help.

For many climate-minded young people, the feeling is familiar. They're [already concerned](#) about the Earth's future in the face of climate change — now the pandemic is compounding these emotions.

Fortunately, many inspirational kids are also leading the fight for a greener planet and safer future. Young people around the world have the power to make a difference, even from their homes.

Below are some at-home activities that students can do to beat boredom, stay positive and create a climate-friendly future:



ECO-FRIENDLY ACTIONS FOR KIDS DURING THE PANDEMIC - CONTINUED

1. Attend or host a virtual teach-in

Since the first Earth Day in 1970, teach-ins — or educational lectures and discussions on important public interest topics — have been a valuable tool for environmentalists to inspire community action. This year, as [Earth Day goes digital](#), teach-ins can still prompt meaningful community responses to ongoing environmental challenges.

Encourage your student or child to attend one of [these virtual teach-ins](#) or follow [Earth Day Network's guide](#) to create their own. They can livestream a nature walk or backyard exploration. They can also ask viewers to find what species live in their backyard and explore how they can protect local habitats.

2. Download the Earth Challenge app

Download Earth Day Network's new [Earth Challenge app](#) to gather air quality and pollution data in your community. The app [empowers citizen scientists](#) to monitor their local environment and offers tools and tips for environmental protection.

3. Try some delicious plant-based cuisine

There's no better way to spend time at home than trying new recipes. Fortunately, your family can both eat delicious food and reduce their carbon footprint by [adopting a more plant-based diet](#). Help your child research plant-based recipes or recreate family favorites with plant-based ingredients.



ECO-FRIENDLY ACTIONS FOR KIDS DURING THE PANDEMIC - CONTINUED

If they're craving something sweet, try [these easy swaps](#) to indulge in their favorite desserts. Your child can even livestream a plant-based cooking lesson for family and friends or create a cookbook of their new favorite recipes.

In addition to mastering new recipes, students can learn food preservation techniques, such as canning, pickling, drying and freezing to enjoy fruits and vegetables year round and [minimize food waste](#).

4. Make a plan to cut down on plastic pollution

Ask your child to help audit your plastic use at home by counting how many plastic containers, wraps, bottles and bags you purchase for your kitchen and bathroom. Encourage them to research products that have more sustainable packaging for your next grocery trip or online order. And when you order to-go meals from restaurants, make a note asking for no plastic utensils and limited plastic packaging.

5. Learn new ways to protect our species

If your child is interested in protecting biodiversity, learning about different species is the best way to start. Watch an environmental documentary or animal show and learn how individuals can help protect endangered species. Many zoos and aquariums are offering free [teach-ins and livestreams](#), so tune in to learn about different species and their habitats.

Customize your species education by researching what pollinators are native to your area and what plants they rely on. Then, help your child design a pollinator garden for your yard or community.



ECO-FRIENDLY ACTIONS FOR KIDS DURING THE PANDEMIC - CONTINUED

6. Create eco-art

Creating art is an excellent way to spend time indoors and still connect to the Earth (not to mention, [reduce stress](#)). Repurpose materials from around the house, and encourage your child to create something new, like jewelry, bags or plant holders. They can even transform trash into treasure by creating a sculpture out of recyclables. Gather some inspiration from Earth Day Network's [Artists for the Earth](#) gallery.

Creating art is also a great way to get outdoors while practicing social distancing. Supervise your child as they gather items like leaves and pinecones from your backyard and create an innovative art project.

While you're outdoors, encourage your child to pay attention to nature and wildlife. Students can write short stories or poems about what a bird sees as it flies or what a squirrel thinks about as it climbs trees.

7. Join EARTHRISE and make an Earth Day Poster

Amid the pandemic, the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day is still as important as ever. Join the [digital EARTHRISE movement](#) and show your support for climate action today and into the future.

One way to show your support is with an Earth Day poster: Provide your child with supplies to design an Earth Day poster, and put it in your home's window for neighbors to see. Make sure to tweet your poster to [@EarthDayNetwork](#).

