

TOOLBOX

NATURE PROTECTION

TOOLBOX

NATURE PROTECTION

Welcome to this Toolbox full of ideas for nature protection activities for youth groups!

This Toolbox is designed to inspire and empower young people to actively participate in the protection of our natural environment. It offers you a variety of hands-on projects that encourage youths to connect with nature, understand environmental challenges, and take meaningful action. Whether you are a teacher, youth leader, or environmental enthusiast, we hope that this collection of ideas will inspire you to take action yourself.

Let's work together and protect our environment!



GARAGE SALE

- Youth group members collect unused utensils at home (eg. clothes, toys, kitchen material, etc.).
- These products are sold either at an already existing flea market, or via a self organized garage sale.
- Additional idea: You can choose a specific topic for the market (e.g. toys for christmas, only summer clothes, etc.)
- The income of the garage sale can be donated.



Organizers: ~ 4
Volunteers: ~ 20



Material:

- place for the flea-market
- storage area
- food and drinks



Preparations:

- place of the flea market
- advertisement
- pricing-plan

Tip:

Think in advance about what you will do with things that have not been sold.

Objectives

- reusing products, allocating goods in a sustainable way
- donating money
- raising awareness about the possibility to reuse products to reduce waste

PLANT TREES

- Find a place where you are allowed to plant something. This can be in the garden of the youth center, in a public park,...
- Find out which plants can help to increase biodiversity at the venue and will be able to grow there.
- Speak about the importance of trees.
- Gather with your youth group to buy little trees and then plant them at the venue.
- Don't forget to take good care of the trees for them to survive.



5-10 persons



Material:

- venue
- tools for digging
- soil
- young trees
- cars for transportation



Preparations:

- find a venue
- gain knowledge
- advertisement

Ideas:

- Work together with the local gardener to get advice on the choice of venue and trees.
- If you have the capacities you can also plan a bigger planting event.

Objectives:

- raising awareness for the importance of trees
- make the city a bit more livable
- gain gardening skills

SAVE FOOD

- Find out where food is wasted (markets, shops, restaurants, bakeries, schools, canteens,...)
- Try to find a cooperation partner who is willing to give their leftovers to you.
- The youth group members will go to the cooperation partner and collect the leftover food that would have been wasted.
- Share the food with others:
 - connect through Social Media with people
 - give the food to friends and family
 - find organizations that collect food for charity.



4-5 persons



Material:

- bags
- plastic gloves



Preparations:

- cooperatoin partners for saving the food and for sharing it



You do not always have to reinvent the wheel. You can also get in touch with already existing associations who work on this topic.

Also make young people aware of initiatives around this topic. e.g. foodsharing, to good to go, ...

Objectives

- raise awareness of how much food is wasted
- save some food
- help people who have difficulties to afford their meals.

CIGARETTE BUTT AWARENESS

- Form smaller groups and go through the city to pick up cigarette butts.
- Collect all the cigarette butts and fill them in some kind of vase to display, how many cigarette butts are lying around.
- Display the vase in a public space and add some information about the project to it.



1-30 persons



Material:

- trash bags
- gloves
- vase



Preparations:

- advertisement
- find a place to display the results

Idea:

You can add to this project to think of fun ways to tell people to not throw away their cigarette butts, print those sayings to plates and distribute them through the city.

Objectives

- raise awareness to not throw cigarette butts to the streets

COLLECT WASTE FOR RECYCLING

- Find out about companies that recycle certain material.
- Speak with your youth group about recycling and agree on a collection phase.
- After this you gather the collected material and bring it to the company.
- Maybe you also want to buy one of their products to see a direct output.

Example:

An example of such a company would be one in Hungary who turns plastic bottle caps into furniture.



1 - 30 persons



Material:

- Jars for collecting



Preparations:

- Cooperation with a recycling company
- Transportation of the material

Objectives

- raise awareness
- recycle plastic

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

- Find a cooperation partner who has some land that needs maintenance to protect ecosystems.
- Learn how you and your group can help.



2-30 persons



Material:

- depending on the activity



Preparations:

- form a cooperation

Example:

Mow grass to have a bigger biodiversity on swampy land.

Objectives

- raise awareness about biodiversity
- maintain a natural habitat
- increase biodiversity
- form cooperations

PLANTS FOR HEDGEHOGS



- Find a place where you are allowed to plant something. This can be in the garden of the youth center, in a public park,...
- Find out what plants can help hedgehogs and other small animals to find shelter.
- Gather with your youth group to plant different bushes.
- Don't forget to take good care of the bushes for them to survive.



2-30 persons



Material:

- plants
- soil
- tools
- venue



Preparations:

- venue
- buy plants
- gain knowledge

Tip:

- Work together with the local gardener to give you advice on the choice of venue and plants.

Objectives

- raise awareness for biodiversity
- increase the population of hedgehogs

COMMUNITY BIKE REPAIR

- Do a workshop on how to repair bikes.
- Work on your own bikes to increase your skills.
- Organize a day where you bring your knew knowledge, tools and material for repairing and invite people to join to repair their own bike.



4-7 persons



Material:

- tools
- spare parts
- venue



Preparations:

- training for volunteers
- advertisement of the event
- venue

Tip:

It might be handy to also have a professional help you on the day of the bike repairs to help you with tricky cases.

Objectives

- safer cycling
- promote sustainable mobility
- volunteers get experience in fixing bikes

URBAN GARDENING WORKSHOP

- Organize a Workshop to introduce urban gardening and teach people practical skills.
- Build little urban gardens with plastic bottles or other upcycling material.

Tip:

Do this Workshop in spring so the participants can directly use their new gained knowledge.



5-10 persons



Material:

- Workshop material
- Gardening tools
- Material to do an upcycling garden.



Preparations:

- Find a Workshop guide
- Collect bottles etc.



Objectives

- introduce the idea of urban gardening
- people learn practical skills
- reuse plastic bottles

SEEDLING EXCHANGE PARTY

- Organize an event for people to exchange their seedlings.
- It can also be a good way for people to share experiences and knowledge about gardening.

This can also be part of a bigger event e.g. a Workshop about gardening with a seedling exchange at the end.



Team: 4-5
Participants: 5-20



Material:

- some seedlings already prepared
- bags etc for taking seedlings home
- snacks and drinks



Preparations:

- seedlings
- advertisement
- venue

Objectives

- increase biodiversity in gardens
- exchange of knowledge about plants and gardening

PLANTING KITS

- Collect seeds from common vegetables and fruits.
e.g. take out the seeds of tomatoes and bell peppers
- Dry the seeds.
- Put the seeds in little bags, label them and add instructions on how to use them.
- Then you can give the selfmade planting kits away for free or sell them for donations.



1-10 persons



Material:

- vegetables with seeds
- small bags
- short instruction paper



Preparations:

- learn about what vegetables you can use

Tip:

Not all seeds will start to grow, as some plants are modified. If you stick to organic products the seeds will be more likely to grow.

Objectives

- teach people how to use food scraps to grow new plants
- promote the idea of growing plants at home

REPAIR CAFÉ

- Find experts who know how to repair different things. (e.g. clothes, electronic devices,...)
- Organize a day where people can come with their broken things and learn together with the expert how to repair them.



5-20 persons



Material:

- venue
- tools
- food and drinks



Preparations:

- advertisement
- Experts
- venue

Objectives

- repairing and reusing old things
- teach practical skills
- raise awareness for the possibility to repair broken things

INSECT HOTELS

- Research on how to properly build an insect hotel.
- Collect and dry natural material with your group.
- Build an insect hotel and fill it with the material.
- Find a proper place to set up the insect hotel.
- Observe at a later time which insects now use the hotel to live in it.



1- 10 persons



Material:

- natural material for filling it
- tools
- wood



Preparations:

- a place to set it up
- find a place where you have to tools to build it

Objectives

- protecting insects
- raising awareness about decreasing insect populations
- teaching practical skills

BUILD BAT BOARDS

- Research on how to properly build bat boards.
- Gather the material and tools you need for building bat boards.
- Build bat boards.
- Find a proper place to set up the bat boards.
- Observe at a later time whether bats already moved into the house. This can take from a few weeks up to several years.



2-15 persons



Material:

- tools
- wood



Preparations:

- a place to set it up
- find a place where you have to tools to build it

Tip: In the internet you will find instructions for bat boards and bat houses. We recommend doing bat boards because houses tend to not be used by bats, but mainly by other animals.

Objectives

- creating shelters for bats
- raising awareness about the decreasing bat populations
- teaching practical skills