

Community Activities

Community Activities will provide 4-H members and leaders with a valuable hands-on experience of organizing a group project! This is your group's way of getting directly involved in the community and the environment!

All Environment Project members are required to complete one Community Activity as a group. Your 4-H representative or summer assistant can be invited to participate, or a report and/or display made for achievement day.

For these activities, encourage as many people as possible to get involved: all the club members, your families, and even the entire community if possible! The more people that are involved, the more you are raising environmental awareness, and the more fun it will be too!

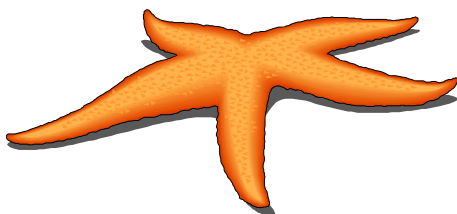


Here are some ideas!

Programs of the Clean Nova Scotia Foundation

The Clean Nova Scotia Foundation is an independent non-profit community organization devoted to cooperative environmental action and a number of community-based projects that 4-H'ers can become involved in. For more information on all of the programs below contact: The Clean Nova Scotia Foundation, 1675 Bedford Row, P.O. Box 2528 Central, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 3N5, (902) 420-3474.

Adopt-a-Highway - This is a program where groups can adopt a stretch of highway (at least 5km) and organize a litter clean-up! All supplies and safety equipment necessary are provided by the Department of Transportation, and signs are placed at each end of the adopted section to mark the groups' involvement in the project.



Beach Sweep - If your club is located near the shoreline, you could organize a beach sweep to clean up a section of the shore! (Be sure to obtain safety equipment!) The foundation sponsors a sweep and can provide you with garbage bags, data sheets, and other necessary information such as the location of beaches that have piping plover nests (and should not be cleaned). Materials are available all year-round including an educational guide.

Adopt-A-Beach - This program encourages groups to care for a beach on a long-term basis. When a group adopts a beach, they're committed to its care for one year. During that time, the Foundation suggests about three litter clean-ups. There are also things that can be tackled to improve the beach environment which the foundation can provide information as well.

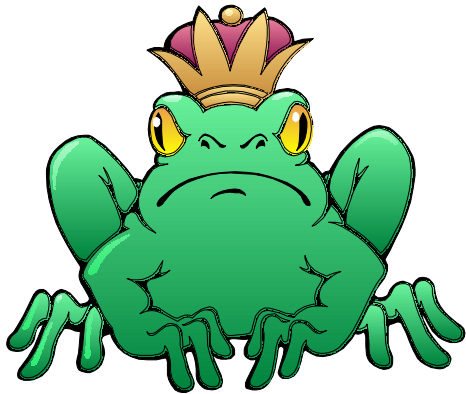
The Great Nova Scotia Pick-Me-Up - This program takes place in May and involves cleaning litter up in the community. Garbage bags and data sheets are provided as well as other information.

In all of the above programs you will also be providing valuable data to the Foundation on waste in the province.



Earth Day Celebrations - April 22 has been designated as Earth Day for the last 25 years. Earth day is the largest environmental event in the world ! The 20th anniversary in 1990 was celebrated in 141 countries by about 200 million people. You can plan anything you want in your community to help celebrate Earth Day or contact the Foundation for ideas and information. Have a festival, a fair, a special awareness campaign - or anything else you can think of !

Waste Reduction Week is a special week set aside by the Clean Nova Scotia Foundation in the fall of each year. There are a number of programs during this week that would be suitable for 4-H Community activities such as Swap Saturday, a program where a swap market is set up for people to trade items they don't want anymore rather than throwing them out in the garbage.



Frogwatch - In cooperation with the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, Industry Canada, and the Environmental Partners Fund, the foundation is involved in Frogwatch. In early spring, Frogwatch enlists junior-high aged youth to monitor the Spring Peeper frog populations in their communities. In recent years, an apparent decline in the frog population has raised questions that an overall degradation of the water environment may be occurring. The Foundation supplies educational material and information.

Environment Week - The Foundation helps to coordinate activities during Environment Week (June) by encouraging citizens to make a difference in their environment. The Foundation offers ideas and suggestions for community activities during this time.

Other Community Projects

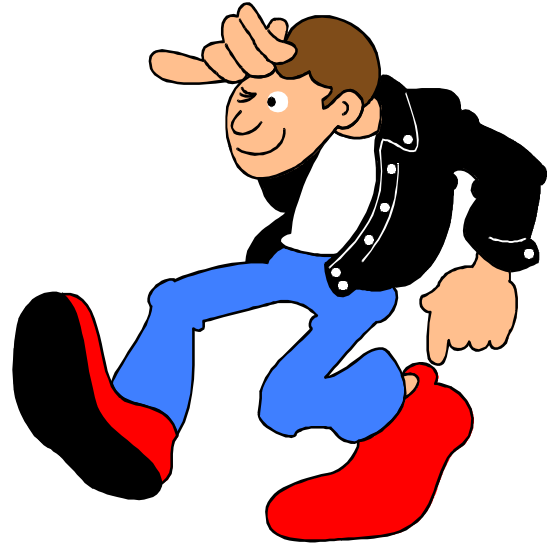
Recycling Drive - Promote a recycling day in your community. Collect, sort and deliver recyclables to a recycling plant.

OR

Contact a local recycling company and organize a recycling program for your community with drop-off bins at local businesses and schools, blue boxes, etc.!

Tree Planting - Contact a local tree nursery or Tree Plan Canada to obtain tree seedlings and equipment and replant an abandoned or cleared site in your community.

Provincial Envirothon - The Nova Scotia Forestry Association has a program called Envirothon which is an environmental youth challenge similar to Reach for the Top with written examinations, oral questions, displays and a wide range of activities. Participants work in a team of five (ages 14-17 or Grades 9-12) and participate in a provincial competition usually held in the last weekend in April. The topics include: forestry, wildlife, soil, aquatics and a fifth topic that is identified each year (a current



environmental issue- for 1995 the topic is groundwater). The winning provincial team travels to the national competition held in the United States. The goal will be to eventually have a National event in Canada as more provinces get involved. For an information kit and information on how to get involved: Contact the NS Forestry Association, PO Box 1113, Truro NS B2N 5G9. 893-4653. The NS Forestry Association will help you set up field trips and other educational events to help get your team ready for the competition. The 4-H Outdoorsman manual section on forestry is used as the main reference text for the forestry section of the topics.

Group Demonstration - This would be presented at Achievement Day and be designed to promote an environmental topic such as recycling ideas, how to construct a compost pile, etc.

Adopt-A-Stream is a program jointly managed by the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries. In the Adopt-A-Stream program groups are encouraged to adopt any waterway in their community (a stream, river, lake, pond, or coastal estuary). This project can be managed jointly and involve many members of the community. For more information and to receive the Adopt-A-Stream manual contact Adopt-A-Stream,

Department of Fisheries and Oceans, P.O. Box 550, Halifax NS B3J 2S7.

Any Other Idea approved by your 4-H Representative!

Use your imagination and creativity to come up with group projects that are of interest to your club. Youth in Nova Scotia are full of good ideas about what they would like to do to help the environment.

