





Cadette 6th - 8th Grade

# **Badge**



### **Eco Trekker**

Grab your wading boots and join a Southern Conservation Trust educator at one of our Nature Areas to learn about conservation, water issues and how to protect nature for future generations. Start your program with a conversation. Learn what the SCT educator loves about the outdoors and how they implement the Leave No Trace principles while enjoying nature. Then take to the trail to identify invasive plants and animals and learn how they can impact the ecosystem. We will visit a creek on the property to discuss water quality and various ways to test for stream health. Take a sample of water home to purify. Don't forget a container!

# Step 1: Learn how to make minimal impact on a trek

### **Trees**

3 hour program

\$30/Girl Scout \$35 w/patch

Interview an experienced outdoor enthusiast (15 minutes):

- What are the seven Leave No Trace Principles?
- What do you do when forced off a trail?
- What happens when you encounter wildlife?
- What's your favorite outdoor story?
- What are some tips for going on an outdoor trek?

### Step 2: Plan an eco trek with a purpose

Learn about invasive plants, aquatic life or other species in your area (1.5 hours):

- Identify the invasives at the nature area
- Discuss how they were introduced and discuss how they are being controlled for

### Step 3: Practice an eco skill on your trek

Find a source for water and purify it when you get home. (30 minutes):

- Collect a sample of water
- Practice Adopt-A-Stream chemical monitoring techniques and learn why this is important for wildlife

# Step 4: Make a difference on your eco trek







Explore a water issue. (30 minutes):

- Discuss macroinvertebrates, their importance and why they are considered indicator species
- Go over Point and Nonpoint sources of pollution and how we can be part of the solution

# Step 5: Make a difference after your eco trek

You decide! We'll help! (15 minutes):

- Make a video of your eco trek
  - o Record part of the eco trek for your video
- Make an art installation
  - Bring trash bags and gloves to collect litter while on the trek for your art installation
- Start an awareness campaign
  - Pick the SCT educator's brain for information to help you with your campaign