Sustainable Materials Challenge



Created by the 2025/2026 Nova Scotia Youth Forum

About the Crest:

This crest is to be completed as a whole or individual, but evidence/pictures must be shown for completion. The crest is divided up into 3 separate sections: Educate, Activity and Action. Each area of the crest has challenges that work for all age group of guiding and some that are geared towards the different age groups of Sparks, Embers, Guides, Pathfinders, Rangers and Link.

The crests are priced at $1.75 each and each crest can be ordered through here: https://www.girlguides.ca/web/NS/Program/Challenges___Activites/NS/Programs/Challenges_Activities/Provincial_Challenges.aspx?hkey=bce7b139-0064-4662-82fb-b0a4c93e412a

When it comes to these challenges and activities, please remember to get creative, be willing to learn new things and don't be afraid to take chances!

Best of luck!

Part 1- Educate (pick 3)

All ages:

- Read a paragraph/excerpt/moment in life regarding recycling or sustainable materials and then make a skit or play around it
- Mad Libs education edition
- Read about women climate activists and take a quiz to find out which one you are—two quizzes here:

  https://form.typeform.com/to/gwmIdBZ1?utm_campaign=b594a73e4c-EMAIL_

CAMPAIGN_2021_03_03_07_00_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_source=

Malala+Fund&utm_term=0_462690300e-b594a73e4c-&typeform-source=mal

alafund.typeform.com

- Talk to recycling expert, custodian or visit a recycling centre

Guides, Pathfinders, Rangers, Link

- Create a news channel or nature documentary style idea
- Create a slideshow or presentation and present to peers
- Do some more research on a climate activist and share with your group
- Have everyone bring their #1 sustainability tip to the meeting and share

Sparks and Embers

- Learn about what goes in which bin (compost, garbage, recycling, etc.)
- Read aloud book around sustainability or environment
- Carbon footprint (Sidewalk chalk)

Part 2-Activity (pick 4)

All ages

- Make a collage with recycled materials about sustainability, and post a pic of your units work with a hashtag
- Read a paragraph or make your own and create a group art project from recycled materials or other medium
- Research how to make paper and attempt to make it from recycled materials
- Make useful items from recycled materials
- Eco-themed wink murder or mafia (maybe everyone is a turtle, and the murderer is a ‘plastic bag’???)
- Learn basic clothing repair
- Nature walks/scavenger hunt with local species

Guides, Pathfinders, Rangers and Link

- Create a series of comic strips about the environment, which the unit turns into a keepsake book
- Sustainable superhero with extra info about environmental-political relations
- DIY bee habitats from recycled materials
- Debate about sustainable topics
- Create a Jeopardy game for others in unit

Sparks and Embers

- Memory match live action with problems + solutions
- Games:
- https://www.neefusa.org/environmental-education-group-games-and-activities ** m&m one, but use Smarties instead (recyclable packaging)
- Sustainable superhero template (Create a superhero that involves or is made from sustainable materials)
- Recycle Sorting Race (race to sort all materials into their proper bins)
- Building with recycled materials

Part 3-Action (pick 2)

All ages

- Create a chart tracking everything that gets thrown out during unit meetings, to get a sense of scope then make action plan to how you can do better within unit (evaluating where most waste is coming from, and how to reduce that)

- Invite parents, siblings, and family members to presentation or event about sustainability
- Write letter to youth forum on change you want to see in guiding
- Garbage pick-up
- Used item exchange

Guides, Pathfinders, Rangers and LINK

- Walk around neighborhood and create a list of things you can do better take action on what you can, then do it (if done individually, talk about your findings at the next unit meeting)
- Write a letter to your government representative on what needs to change

Sparks and Embers

- Recycle fair, everyone brings something learn together
- Mini Planters, and information about food packaging