



## Quarrybrook

EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION CENTER

### Program Title: **Nature's Clean-up Crew**

**Audience:** K1 students

**Program Theme:** Why is it important to keep our environment clean?

**Program Goals:** Great for Earth Day! Students will explore the questions of why and how we need to take care of the Earth. Through stories and trail explorations we will learn about how different decomposers work to keep the forest clean, and then play a fun game rotation, in which we re-purpose trash items and use them as sports equipment.

**Next Generation Standard:** K-ESS3-3 Communicate solutions that will reduce the impact of humans on the land, water, air, and/or other living things in the local environment.

#### **Objectives:**

- **What are the objectives?** Students will be able to name at least three decomposers. Students will know the difference between throwing away trash and recycling. Students will be able to name at least two ways we can reduce our trash.
- **How will they be measured?** Students will be asked questions throughout the day to assess what they are learning and understanding. Students will be able to connect the decomposer examples on a search card to those found along the trail, and tell us what they do to “clean-up” Nature.

#### **Program Outline:**

Activity 1: “THE GREAT TRASH BASH” (15 min.) – We will begin by reading a children’s book that playfully tackles the subject of littering and pollution. This book takes a light-hearted approach to the topic and is a great way to set up the activities to come.

Activity 2: NATURE’S CLEAN-UP CREW HIKE (45-60 min.) – This journey will explore waste (organic and human-made) by introducing six living things that contribute to decomposition, either by breaking organic matter down or by eating carrion. Search cards will help the students to stay focused on finding these “heroes of Nature.”



Teachers and chaperones will be helpful in leading student sub-teams along the trail and guiding the students to notice objects in the forest that match the objects on their search cards.

### **Conclusion/Wrap-up:**

Activity 3: RECYCLE RELAY (15-30 min.) – Next we will head to a large playing field where we will recap the main points/theme and check for understanding of major concepts. We will end the day with a few rounds of “Recycle Relay.” This is a fun way to re-purpose trash and use it for play. In their sub-teams, students will visit four stations in the field, and play the games set up at each.



We will need grown-ups to help move the student teams through the stations, and a few volunteers to help run the games. For example, the bowling station will need a helper to reset the pins each round, etc. Below is a brief description of the different stations.

- Station 1 – Hockey: Students will use the hockey sticks (made out of cardboard tubes) to try and roll the ball into the goal (a cardboard box).
- Station 2 – Bowling Over Trash: Students will get two chances to roll a large inflated Earth ball and knock over the bowling pins (made out of 10 empty, 2-liter soda bottles).
- Station 3 – Jump Rope: Students will use the jump ropes (made out of braided plastic grocery bags).
- Station 4 – Corn Hole: Students will try and throw the bean bags (made out of recycled clothing and bottle caps) through the hula hoop circles.