



# Eco Challenger



<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<p>Senior- Become an eco-explorer as you get hands-on experience with environmental issues and help make positive changes to the environment. When you've earned this badge, you'll have researched different environmental issues and taken at least one trip to see how an area is impacted.</p> <p>Ambassador- Discover a nature issue that's important to you, find solutions, and make a difference. When you've earned this badge, you'll have learned how to advocate for environmental issues concerning nature.</p>
<b>ACTIVITY 1: What is an eco-advocate? (45 minutes)</b>	<p>Spend some time researching eco-advocates/eco-advocacy groups. Make sure to answer these questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is their mission?</li><li>• Where are they located?</li><li>• What kind of work are they doing?</li><li>• What questions do you want to ask them?</li><li>• Do they have a certain educational background?</li><li>• How do they get the public involved in their work?</li></ul> <p>Don't know where to start your search? Check out some of these organizations!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Biodegradable Product Institute</li><li>• Bumblebee Watch</li><li>• Save the Bay</li><li>• Eating with the Ecosystem</li><li>• Groundswell International</li><li>• Audubon Society of Rhode Island</li><li>• Jane Goodall Institute</li><li>• Oceana</li><li>• Residential Solar 101</li><li>• Aquidneck Island Land Trust</li><li>• Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve</li><li>• New England Carnivorous Plant Society</li><li>• Newport Tree Society</li><li>• Worm Ladies of Charlestown</li></ul>
<b>ACTIVITY 2 (45 minutes)</b>	<p>Everything in nature is important and worth protecting. Is there a local issue that concerns you most? Start by researching environmental</p>

	<p>issues by scrolling through “Environmental Topics” on the Environmental Protection Agency website to read about a variety of issues.</p> <p>Read news about the environment. This can be an environmental newsletters, blogs, and websites. Also check local news websites for environmental issues in your area. Choose one issue you want to advocate for.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Host a ZOOM meeting and hold a community forum with family and friends. Find out about local environmental concerns and learn what they care about and why. Focus on one environmental issue you’re passionate about and want to advocate for. Talk to attendees about what they think some possible solutions may be.</p>
<p><b>SNACK (10 minutes)</b></p>	
<p><b>ACTIVITY 3: Become an advocate (45 minutes)</b></p>	<p>Write a letter to your local government about one of the environmental concerns you researched earlier. In your letter be sure to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe your concern</li> <li>• Where in the state can this environmental concern be observed?</li> <li>• What is the human impact?</li> <li>• How are you personally impacted?</li> <li>• What do you think some solutions are?</li> <li>• How do you want to help?</li> </ul>