

Conservationist Curriculum



Conservation involves a lot more than picking up trash, even though that's a very important part of it! Trash is very easy to identify on the trail and in the stream. If you see a plastic bottle or aluminum can, you know you need to add that to your trash bucket. But what about an apple core or orange peel? Is that trash? And what about the things we can't see?

Even organic matter, such as apple cores, should be picked up when you are cleaning up around a waterfall. Animals could eat these and then become sick or dependent on human waste. The best way to think about this is, "Would that be there naturally if someone didn't put it there?" If the answer is no, add it to your bucket!

There are also some things we can't see that could be polluting the water, such as chemicals. If you see bottles near the water that contained chemicals, those chemicals end up in the water. This can make life difficult for plants and animals that live in the stream.

Being a conservationist also involves following the trail and not going off into the areas that are not designated for walking. It may not seem like a big deal for one person to walk off the trail, but if everyone does that then the area starts to become damaged from too many feet destroying plants and habitats for animals.

One of the most important things you can do is to make sure other people know about pollution and how they can help. Bring a friend with you on one of your walks to pick up trash near a waterfall and teach them what you know about the stream. Tell your siblings or parents about what you learned and remind them all to tell a friend too. The more people who know about conservation, the more who will be working toward keeping our waterfalls beautiful!

