

Course: **Sustainability**

Counselors: Brian Forster Christen Lawless

Available Sessions: AM Only PM Only

Optional Workbook: <http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/Sustainability.pdf>

Prerequisites:

1. Describe the meaning of sustainability in your own words. Explain the importance of sustainability to society and how you can contribute to fulfilling the needs of current generations without compromising the needs of future generations.

2. Water. Do **ONE** of the following and discuss with your counselor:

- (a) Evaluate your household water usage. If available, review water bills from the past year and evaluate the seasonal changes in water use. Identify three ways to help reduce water consumption.

3. Food. Do **ONE** of the following and discuss with your counselor:

- (a) Explore the sustainability of different types of plant-based, animal-based and aquaculture food. Identify where four different foods (such as milk, eggs, tuna fish, avocados, or ketchup) come from and how they are processed and transported from the source to you.

4. Community. Do **ONE** of the following and discuss with your counselor:

- (a) Create a sketch depicting how you would design a sustainable community and be prepared to explain how the housing, work locations, shops, schools, and transportation systems affect energy, pollution, natural resources, and the economy of the community.

5. Energy. Do **ONE** of the following and discuss with your counselor:

- (a) Learn about the sustainability of different energy sources, including coal, gas, geothermal, hydro power, nuclear, petroleum, solar, and wind. Identify three common energy sources in the United States and describe how the production and consumption of each of these energy sources affects sustainability.

6. Stuff. Do **ONE** of the following and discuss with your counselor:

- (a) Create a list of 15 items of your personal "stuff." Classify each item as an essential need (such as soap) or a desirable want (such as a video game). Identify any excess "stuff" you no longer need, working with your family, if possible. Donate, re-purpose, or recycle those items you can.

7. Do **TWO** of the following and discuss with your counselor:

(d) Learn how the world's population affects the sustainability of Earth. Discuss three human activities that may contribute to putting Earth at risk, now and in the future.

(e) Explain the term species (plant or animal) decline. Share the human activities that contribute to species decline, what can be done to help reverse the decline, and its impact on a sustainable environment.

8. Do the following:

- (a) On a campout or other outdoor Scouting activity that you attend, make notes on the sustainability practices you and your fellow Scouts practice. Observe transportation, forestry, soil conservation, water resources, habitat, buildings, campsites, and sanitation. Share what you observed and learned with your counselor.
- (b) Discuss with your counselor how living by the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Leave No Trace Seven Principles, and the Outdoor Code in your daily life helps promote sustainability.
- (c) Identify **FIVE** behavioral changes that you and your family can make to improve the sustainability of your household. Share and discuss each with your counselor.

9. Learn about career opportunities in the sustainability field. Pick **ONE** and find out the education, training, and experience required. Discuss what you have learned with your counselor and explain why this career might interest you.