

# Time to Save the Planet!

This Community Service Packet will hopefully serve as a great introduction to one of the most important issues our society is dealing with today—the damage being done to the environment. Everyone can do something, even if it's a very small something, to help the environment and help save our planet. Before you jump into an environmentally friendly service project read *The Lorax* by Dr. Suess. *The Lorax* is a great example of how the environment suffers if we take it for granted and will serve as an introduction to the damage being done to the ecosystem.

It will be helpful to work through the following questions as you read...

## Discussion Questions

Who is the Lorax and what does he do?

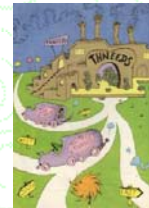


Should the Once-ler cut down all the trees? What are the trees used for?

Why are the different animals sent away? Can you think of a different way this story could have happened?

Why are the Lorax and the Once-ler always fighting? Who is right?

Why did the Lorax leave at the end of the story?



## Reflection

Why did the Lorax leave the Once-ler and send the Bar-ba-loots, Swomee-Swans and Humming-Fist away? What should the Once-ler have done differently? Is the situation you saw in *The Lorax* similar anything you see in the real world?

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# Community Service Project

**While working on your environmental project keep these surprising facts in mind...**

- Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours.
- Once a can is recycled, it can be part of a new can in six weeks.
- An aluminum can that is thrown away will still be a can 500 years from now.
- If all our newspaper was recycled, we could save about 250,000,000 trees each year.
- The average American uses seven trees a year in paper, wood and other products made from trees.
- Around 1 billion trees worth of paper are thrown away every year in the U.S.
- The average household throws away 13,000 separate pieces of paper each year.
- Plastic bags and other plastic garbage thrown into the ocean kill as many as 1,000,000 sea creatures every year.
- Every month, we throw out enough glass bottles and jars to fill up a giant skyscraper.
- A modern glass bottle would take 4000 years or more to naturally decompose.
- Rainforests are being cut down at the rate of 100 acres per minute!
- If you walk along 1 mile of an average US highway you will see about 1,457 pieces of litter.

## Community Service Project!

**Organize a Clean Up Day or Recycling Drive-** The first thing you need to do is pick a date, location and goal of your clean up day. You can organize people to pick up trash in a local park, streets of your neighborhood or the area around your school or community center. Once you have a date, location and goal you need to recruit helpers! Start with the easy people - brothers, sister, cousins, Mom, Dad, Aunt, Uncle, best friends, old friends, new friends, classmates! Once you tell people about the goal of your cleanup ask them to commit a set amount of hours to help on the day you have scheduled. Make sure you write down everyone's names and how many hours they can do. Next, you have to secure supplies and create the rules of your clean-up day. If you are doing trash pick up you will need rubber gloves, trash bags and a pick-up place for the trash. Make sure people know not to touch glass, needles or other materials that look dangerous! If you are doing a recycling drive you will need to hold a meeting for everyone involved so they know what items are recyclable. You will also need to research to find the closest recycling drop off point. Since your friends and family have agreed to volunteer part of their day it would be nice if you could provide some drinks and light snacks. If you ask your local grocery stores or bakeries they might be willing to donate food and drinks to support your wonderful event!! Good luck and please contact Nikki at [nikki@friendsboston.org](mailto:nikki@friendsboston.org) if you have any questions or need some help!

## Fun Websites!

If you would like to learn more about the environment and how you can help take care of the planet check out these kid-friendly websites. They have fun games, information and activities to expand your knowledge of the world around you.

<http://www.epa.gov/kids/> - Environmental Kids Club

<http://www.turner.com/planet/> - Official website of Captain Planet and the Planeteers!

<http://www.emeraldnecklace.org/kids/fungames.htm> - This website has activities based upon the Emerald Necklace here in Boston!

## Inspirational person of service

**Savannah Walters, age 13 - Florida, USA**

When Savannah was a second grader, she learned about the beautiful place called the Arctic. The same year she also learned that the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was in danger of being drilled for oil. From an Arctic wildlife photographer she also learned that Americans waste four million gallons of gas every day driving on tires that are not full of air. This is more oil than would be gained from drilling in the Arctic. So Savannah went into action. Starting with her Brownie Troop, she put balloons and flyers on every car in the train station parking lot telling people how they could save gas and help save the environment. She called her new organization "Pump 'em Up." Since then there have been many events in several states, and her group is now known all over the world.

To help educate drivers about the importance of keeping their tires fully inflated, Savannah hands out donated tire gauges, and makes speeches to schools and the general public. Tire gauges are used to measure how much air is in car tires. She has been to Washington D.C. three times to talk with government officials. On one occasion she spoke to 5,000 people on The West Lawn of the United States Capitol. She told them that she has a simple tool--a tire gauge--costing 99 cents which will save up to 4 million gallons of gas a day. "I have definitely learned that young people have to stand up for what we believe in" says Savannah, "and then tell people in government, in our communities, and in Washington, D.C. If we all work together, we can make a difference."