

**Achievement Course: Ecology**  
**Recommended Ages: 10-18 years of age**  
**Approximate Completion Time Frame: 2-4 months**



Saint Francis, pray for us!

In 1979, Pope Saint John Paul II named Saint Francis of Assisi the patron saint “of those who promote ecology.” Saint Francis often prayed outside and lived in various hermitages, caves, lean-tos, and mountainsides. He had a great affinity towards God’s creation including the land, animals, birds, fish, and people. One day while praying in the Chapel of San Damiano he heard a clear voice from the crucifix say “Francis, go and repair My Church, which you can see has fallen into ruin.” He started to fix the physical church, only to realize that he was supposed to help repair God’s entire church family. He preached all over the land and was given the precious gift of the stigmata which showed the wounds from Christ’s passion.

**Objective:** To understand God’s creation more deeply and serve to protect it.

## 1. Requirements

- a. Read the following Bible verses and discuss them with your father/male guardian or troop leader.
  - i. Job 12: 7-10
  - ii. Matthew 6: 26
  - iii. Matthew 3: 4
  - iv. Psalms 104: 10-23
  - v. Mark 4: 30-32
- b. Identify the following animals that are in your region.
  - i. Wild animals
  - ii. Birds
  - iii. Snakes
  - iv. Reptiles
  - v. Insects
- c. Identify the 5 most common types of trees in your region.
  - i. What are their defining characteristics?
  - ii. For one of these local trees, describe the following to your father/male guardian.
    1. Name of the tree you chose
    2. Category of the tree (Coniferous or Deciduous)
    3. Leaf Characteristics
    4. Where does this tree grow?
    5. Average tree life span
    6. Any pests/diseases?
    7. Average height
- d. Identify the 5 most common animal tracks in your region.
  - i. Take pictures or find pictures of the animals' tracks.
- e. Identify the 5 most common types of fish in your regional waters.
  - i. Discuss 3 important facts about each type of fish with your father/male guardian or troop leader.
- f. Identify any natural foods and/or herbs that grow readily in your region.
  - i. What type of soil does it thrive in?
  - ii. What amount of sun and water does it need?
- g. Identify any poisonous plants in your region.
  - i. Find pictures of the plant.
- h. Re-growing a plant.
  - i. Re-grow lettuce or celery.
    1. Explore written or online resources to learn how to re-grow lettuce or celery.
    2. Choose between lettuce and celery and re-grow at home (let your parent/guardian know what you are attempting).
- i. Identify any natural medicines in your region that would help people in a survival context.
- j. Learn about at least 2 types of bees.
  - i. Familiarize yourself with the honey making process by bees.
  - ii. Explain pollination.
  - iii. What are some possible antagonists of bees.

- k. Identify 3 animals' usage of camouflage.
  - i. What type of camouflage is used in these animals?
  - ii. What is the reason for their camouflage?
  - iii. Where do they live?
  - iv. Do they have predators?
  - v. Are the animals nocturnal or diurnal?
- l. Campsite
  - i. Explain how to properly police a camp area to remove all trash so as to honor your campsite.
  - ii. Take charge of policing of a troop campout.