

## CONSERVATION MESSAGES - 7 GUIDELINES TO WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ACTION



### **1 Seek out information about conservation issues**

- Subscribe to wildlife conservation magazines like Ranger Rick and National Geographic World
- Watch wildlife shows on television
- Read a book about your favorite animal and learn all you can about it
- Contact local chapters of conservation groups to find out what they're doing in your areas
- Obtain a list of endangered plant and animal species from your local Department of Environmental Protection or U.S Fish and Wildlife Service
- Attend public hearings concerning wildlife and habitat issues



### **2 Spread the word to others about the value of wildlife**

- Encourage your family, friends, and neighbors to reduce, reuse, and recycle
- Speak up for wildlife. Let your friends and family know how much you care about animals
- Theme your next birthday party around nature or your favorite animal
- Teach children to respect nature and the environment
- Take children camping, hiking, or on zoo and aquarium trips
- Ensure schools have a balanced environmental education program



### **3 Look for and purchase products that are friendly to the environment**

- Use environmentally safe cleaners and organic fertilizers and pesticides, rather than those with harsh chemicals
- Take a thermos for lunch instead of a juice box to save on packaging
- Shop for wildlife-friendly products
- Don't buy products, such as polystyrene, that are hazardous to the environment or that are manufactured at the expense of important habitats, such as rainforests
- Use phosphate-free laundry detergents and dish soap



### **4 Create habitats for wildlife in your backyard**

- Hang a bird feeder, put out a birdbath, or plant a small tree in your backyard to show you care for wildlife
- Plant a wildlife garden with flowers that butterflies like
- Help the bats that eat all the mosquitoes in your backyard by helping your family build a bat box
- Create a small pond in your backyard for aquatic wildlife
- Contain domestic pets so they do not disturb wildlife
- Help children discover the many wonders of their backyard, like the tiny world of insects

## CONSERVATION MESSAGES - 7 GUIDELINES TO WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ACTION



### **Reduce, reuse, recycle, and replenish**

- Recycle everything you can; newspapers, glass, cans, foil, etc.
- Turn off the water when you brush your teeth. This saves precious water
- Ride your bike or walk to school instead of having your mom drive you. This saves energy and keeps you fit too!
- Use cold water in the washer whenever possible
- Take unwanted, reusable items to charitable organizations or thrift shops
- Lower your thermostat one degree per hour for every hour that you are away



### **Choose your pets wisely**

- Leave wild babies where you find them; only their mother can care for them properly
- Be a responsible pet owner. Make sure they have food, water, and a safe, comfortable place to live
- Learn everything about the pet you want. Some pets have a very long lifespan - a tortoise or parrot may live over 100 years!
- Veterinary expenses for wild or exotic pets can be high
- Be sure the pet you choose was not taken from the wild
- Some animals have special care needs; be sure you are aware of these and can provide the care and costs that are required



### **Support conservation organizations through contributions and volunteerism**

- Join a beach or river clean-up
- Ask your parents to sponsor an animal from your local zoo for your birthday
- Visit a nature park where the money will go to help wildlife
- Join a conservation organization
- Volunteer at your local zoo or nature center
- Contribute money to conservation programs such as the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund

*"It is easy to sit up and take notice. What is difficult is getting up and taking action."*

*- Al Bart*

