

Camp Discovery

How to be environmentally friendly in the great outdoors

Camp Discovery hosts a variety of programs teaching Eco Awareness and how to be environmentally friendly. Camping and outdoors life is loved by South Africans in a country where the South African weather is ideal and we are surrounded by amazing ecosystems. Understanding how the different ecosystems interact is key to being able to look after it.

An ecosystem is a cycle of wildlife and vegetation where each segment is reliant on the other.

Fires might destroy ticks, but burning and removing the grasses causes soil erosion, where the top layer of good soils is washed away, in turn losing the wildlife that occupied that soils, and the insects and animals living on it.

Camp Discovery Tips in promoting environmentally friendly behaviour:

- Use the allocated camping areas where drop sheets are permitted to prevent grass from dying, and the resulting soil erosion
- Don't dump rubbish near or in water points – do you really want to use water that has been a rubbish bin?
- Ensure the camp fires are put out with sand or water before leaving the fire area
- What you bring in you should take out, especially plastic bags and bottles
- Use gas instead of open camp fires with the branches and trees around you for firewood
- Use the laid out walking trails to prevent injury to the small wildlife and destroying of grass
- Birds which commonly nest at the base of trees are plovers and the Dikkop, where their nests and young are easily destroyed by recklessness
- Leave rocks and stones where they lie, often there are small animals and insects using these as homes, or snakes close by
- Let the wildlife rest. They are part of a delicate ecosystems
- Carving trees is destructive and looks unsightly.
- Eco friendly shampoos and soap is available at most camping stores and larger chemists/pharmacy. These are broken down easily by the environment without leaving chemicals and poisons behind
- Leaving the water free of contaminants means that the animals and wildlife are able to drink water not filled with shampoo and other bubbles!
- Never feed the animals. Feeding them discourages them from finding their correct food, and they can start being a nuisance and destructive around the campsites, as well as not giving them the nutrients they are actually needing.