



An activity that blends an ice-breaker related to a sense of place and environmental stewardship.



Learning experience



Topic

Awareness, values and responsibility  
Dealing with impacts  
Place attachment, responsibility  
and care



30 – 45 min



Participants

- build a sense of place attachment
- know about possible impacts of outdoor recreation
- understand about their responsibility and ownership/stewardship for the natural places (especially when leading a group)
- are able to illustrate positive steps to change behaviour
- are able to take responsible decisions and adapt their behaviour to avoid negative impacts



Suitable for  
outdoor sport instructors  
(and course participants)



Practical sessions  
Theoretical lessons



Outdoor F2F  
Indoor F2F  
(Digital)

# MY SPECIAL PLACE



An activity that blends an ice-breaker related to a sense of place and environmental stewardship.



## Materials needed

- Card/Paper (A5) 1/PAX
- Coloured Pencils/Crayons, Markers
- Impact cards



## Preparation

Hand out a piece of paper and pencils /crayons to every participant

## Activity instruction

Open the activity by inviting participants to think of their favourite place outdoors. It can be a place they spend time alone, share with their friends or family, or take part in any outdoor recreation activity. Once they have their place thought of, ask them to draw it on a card.

Once the drawings are complete, ask them to share their places with the group (for large groups, split them into smaller groups to share). Ask them to share the place, why they chose it, how they use it, and why it is important to them.

After a few minutes of sharing, pass out "impact cards" to each individual (depending on the activity) and invite them to draw the impact upon their place. Once done, ask them to share again.

- Ask them to consider; would they still feel the same way about this place?
- How would they react to this?
- Would they continue to go there?



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## Reflection and discussion

- Why is it important to protect these places?
- Who's responsibility is it? What does it take to own that responsibility?

Now ask the group if there is anything they could do to reduce the impacts (particularly if they are leading a group)



## Background knowledge

The framing draws inspiration from place-based learning, engaging the participant through sharing and impact of places they are affiliated with in their own communities. Bringing this activity to their spaces advocates for a sense of responsibility and stewardship.

The varied sections may relate to what can be called holistic education, in it encompasses creative, intellectual, social, and emotional elements to its process.



### Key words

#place attachment and connection  
#sense of place  
#impacts of outdoor recreation and sport



### Source

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### Presented by

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## Materials

### Outdoor Recreation Impacts

Example impact cards as printable resource

A large school group shows up and sets up camp.	The place has become a home to an array of wildlife.
Trash has been left at the site, attracting animals to the area as a hotspot for food.	The place has become impacted by food trash, attracting rats and mice to the site.
The place has become impacted by irresponsible toilet practices.	A large tour group shows up on a commercial trip.
A group shows up playing music and setting up for a social evening.	The water has become contaminated, smelly, and discolored.
The place has recently been used as a campsite with a large fire pit left with piles of half-burned logs scattered around.	The area has become trampled and messy due to a large volume of recent traffic in the area.
The area has been over-foraged/harvested to the point that it is bare.	The bins are overloaded, with many bags and bottles left in the area surrounding the bins.
Trash has been left in the area.	Fences have been put up in the area, to remove access to certain areas.
The place has been overused by large groups, resulting in the surface being defaced and trampled, creating bald spots and new trails.	Warning signs have been put up in the area, to discourage undesirable behavior and promote sustainable usage in the area.