

Respect the PONY



*The PONY acronym is the starting point for every group that is new to the outdoor space .
It teaches students the proper way to behave outside.*

Background

Every new week of camp, or new season of school, programming starts with a simple fundamental lesson: respecting the PONY.

PONY is an acronym that stands for Property, Others, Nature, Yourself. As we introduce the PONY, we ask students to help us list ways that we can show respect to those four things. Once established, you can refer back to the PONY anytime that you need to address a behavioral issue.

Property

Respecting the property includes being careful with the teaching materials and the space. This can be things like magnifiers, clipboards, pencils and even making sure to take the time to put the caps back on markers. Most importantly, it means leaving the space ready for the next explorer to use.

Others

This is a simple reminder to be respectful to others. Ask students to share ways that they can be kind to others. That means being kind with your body and your words. It also means giving your attention when another person is speaking. Ask students what it means to be a good listener.

About This Activity

Grades: **all grades**

Activity Level: **Chill**

Key Topics: **Group Management**

Nature

Respecting nature means not hurting living things by picking leaves or squashing bugs. There will be some exceptions to this in your outdoor explorations, but that should be for the leader to decide. Kindness to nature also means leaving the space the way it was found by putting back rocks or logs that were moved.

Yourself

Respect yourself by being safe outside. Get a drink of water when you need one, take a break in the shade if you are too hot, ask for help when you need it.

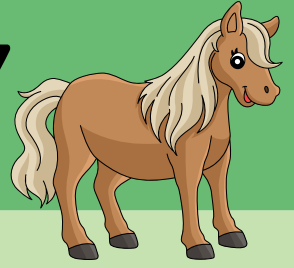


For nearly 30 years, Imago has been leading students outside to study and learn from the natural world. Imago's Branching Out program leads outdoor education at schools, builds and supports outdoor learning stations and provides teacher resources for outdoor learning. Contact Imago for information on how we can help you get your students learning in nature.



imagoearth.org
hello@imagoearth.org

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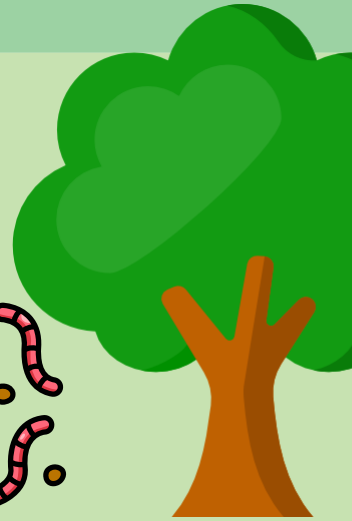
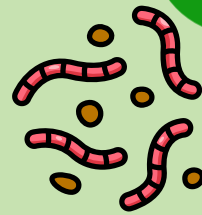
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Property



Others



Nature



me

Yoursel

