

Dune Restoration Programme

Target group: Service groups

Type: Action-oriented

Duration: 2 hours

Country: Canada

BIODIVERSITY

- **METHOD:** To maintain a sustainable and healthy beach ecosystem, each year Wasaga Beach Provincial Park staff and local community groups work together to restore freshwater dunes. During the summer, shorelines of Wasaga Beach are assessed and areas deemed suitable for dune formations and beach vegetation are identified. Restoration takes place in autumn once the plants have become dormant, ensuring a higher chance of survival during transplantation. Marram Grass plugs are taken from areas of the beach where high densities of it exist and are then transplanted in the designated areas. Once planted, Marram Grass will begin to collect sand blown around its base, this in turn stimulates its growth upward and outward, making it well suited for the ever-changing dunes system to which it has adapted itself.



- **MATERIAL:** Shovels, buckets, and gloves. Camera.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Scout and guide groups, stewardship rangers etc.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Call for volunteers advertised in local paper, otherwise groups are contacted individually.
- **TIPS:** Provide food and refreshments as a thank-you. Install signage afterwards to prevent trampling.
- Remember to take a picture and post it on the Blue Flag Facebook page!

Junior Naturalist Programme

Target group: Young families

Type: Experiential

Duration: 45 – 60 minutes

Country: Canada

- **METHOD:** Families join park naturalists on Tuesdays during the summer months for a series of Junior Naturalist programmes that explore the unique ecosystems and inhabitants of Wasaga Beach Provincial Park (examples: Species at Risk, Dune Ecology, Invasive Species, etc.). Participants are given a Junior Naturalist Passport at the beginning of the season, in which they must record things they have learned and stick the sticker given to them by the park naturalists at each programme. Once complete, the Junior Naturalist Passport can be submitted for a prize.



- **MATERIAL:** Various props and media, depending on the specific programme being presented; passports, and stickers. Camera.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Environmental education and conservation organisations, schools, municipality.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Programme is advertised on the park website, the partner organisations websites, local tabloid, in the activities & events brochure, and on posters distributed through town.
- **TIPS:** Participants are encouraged to dress for the weather, and children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Remember to take a picture and post it on the Blue Flag Facebook page!

Beach Hiking Trip

Target group: Tourists & local community

Type: Exploratory/Awareness-raising

Duration: 4 – 6 hours

Country: Germany

BIODIVERSITY

- **METHOD:** Every Monday, Wednesday and Sunday hiking tours to various nature areas around the beach of Kuehlungsborn (Baltic Sea) are offered to the public. Final destinations vary and distances vary, for example to the “Bastorf” lighthouse or the “Nature meets Art” gallery. While walking, participants discover the local flora and fauna of lakes, dunes, marshlands, and the specific environment of the Baltic coast. As the trips are rather long, there is always a possibility to take breaks at nature spots or restaurants.



- **MATERIAL:** Outdoor equipment, binoculars, camera.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Environmental educators, either voluntary or hired.
- **COMMUNICATION:** The activity might be posted at tourist offices or environmental education centres, meeting points are also promoted locally.
- **TIPS:** In case the trip is too long for some participants a bus connection back should be available.
- Remember to take a picture and post it on the Blue Flag Facebook page!

Turtle Nests Construction

Target group: All beach users

Type: Experiential/Awareness raising

Duration: One day

Country: Greece

- **METHOD:** *The activity should be announced at least a week in advance. The target group is quite wide - all beach users can participate, especially frequent visitors. First of all, a sea turtle specialist, preferably a specialised scientist, and a member of an environmental education or conservation NGO, explains about the sea turtle habits and typical behaviour of this endangered species to the participants. The importance of their conservation is pointed out also in printed materials (leaflets). Secondly, the beach users become an active part of the sea turtle protection initiative – by constructing the artificial turtle nests.*



- **MATERIAL:** *Leaflets, rope, canes, camera.*
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** *Environmental educators, municipalities, hotel managers, teachers.*
- **COMMUNICATION:** *The activity might be posted at tourist offices, environmental education centres, hotels, municipalities websites, national operator website*
- **TIPS:** *Involve specialised scientists in informing the public and constructing the nests.*
- *Remember to take a picture and post it on the Blue Flag Facebook page!*

Beach Scavenger Hunt

Target group: 7-12 year olds

Type: Awareness-raising

Duration: 1 hour

Country: Ireland

BIODIVERSITY

- **METHOD:** Children are divided into teams, asked to pick a team name and draw a small square section on the beach using a stick or rock to mark out the area. Afterwards the whistle is blown and all children huddle together with the coordinator in the centre. For each clue, five minutes is given to the team to search the beach within a predefined area and place the object in the square. Throughout the game each team uses the objects found to make a sand sculpture. The coordinator allocates points to each team; extra points are given for the most impressive sand sculpture. The activity is preceded by a classroom or beach session where objects, creatures and shells are identified and their habits, composition etc. are explained to the children. The children are introduced to the Blue Flag programme and how this works to protect their local coastal area for everyone's enjoyment.



- **MATERIAL:** A list of prepared scavenger hunt clues, a whistle, a stopwatch, a book with the images of the items that we are looking for (for younger ages) and a camera.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Primary schools, and youth groups.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Schools and environmental education centres.
- **TIPS:** It is good to prepare for the scavenger hunt beforehand by telling the children about the different creatures and giving them little anecdotes about them. This increases recognition and knowledge of the creatures by the children when they are used as clues. Keep safety in mind and survey prior to ensure the area is suitable.
- Remember to take a picture and post it on the Blue Flag Facebook page!

Coastal Art Competition

Target group: Everybody

Type: Exploratory/Awareness-raising

Duration: Approximately 3 weeks

Country: Ireland

- **METHOD:** The activity is introduced, the theme identified (e.g. dune restoration) and prizes announced in an initial classroom session. The competition format might be written, drawing and sculpture. The lecturer introduces the Blue Flag programme and how it is instrumental in protecting local beach. After a beach clean which is a good way to observe seaweeds/molluscs/habitats, there is a creative session. The participants work together on coastal-related idea, the judging and awarding part is done by a local authority or celebrity. Afterwards the artwork is turned into beach murals, booklets or displayed in local public centres.



- **MATERIAL:** Variety of artwork mediums, camera.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Environmental educators; local school/group; local authority; local celebrity or dignitary; public centres.
- **COMMUNICATION:** The activity might be promoted through local media; artwork may be used to display at public spaces.
- **TIPS:** Competition entrants will need time to develop artwork, so competition should have dates clearly set out. With winning artwork, use professional designers to turn it into beach posters.
- Remember to take a picture and post it on the Blue Flag Facebook page!

Map of Environmental Miracles

Target group: Beach users

Type: Awareness-raising

Duration: Unlimited

Country: Poland

BIODIVERSITY

- **METHOD:** The maps installed close by the beach encourage the visitors to use sustainable methods of transportation (e.g. bicycles, pathways, canoes) and draw attention to special fauna, flora and activities on the beach in an easily understandable way. For example the pictogram of an eagle means that here is the largest population of white eagles in Europe. The picture of a tree refers to an old tree which is protected by law as a "natural monument". The sign of a photo camera means "photo hunting"- interesting species of plants and animal might be seen there. The map refers also to cycling (red line) and canoeing routes (blue line). The green line means a forest educational path. Three natural reservations are also shown in the map, as well as the area protected by Natura 2000.



- **MATERIAL:** Board, printed map, camera.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Municipality, environmental education centre.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Tourist offices and guides, schools, local media.
- **TIPS:** The municipality or a private sponsor can help with printing and distribution of the maps.
- Remember to take a picture and post it on the Blue Flag Facebook page!

Nature Trail

Target group: Everybody

Type: Exploratory/Awareness-raising

Duration: 2 or 7 days

Country: Serbia

- **METHOD:** Course modules include: Assessment and analysis of different Ecological Footprints; Preparation of modules for calculating specific ecological footprint as an introductory approach in Serbia; and Syllabus development for a training course. Project implementation begins with the preparation of different modules for the calculation and evaluation of specific ecological footprints at different levels (country, city, school, individuals) by researching existing and available models of calculating. The syllabus for a training course was developed in Serbia and successfully implemented as the pilot course under the Eco-Schools programme.



- **MATERIAL:** Environmental education materials, camera.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Socially responsible companies, schools, local nature protectors, researchers, scientists, decision makers, civil society organisations.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Invitation email to schools, local media, and environmental education centres.
- **TIPS:** As part of the course, students can present the results of their footprint calculations to local community, and suggest different ways how to reduce it.
- Remember to take a picture and post it on the Blue Flag Facebook page!

Windows on the Coast

Target group: Children and adult

Type: Exploratory game

Duration: Variable

Country: South Africa

BIODIVERSITY

- **METHOD:** “Windows on the Coast” is a game that can be used by anyone – a child at school, a family, or municipality employees. Many smaller pictures create a big one. It could be a race or just a challenge to complete the puzzle by analysing each picture. After a face-value assessment, a participant can turn the card over to read one or several discussion topics, and herein lays the magic. One card could keep a group busy for up to an hour. In addition, there is a CD-ROM that contains more in-depth information.



- **MATERIAL:** “Windows on the Coast” resource includes large cards; 2 packs of smaller playing cards and a CD-ROM with additional information, camera.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** It can be sold and promoted by municipality, environmental education NGOs or tourist offices.
- **COMMUNICATION:** The activity is usually organised for a pre-selected group.
- Remember to take a picture and post it on the Blue Flag Facebook page!

Birds on the Beach

Target group: Everybody

Type: Exploratory/Awareness-raising

Duration: 3 hours

Country: Spain

- **METHOD:** The municipality of O Vicedo organises a visit around the coast guided by an ornithologist who gives an explanation of different species of birds living there and about the measures taken to preserve them. Afterwards the participants gather in the local town hall and watch a presentation with pictures of the birds which they've seen on the coast to ensure that they remember what they have learnt.



- **MATERIAL:** Binoculars, telescopes, camera.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Bird conservation associations, such as Birdlife.
- **COMMUNICATION:** The activity is usually promoted on the municipality website and information board.
- **TIPS:** Remember to take a picture and post it on the Blue Flag Facebook page!

Children's Sea Fair

Target group: Children

Type: Awareness-raising

Duration: Half day

Country: Spain

BIODIVERSITY

- **METHOD:** The municipality of Castell-Platja d'Aro organises a fair for children with activities and games about the sea. The sea is a fragile ecosystem and the local population needs to look after it. The aim is to raise awareness among children about problems in the oceans through games. The activities are developed in a sports centre and led by supervisors.



- **MATERIAL:** Attractive materials such as inflatable or sports games are highly recommended. Also some sea elements to make handcrafts will always be useful. Camera
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** A small fee may be charged for entrance and some children's entertainment companies may donate some of the materials needed.
- **COMMUNICATION:** The activity is held for a week and promoted both locally and regionally.
- **TIPS:** Remember to take a picture and post it on the Blue Flag Facebook page

Sand Sculpture Contest

Target group: Children aged 3–20

Type: Experiential/Awareness-raising

Duration: Unlimited

Country: Ukraine

- **METHOD:** Children are invited to awaken their imagination while using their knowledge of biology and literature to create any possible kind of real or imaginary creature out of sand. They work either in groups or alone, using sand, shells and simple tools. Afterwards they share a story about their sand sculpture. While briefing the children special attention is paid to endangered species. This activity, in addition to environment education, often attracts peoples' attention and makes the public and beach staff more aware of the importance of sand cleanliness – not only on the surface but deeper.



- **MATERIAL:** Plastic tools (shovels, rakes, bins, etc.) and clean sand. Camera.
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** Environmental educators, either voluntary or hired.
- **COMMUNICATION:** The activity might be promoted by tourist offices, environmental education centers, and the local media.
- **TIPS:** The area of beach where the sculptures are created should be protected by a fence for the duration of the contest (1-3 days).
- Remember to take a picture and post it on the Blue Flag Facebook page!

Sand Dune Restoration

Target group: Volunteer Groups

Type: Action-oriented

Duration: Half day

Country: Wales

BIODIVERSITY

- **METHOD:** *Volunteers take part in an education and training day learning about the biodiversity and importance of maintaining this habitat. A classroom session is held and followed by a practical event.*



- **MATERIAL:** *Tools, Marram grass plants, camera.*
- **POTENTIAL PARTNERS:** *Environmental educators.*
- **COMMUNICATION:** *The activity was promoted through a volunteer coordination centre.*
- **TIPS:** *This practical event is good for younger participants and the classroom information can be easily adapted for all age groups.*
- *Remember to take a picture and post it on the Blue Flag Facebook page!*