

Create a Sign for your Rewilding Project

Activity Time:
45 – 60 minutes

Intended Audience:
Families, All Ages

Type of Program:
Facilitated hands-on experience

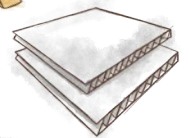
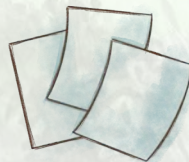
Overview

Rewilding is the process of letting nature reclaim its natural space, and an easy chance to enrich your native plant and animal biodiversity. Creating a sign for your patch of land is a great way to let others know how you are helping restore nature. Libraries can create a sign for a spot on their grounds or host a program for community members to build a sign for their own patches of land at home or around the community. Recovery of nature takes time – a sign can help address the common reactions that might arise as the land becomes “wilder” and explain to interested neighbors what is happening here.

Materials:

- * **A Guide to Help Nature Reclaim its Space (one copy per participant/family)**
- * Variety of sign materials:
 - Card stock posters
 - Corrugated plastic signboards
 - Wooden boards
- * Post options
 - Wooden posts
 - H-Stakes
- * Paints in a variety of colors (**acrylic or outdoor wood paints**)
- * Paintbrushes of various sizes

- * Stencils or Letter Stickers
- * Sealant or varnish (**for wood signs**)
- * Sandpaper (**for wood signs**)
- * Rulers
- * Pencils
- * Computer with internet access, connected to a project to show the video **Become a Guardian of Nature! Learn to Rewild with Native Plants**



Preparation:

- * Gather all the sign making materials and organize them on tables at the front of the meeting room.
- * Arrange large tables with chairs around the room as workspaces for participants.
- * Set up the computer and projector.

Activity

STEP 1. Welcome

Begin the program by showing the audience the 6-minute video, **Become a Guardian of Nature! Learn to Rewild with Native Plants**

After the video, invite the audience to share their thoughts with some discussion prompts:

1. How does the concept of rewilding differ from other conservation efforts?
2. What space do you have in mind, at your home or in your community, for displaying your sign and letting the land reclaim its space?
3. What information do you think is important to include on your sign?

Encourage participants to write ***This is an Ark*** somewhere on their sign and include the website **www.wearetheark.org** for interested neighbors to learn more.

STEP 2. Sign Building

Invite the audience to begin creating their signs:

- * Prep the boards with sandpaper or wiping away dust and debris.
- * Design the layout.
 - *Use a ruler and pencil to mark where the text and any design elements will go.*
- * Apply stencils or letter stickers.
- * Paint the text and decorative elements.
- * Seal the sign.
 - *Apply a layer of sealant or varnish to waterproof the sign.*
- * Attach to the appropriate post.
 - *H-stakes for corrugated sign boards; wooden posts for larger wooden signs.*

STEP 3.

Admire Your Work

Allow time at the end for participants to share what they made and what their plans are for rewilding their patch of land.

STEP 4.

Spread the Word!

These signs are a fantastic opportunity to communicate to your community how native plants are valuable to local biodiversity. Encourage others to carve out their own patches of nature to build a patchwork of native habitats right in your own backyard.

