







The Elements of Place-Based Stewardship Education

Element		Description
	Element 1: Scan the Community	The first stage of any effort is to begin identifying and considering options for learning and stewardship action that are locally meaningful. There are many ways to raise students' awareness of environmental issues in their community.
	Element 2: Choose an Issue	<p>Often, you'll have a list of many local stewardship needs and ideas to choose from. Students can play an important role in making a selection, and teachers can help them choose wisely using tools such as Earth Force's criteria-based decision-making process. As part of the process of developing decision criteria, teachers should consider in advance, and include in materials for students, any of the following criteria they deem important:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What types of issues connect well to our curriculum? ● What types of issues and concerns are developmentally appropriate for my students? ● What partners are available to help us? ● What are current teaching and learning conditions? Given the constraints and opportunities of my current and anticipated situation, what types of projects seem feasible?
	Element 3: Develop Partnerships	<p>Community partners can offer knowledge and expertise, historical and current data sets for students to analyze, direction on the type of action project best suited to your timeline and students, access to a field site, equipment, opportunities to publicize your work, a home for the data you collect, and opportunities for students to learn about careers related to natural resources.</p> <p>Although partnerships can be developed after an issue is chosen, they can also be developed as part of the process of choosing an issue for learning and action. Not every place-based stewardship education effort follows the six steps in the order listed in this template.</p>
	Element 4: Research your Issue	Before they can take action on a local environmental issue, students will need to build their knowledge and understanding of the specific situation and the solutions that could help.
	Element 5: Complete an Action Project	Action projects might be individual projects, small group projects, or full group projects.
	Element 6: Share Results and Celebrate	Every PBSE effort should include some method by which students communicate about what they've learned and what they've done to enhance the community.