

## AMBASSADOR JUSTICE JOURNEY AWARD – MEETING 1

**Award Purpose:** When you’ve earned this award, you’ll have created a definition of environmental justice and an equation for achieving it.

Activity	Materials Needed
Environmental Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discover how the environment impacts you, and how your actions impact the environment.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone or computer with internet access <input type="checkbox"/> Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Writing utensils
Junk Journals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a DIY journal to record your thoughts, feelings, and inspirations.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone or computer with internet access <input type="checkbox"/> Brown shopping bags <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors <input type="checkbox"/> 8.5” x 11” scrap paper <input type="checkbox"/> Embroidery or book binding thread <input type="checkbox"/> Awl (or safety pin) <input type="checkbox"/> Ruler <input type="checkbox"/> Watercolors or coloring utensils <input type="checkbox"/> Old magazines, newspapers, pamphlets, etc.
Environmental Justice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss the definition of environmental justice and examples of environmental injustices in recent events.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Chart or large paper <input type="checkbox"/> Markers

### Activity #1: Environmental Impact

**Award Connection:** Step 1 – Look high and wide and Step 2 – Do the math

**Materials Needed:** Phone or computer with internet access; paper; writing utensils

- How does the environment impact you? We interact with our environment constantly and these interactions affect our quality of life—from our emotional health to our longevity. The World Health Organization links poor environmental quality to poor overall health and quality of life.
- Examine your own life. Do you have access to clean water and the outdoors/green space? Do you live close or far away from highways and areas of traffic congestion? How clean is the air you breathe (do you live close to a factory or production plant)? See the World Health Organization’s infographic at the end of this activity plan for other environmental factors that impact your health.



- Then, look at ways that *you* impact the environment. It might not seem like it, but the many choices that you make every day have an impact—positive, neutral, or negative—on your environment. For example, did you bring a reusable water bottle with you today, or did you buy a bottle of water when you got thirsty?
- Calculate your personal (or your family’s) carbon footprint ([www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator](http://www3.epa.gov/carbon-footprint-calculator)), and then come up with ways you can reduce (i.e. *subtract your usage!*) your footprint. For example, could you walk or ride your bike to school one day a week instead of riding the bus or getting a ride from your parents? Write these ideas down on a piece of paper and commit to them!

## Activity #2: Junk Journals

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Award Connection: Step 1 – Look high and wide

Materials Needed: Phone or computer with internet access; brown bags; scissors; 8.5” x 11” scrap paper; embroidery or book binding thread; awl (or safety pin); ruler; watercolors or coloring utensils; old magazines, newspaper, pamphlets, etc.

- Now, think more broadly about your community. How does the environment affect the people around you? Not everyone has the same access to clean water, clean air, or safe housing. Do you think everyone *should* have access to these resources?
- What comes to mind when you hear the word “justice”? Justice is about more than just right and wrong—it’s about fairness, understanding, and compassion.
- Create a junk journal to record your thoughts, ideas, and inspirations as you work through this Journey. A junk journal is a great way to be creative—and upcycle materials into a little work of personal art!
  - [bit.ly/junkjournalDIY](http://bit.ly/junkjournalDIY)
- You can use old magazines, books, pamphlets—anything, really!—in your junk journal. Keep notes about issues (globally or in your community) that spark your passion—can you address this issue in your Take Action project?
- In the first few pages, write, draw, or collage your definition of the word “Justice” and what “Justice on Earth” would look like.
- Then, take a crash course on the many types of justice: [bit.ly/whatsjustice](http://bit.ly/whatsjustice).
- How you define justice shapes who you are and how you feel about what happens in this world. We can’t work towards justice until we can imagine what the outcome of a more just world would look like. After all, it’s easier to work towards a goal if we have a vision of a more ideal future. After watching the video, did your definition of justice change? Add these thoughts to your junk journal.

## Activity #3: Environmental Justice

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Award Connection: Step 1 – Look high and wide

Materials Needed: Chart or large paper; markers

- For this Journey, we’ll be focusing specifically on **environmental justice**. The Environmental Protection Agency defines it as:

*Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, culture, education, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.*

- Discuss the EPA’s definition. What does this mean to you?
- Can you think of some recent events that highlighted environmental *injustice* in your community, your country, or the world? Think about the expansion of copper-nickel mining in Minnesota, Flint water crisis, the Great Pacific garbage patch, the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster, or read through the stories in your Journey book.



4. Write down these examples on a piece of chart paper.



# HOW THE ENVIRONMENT IMPACTS OUR HEALTH

People are exposed to risk factors in their homes, work places and communities through:



 **World Health Organization**  
#EnvironmentalHealth

