



EARTH CARE @LEWINSVILLE

MAKE NATURE A PART OF YOUR CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

In this season of giving, take time to enjoy the gifts that nature provides all year long. Start a family tradition that gets you outside. Here are some suggestions of fun activities that instill values of caring for God's marvelous creation and giving back.

- Take a nature walk or hike. Strengthen bonds with nature and family as you walk and converse, make observations and absorb the beauty around you. Engage your senses. What birds and animals do you see? What remains green in winter? Look for tracks and other signs of animal life. What do you hear? Smell?
- Pick up litter from trails, streets and parks. Gift nature by collecting any trash you encounter as you walk. Carry a bag and wear gloves, or improvise with a stick for picking up items you don't want to touch. Talk about the harm caused by what you find.
- Behold the night sky. Bundle up and head out with binoculars or a telescope to a dark space with an unobstructed view. Enhance the adventure with a thermos of hot chocolate and camp chairs. Gaze in silence and experience awe at the vastness of the universe. Ponder what it was like for the shepherds "watching their flocks by night". Look for planets and constellations.
- Decorate an outdoor tree for birds and animals. Make edible ornaments and hang them on the tree, then watch to see what comes to enjoy your gift. For decorating ideas: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RPeFayGr9ZU>
- Plant a Tree. If you use nature's gift of a cut live tree for your Christmas celebration, reciprocate by planting a native tree to replace the tree you removed.

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