

GM2010 ACTIVATE THEME DAY PROPOSAL

Program components for the theme days at GM2010 will focus on social consciousness in our communities in 3 areas:

- the *Social Environment*,
- the *Physical Environment*, and
- the *International Environment*.

Each day's programming options will allow participants to explore various topics within each environment, discuss issues, develop actions and explore take away opportunities.

SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

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Feeling safe within your community is a very important building block for self and the development of values. This day will explore the many issues surrounding safety within your community:

- school,
- internet,
- neighbourhood and
- social circles

By taking part in this day, you will gain awareness on the issues, develop practical skills that will improve your self esteem and participate in action planning. Activities will be divided into four streams described below. Choose 1 stream; your activities will be planned within that stream. (1st choice, 2nd choice options)

Leadership Stream

- Identify your leadership talents and preferred leadership style
- Gain teamwork and public speaking skills
- Be introduced to the Community Safety Audit tool, a violence prevention tool that you can use to improve safety in their communities

Video Stream

- Learn about the power of the media and how television, video, social networking, print media and internet affect the safety of communities
- Obtain instruction on the use of AV equipment and receive guidance on how to create a script

As a result of these sessions, you will produce a 2-minute video in support of safe communities.

Arts Stream

Using the arts, you will explore gender roles, stereotypes and the issue of violence against women. You have the opportunity to use your artistic talents to perform in skits and design posters that promote gender equality and safety. Lastly, you will have an opportunity to screen a film and use critical thinking to discuss gender stereotypes in the media.

Active Stream

Active games will be used to increase your assertiveness skills.

- Increase your knowledge of the importance of supporting each other through fun, interactive team building activities.
- Increase your confidence in dealing with difficult or threatening situations by participating in an introductory self defence session.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT: ECOSHIFTING OUR ATTITUDE

Programming for this day will target a behavioural shift by changing the way young women think about the environment through their personal interests and lifestyle choices. Workshops will each be 1 hour hands on/ innovative activity with a field expert and a 30-minute component helping girls determine what they can do when they get home/how they can make a direct impact and will provide the opportunity to participate in different activities from the following streams. Choose 1 stream and 3 activity choices under that theme. (1st choice, 2nd choice options)

Climate Change and the Environment

What is climate change—understanding the scientific concepts of Climate Change

The impacts of climate change—exploring the physical impacts climate change is having on our ecosystems. Work with a local biologist and identify local impacts of climate change

Climate change and our species—understand why combating climate change is so crucial for our native species.

The solution to combating climate change—learn hands on solutions to combating climate change.

Human Health and the Environment

Air pollution— learn how the health of our lungs and entire respiratory system is affected by the quality of the air we breathe.

Water pollution—virtually all types of water pollution are harmful to the health of humans and animals. Water pollution may not damage our health immediately but can be harmful after long term exposure.

Food Pesticides—Canadians are acutely poisoned by pesticides through inhalation, ingestion and direct contact. Learn the dangers of pesticide use, what governments are doing to monitor and control, and a workable solution.

Toxins and our Ecosystems—Understand how toxins enter our lives and our bodies through consistent exposure, and how eventually they reach our aquatic ecosystems when they are released from our bodies and discharged into the sewer.

Toxins and our Health—Understand how our everyday exposure to personal care products subjects us to potentially harmful chemicals. Learn why and how to introduce organically certified, environmentally conscious and naturally sustainable products into our lifestyles.

PHYSICAL
ENVIRONMENT

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT CONT'D

Conserving Environmental Resources and Species

Endangered Species—what constitutes an endangered species? What species are endangered in Ontario? Why are they endangered? What can be done about it?

Species at Risk—what constitutes a species at risk? What species are at risk in Ontario? What can be done about it? ([double session](#))

Protecting areas of biological diversity—exploring Ontario's biodiversity. Work with a biologist to explore local species and their importance to the native ecosystems.

Protecting Canada's natural habitat—learn about ways to reverse the rate of species decline and explore methods to ensure future generations benefit from a healthier and diverse natural environment.

Sustainable Living

Environmental Economics—business and economic topics concerned with environmental issues.

Politics and the Environment—understand the vital role our Provincial and Federal governments play in our country's environmental health.

Alternative Technologies—teach youth the fundamentals of wind power, solar power, biodiesel, geothermal etc. ([double session](#))

Sustainable Agriculture and the Organic Movement—educating youth on the importance of practicing sustainable agriculture systems and techniques ([double session](#))

Reducing your personal ecological footprint—have you ever stopped to wonder how your lifestyle impacts the planet we're living on? The ecological footprint measures the amount of nature's resources an individual, a community or a country consumes in a given year. Learn how to reduce your personal ecological footprint without inconveniencing your lifestyle. ([double session](#))

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT: GLOBAL CONSCIOUSNESS

Programming for this day will focus on the **WAGGGS Global Action Theme (GAT) badge** (girls worldwide say “together we can change our world”) allowing for the opportunity for awareness of global cultures and communities. Activity options will include hands on and innovative workshops providing opportunity to participate in one activity from each of the GAT themes and achieving the GAT badge. WAGGGS GAT themes are as follows:

- girls worldwide say “together we can end extreme poverty and hunger”
- girls worldwide say “education opens doors for all girls and boys”
- girls worldwide say “empowering girls will change our world”
- girls worldwide say “together we can save children’s lives”
- girls worldwide say “every mother’s life and health is precious”
- girls worldwide say “we can stop the spread of AIDS, malaria and other diseases”
- girls worldwide say “we can save our planet”
- girls worldwide say “we can create peace through partnerships”

Participants will rotate through the program options by neighbourhood (site) choosing 6 activities to participate in to complete the basic components for completion of this badge. The entire camp will participate in the 100-mile diet for a day (MDG1) thus completing this requirement.

Reference WAGGGS MDG document (www.wagggsworld.org/en/issues/WAGGGS_and_the_UN/UNs_Millennium_Development_Goals)

INTERNATIONAL
ENVIRONMENT