

CHAIN OF LIFE OUTDOOR CEREMONY

Photocopy this sheet and cut each part in strips. Glue strips onto larger color paper strips. As each person says their part, link the strips making a chain circle. Leaders can start and finish the circle. Combine or divide the different parts of the chain of life to fit the number of scouts in your ceremony. Blank strips can also be used so that every youth member is included in making the chain.

All of God's creations fit together like a chain, each with its own job to do. Each form of life depends on another part of the chain to survive. What happens if one part of the chain of life is destroyed?

Plants: Plants are necessary for life. There are many different kinds of plants on Earth and they are all important. They clean the air and make oxygen for humans and animals to breathe. The roots of plants help keep soil from being blown or washed away. Plants are used to provide food or homes to insects, animals, and humans. Humans use plants to make many of the items that they use every day, including the products used to make the clothing and shelter that they need to survive. Fruits, vegetables, & nuts are the parts of plants that are eaten by humans most often. Eating these parts of plants helps provide vitamins and minerals that are necessary for good health.

Grass: Grass is a plant that covers much of the Earth's surface. Grass is good for holding the soil in place. Grains that humans eat, such as wheat and rice, are a grass. Animals that humans raise for food often eat grasses. Wild animals and insects also use grass for food and shelter.

Trees: Trees are another kind of plant that has many uses for different living creatures. Like all plants, trees clean the air. Many animals and insects get their food from trees. Some creatures make their homes in trees. Trees also provide shade from the sun. Humans use trees to make things such as paper and wood.

Insects: Insects often are needed pollinate plants so that more plants can grow. Many fish, birds, and other animals eat insects.

Animals: Some animals eat plants, some animals eat insects, and some animals eat other animals. This allows for balance, so that there is not so many of one kind of creature that there is not enough food for it. Animals also fertilize the soil with their waste, helping plants grow. Animals put out carbon dioxide when they breathe, which plants make into oxygen. Many humans use animals to provide meat and dairy to eat and drink. Humans may also use animals to make products such as leather and wool.

Birds: Like other animals, birds help keep the balance of nature. Most birds feed on plants or insects, while others eat smaller animals. Many animals, including humans, use the meat and eggs of birds for food. A very important part that birds play in the chain of life is eating and scattering seeds so that new plants can grow.

Humans: Humans need plants and animals for sources of food, clothing, and shelter. Humans differ greatly from other animals because their brains make them the most complex living creature yet known. Because of the brain, humans can reason, letting them unlock many secrets of the universe.

Humans have more knowledge about the balance of the chain of life because they have studied and learned about each link of the chain. Working together, humans have the greatest power to make good decisions to help keep this important balance so that life on Earth can continue.

Bacteria: Bacteria are tiny, but very important. Bacteria helps break down organisms such as waste or dead creatures so that they are made into chemicals that are necessary for new life to begin.

Everything on Earth has a certain job to do. Every living thing on Earth fits together like a chain. What happens if one part of the chain of life is destroyed?

Hold completed chain above the heads. You may sing "He's Got the Whole World In His Hands."