

Mason Center for Team and Organizational Learning

THE EDGE

energize . develop . grow . excel



PITCH
in on the
PIEDMONT



Preserve the environment for the enjoyment of others.

PITCH in on the PIEDMONT is . . .

The EDGE's project to mulch all of the trails and elements, both in the Spring and Late Summer/Early Fall.



You cannot mulch too frequently.

WHAT IS MULCH?

- Mulch is simply a **protective** layer of a material spread on top of the soil.
- The mulch used at The **EDGE** is coarse, woody, **recycled** debris acquired free of charge from both Fairfax and Prince William Counties.
- Mulching is one of the simplest and **most beneficial** practices you can use to protect the land.



Wheelbarrow



Helps transport the mulch from one place to another

EQUIPMENT

Pitchfork



Helps lift mulch from the piles

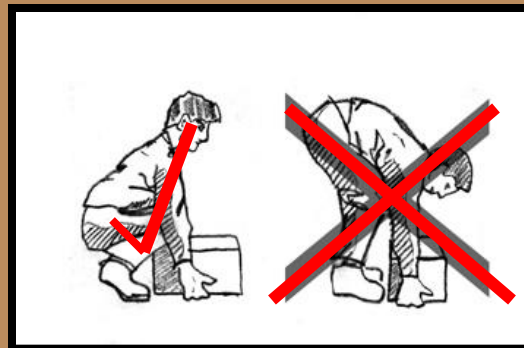
Rake



Helps smooth out the mulch on the ground

EQUIPMENT SAFETY

- Use rakes, wheelbarrows and pitchforks as instructed.
- When moving objects in an area to be mulched, don't lift objects that are too heavy for you.
 - Position your feet about shoulder width apart
 - Bend at your knees to lift, instead of bending at your back



PROJECT GOALS



- Safeguards the Chesapeake Bay Watershed
- Improves **safety** by cushioning trails and areas surrounding challenge course elements
- **Saves** The **EDGE** thousands of dollars in labor costs; thus supporting our continuing effort to offer reasonably priced educational programs

What are YOUR Goals?

-

-

-

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Environmental
Outcomes

Helps damaged, degraded land

Warms soil in winter;
Cools soil in summer

Protects the soil from erosion

Reduces impact of heavy rain and foot traffic

Preserves the trees

Conserves moisture = less frequent watering

Improves soil fertility

Inhibits certain plant diseases

Prevents weed growth



Supports Leave No Trace

By staying on the trail and maintaining it, we achieve these LNT principles:

Plan ahead and prepare - Minimize damage to the environment by planning ahead and organizing many small groups to maintain different areas rather than one large group

Travel and camp on durable surfaces - Create a surface with mulch and minimize damage to the ground and soils

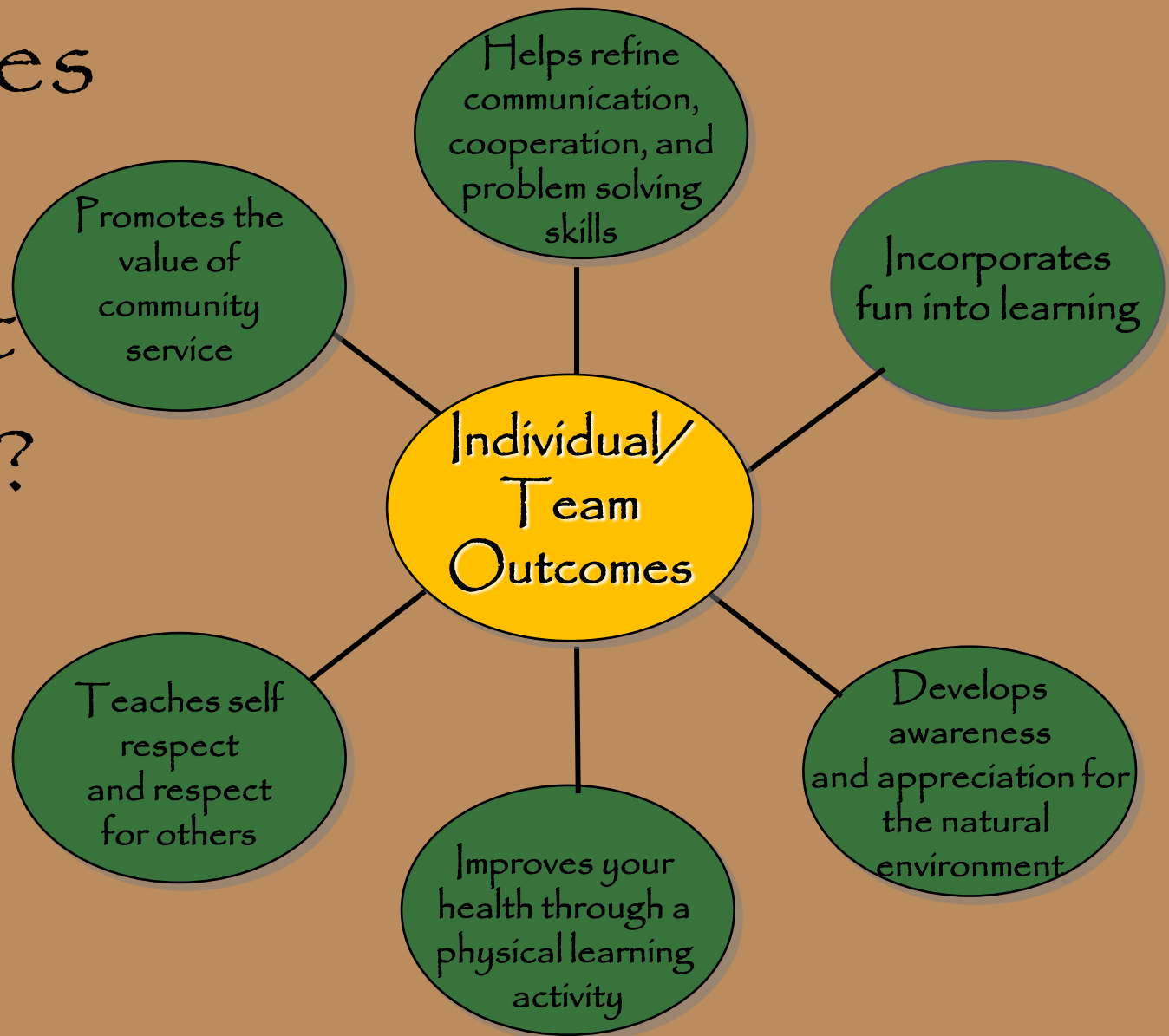
Leave what you find - Avoid disturbing more area than is already disturbed and managed

Respect Wildlife - Minimize our disturbance of wildlife to only one area

Dispose of waste properly & Be considerate of other visitors - By cleaning up properly, using restrooms, and restoring the trail for future visitors both principles are achieved

How does this benefit YOU?

Adults and youth
of the community
“make a difference”
when they
participate in the
hands-on project
that protects and
supports life.



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

*Fill in the blanks

Compost ingredients:

Fill in the missing vowels.

A c__ff__
gr__nds)

B gr__ss
cl__pp__ngs

C f__d scr__ps

D d__c__y__ng
l__v__s

E v__gg__
p__ls

F ggsh__lls

*Experiment

How thick should a mulch layer be? See for yourself!

First, choose two plants growing in your garden, yard, schoolyard, or nearby park. Then...

1. Put 1 inch of mulch around the base of plant #1.
2. Put 3 inches of mulch around plant #2.
3. Check in one month.

I predict _____

This is what happened: _____

What I want to know now: _____

*Experiment

Go on a Mulch Hunt!

How many places can you find mulch around plants?

- Gardens At home Parks
 Schoolyard Neighbor's yard Boulevards

Place	Kind of mulch	Any Weeds?	
		Yes	No

EDUCATOR RESOURCES

WEBSITES

- Mulch outcomes, materials, and other information regarding mulching
www.nrcs.usda.gov/Feature/backyard/mulching.html
- Activities for children: Word games, and activities that they could do at home
www.epa.gov/pesticides/kids/pestpatrol/pest_patrol_21.pdf#search=%22kids%20mulching%22
- Online mulch guide: Includes articles, books, and more information about mulch and applying it
mulch-guide.blogspot.com/
- Basic information about mulch
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mulch
- Mulch experiment and writing activity for older children
www.education-world.com/a_tsl/archives/00-2/lesson0008.shtml
- Experiment for grades 2-5. Shows the importance of mulch and crop cover to protect against erosion
www.agclassroom.org/teacher/pdf/prairie/2_5/4_losingGround.pdf#search=%22Mulch%20information%20teacher%22
- Fun activities to help continue general environmental education
allaboutfrogs.org/info/teach/learning.html
- Leave No Trace
www.lnt.org

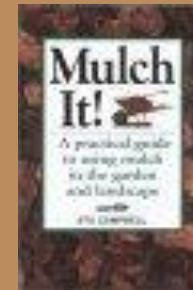
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

BOOKS

- Campbell, Stu. 'The Mulch Book'



- Campbell, Stu. 'Mulch It'





Thank you
HOME DEPOT
for providing
wheelbarrows, rakes,
and pitchforks to
make our project a
success!

Our 'PITCH in on the
PIEDMONT' Sponsor



SCHEDULE A PROGRAM & A TIME TO VOLUNTEER

Available for youth grades 7-12, scouts and adults

DATE

(Link to) Registration Form



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