

# STOP THE BEETLE: NOW!

## Leader's Folio

For Summer Camps, Scouts, and  
Environmental Education Organizations  
Working with Youth Ages 8 – 12

### Help USDA Stop the Emerald Ash Borer Beetle (EAB)

- ✓ Educate campers, scouts, and students about ash trees, EAB and not moving firewood.
- ✓ Encourage them to spread the word to families, friends, and neighbors.
- ✓ Be a role model. Never move firewood; burn it where you buy it.

Follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/hungrypests](http://www.facebook.com/hungrypests)

Learn more about the EAB and how to stop its spread at [www.HungryPests.com](http://www.HungryPests.com).

### Tools at a Glance

The Great EAB Escapade  
Outdoor Activity

EAB Investigator  
do-it-yourself origami

Background Information  
for you to share/post

More Activity Ideas  
on the back cover!



### Look Online!

Don't miss the online components at  
[www.HungryPests.com](http://www.HungryPests.com):

- "The Nature Walk" animated video, exploring the EAB lifecycle
- Printable activities and games
- The EAB Memory Game
- Flickr, Twitter, and Facebook links
- Infestation signs and symptoms
- How to report an EAB sighting
- TV and radio commercials



Thank you for joining our  
campaign to **STOP THE BEETLE: NOW!**

# STOP THE BEETLE: NOW!

The EAB is an invasive beetle that is destroying our ash trees. Since it first appeared in Michigan, the EAB has killed tens of millions of trees in the United States. But together, we can work to protect our precious ash trees.

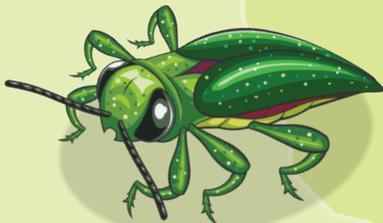


## Look for Ash Trees

- Stems have 5 to 11 leaflets each
- Branches are directly across from each other, not staggered like other trees.
- Young: Smooth bark
- Mature: tight, diamond shape bark

## Nature Can't Defend Against EAB

Because the EAB isn't native to the U.S., our ash trees don't have any defenses against this invasive insect. Woodpeckers eat the larvae ... but there are no natural predators that specifically target EAB to control populations.



## We ♥ Ash Trees

Let's protect our ash trees! Their loss may mean...

- a risk to public safety caused by dead or dying ash trees.
- decreased property values.
- increased electricity use during hot weather.
- cultural losses – like for Native Americans, who use ash for traditional crafts and ceremonies.
- economic losses in the forestry and tourism industries.
- Fewer Beautiful Trees!

## How the EAB Kills Ash Trees

- Female EAB lays eggs on ash tree bark
- Eggs hatch and larvae tunnel into the tree
- The larvae make s-shaped tunnels as they feed, disrupting the systems that transport food and water to the tree
- Eventually, the tree dies.



If an infested tree is cut for firewood and the firewood is moved to a new location, the beetle essentially relocates to a new home. When that happens, more trees and forests are now at risk.

**WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE CAN HURT . . . YOUR ASH TREES.**



## EAB: Where It's From

The EAB is native to Asia. No one knows exactly how it got to the U.S., but we believe that it "hitched a ride" in wood packing materials used to ship products. The EAB was first detected in ash trees in Michigan in 2002. Now ash trees in other States are also infested. Find out if your State has detected EAB, go to <http://www.hungrypests.com/the-spread/>



The EAB has the potential to infest trees in other states—if we keep helping it move.

## Did You Know? Ash wood is used to make...

- baseball bats
- boat oars
- flooring and furniture
- guitars
- hockey sticks
- tool handles



## Ash Trees Are Important to Us All

Ash trees are important to our environment and our economy. They ...

- Fill gaps in the forest and provide shade for the forest floor.
- Colonize and stabilize disturbed areas.
- Out-compete weeds that prevent most other species from becoming established.
- Beautify communities by thriving in difficult conditions, like urban areas.



## Support Purple Traps

In the spring and summer months, you may see triangular purple traps in areas with ash trees.

- USDA uses these structures to survey for the presence of the EAB.
- The traps are coated with glue to capture EABs; however, they pose no risk to humans or pets.
- If you see them, don't disturb them.



**Help Protect Our Ash Trees!  
Don't Move Firewood.  
Burn it where you buy it.**

# Protect Our Trees from the EAB

## Creative Activity Ideas

Leaders, use these activity ideas to inspire your campers and kids to help spread the message to

**STOP THE BEETLE: NOW!**

**Time Needed:** 1 hour per activity

**Process:** Children work in teams of two to four. You may choose to have all groups do the same activity, or invite each group to select their own.

**Materials:** creativity, imagination, pens, paper, pencils, markers, poster-board, and other art supplies



Depending on the time you have available, "Bonus" extension ideas offer additional creative options/outreach for each activity. Consider a camp-wide EAB event, fair or competition to showcase activity results!

### Develop an Ad Campaign

Brainstorm a cool way to share the message about the EAB with family and friends. If you were in charge, what kind of ads would you have? Where would they be displayed? Would there be a logo? A slogan? A jingle? A text message? Use your imagination and your team's varied skills to plot out your campaign strategy.

**BONUS**



Develop and share your ad campaign.

### Compose a Short Story

Storytelling is a powerful way to get a message across! Work together to compose a short story about the EAB. The storyline can be factual, such as what EAB looks like ... or fictional, like a story about a family of ash trees that receive unwanted guests. Include a call-to-action to **Stop the Beetle: Now!**

**BONUS**



Read your story aloud to the whole camp at lunchtime.

### Design a Poster

Use your artistic abilities to draw, paint, or design a poster or collage to tell people about the EAB and how to stop it. Add an action message, and share what the beetle looks like ... the purple traps to catch it ... or the damage it can do to ash trees.

**BONUS**



Mount a Poster Exhibit in the dining area, cabins or building office.

### Act it Out

Be a star! Do you love to act? Create a skit with your team and act it out for the other groups. Be dramatic or humorous and remember to have fun with it. How can your short skit teach others about EAB?

**BONUS**



Perform skits for other campers/groups or on Family Day!

### Write a Song or Rap

Do you have a great voice, or just love to sing? Work with a partner to write an original song, rap or jingle about protecting our ash trees from the EAB. Putting words together with a tune is fun. "Small, metallic, and emerald green, this little bug might never be seen."

**BONUS**



Stage a performance or conduct a sing-along.

### Create a Comic Book

Tell the story of the EAB in your own graphic novel! What's the storyline? Who are the characters? What is the setting? Experiment with cutting pages into individual scenes and making a flip book that shows the EAB and the damage it can do to ash trees.

**BONUS**



Use a cell phone or digital camera to "film" your flip book by creating a themed "slide show" or photo gallery of your pages.

Share Your  
**STOP THE BEETLE: NOW!**  
Strategies on Facebook

You're encouraged to share your campers'/kids' ideas and creative solutions by posting a comment at [www.facebook.com/hungrypests](http://www.facebook.com/hungrypests). You'll be helping to inspire others to stop the EAB in its tracks.  
*Child Privacy Note: Be sure not to post names, photos or videos of your campers/kids.*