



**KEEP
ARKANSAS
BEAUTIFUL**

SERVICE-LEARNING SHORT-TERM PROJECT

Grades 9 - 12

Microplastic Awareness Workshop

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Students design and host an educational workshop to teach peers or community members how microplastics enter the environment and how daily behaviors contribute to the problem.

PURPOSE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

This project turns scientific research into public education. By translating complex environmental issues into accessible messaging, students help reduce pollution at the source while empowering their community to make informed choices.

STUDENT LEARNING BENEFITS

- Strengthens science communication skills
- Builds understanding of pollution pathways
- Encourages behavior change through education
- Connects classroom science to real-world action

ESTIMATED TIME COMMITMENT

5–8 service hours over 1 week

PROJECT STEPS

1. **Research** microplastic sources and impacts
2. **Design** an educational presentation or activity
3. **Create** supporting materials (flyers, visuals)
4. **Host** the workshop for a target audience
5. **Collect** feedback and reflect on impact

DELIVERABLES

- Workshop presentation
- Educational materials
- Participation summary and reflection

STUDENT ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

Criteria	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Needs Improvement
Project Preparation & Planning	Thorough planning; clear organization and initiative	Adequate planning and organization	Limited planning or unclear organization
Execution & Accuracy	Tasks completed accurately and completely	Tasks completed with minor errors	Incomplete or inaccurate work
Data & Documentation	Detailed, well-organized documentation	Complete documentation	Incomplete or unclear documentation
Community Impact & Insight	Strong understanding of purpose and community benefit	Clear understanding of project purpose	Limited connection to community impact
Reflection & Effort	Thoughtful, insightful reflection; high engagement	Complete reflection; consistent effort	Minimal reflection or effort