



**KEEP
ARKANSAS
BEAUTIFUL**

SERVICE-LEARNING SHORT-TERM PROJECT

Grades 9 - 12

Invasive Species Identification & Removal Event

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Students partner with local experts to identify and remove invasive plant species that threaten native habitats. Through hands-on conservation work, students support ecosystem restoration while learning species identification and stewardship.

PURPOSE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

Invasive species reduce biodiversity, alter soil and water systems, and crowd out native plants. This project contributes direct labor to restoration efforts while educating students on how invasive species impact Arkansas ecosystems and why active management is necessary.

STUDENT LEARNING BENEFITS

- Develops ecological literacy and species identification skills
- Supports habitat restoration and biodiversity
- Encourages teamwork and environmental responsibility
- Connects students with conservation professionals

ESTIMATED TIME COMMITMENT

4-8 service hours (single-day or short multi-day event)

PROJECT STEPS

1. **Learn** to identify priority invasive species in the project area
2. **Receive** safety and removal training from a qualified supervisor
3. **Participate** in invasive species removal event
4. **Document** before-and-after site conditions
5. **Complete** reflection on ecological impact

DELIVERABLES

- Species identification or removal log
- Before-and-after photos
- Reflection or summary of impact

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