

## November 1, 2023 is National Stress Awareness Day Use your senses to cope with stress

## Choosing healthy, positive ways of coping doesn't have to be a challenge. Let your senses do the work.

- SEE: Distractions can be good. Find something interesting to look at. Step outside and focus on the first tree you see. Create a space in your home that gives you joy.
- **HEAR:** Listen to calming music. Find an inspiring podcast or audiobook. Say positive statements to yourself as a verbal form of self-encouragement.
  - **FEEL:** Your skin is a powerful tool in your ability to relax, unwind and find relief. Wrap yourself in a soft blanket. Stretch your muscles or get a massage.
  - **SMELL:** Aromatherapy can be comforting. Use your favorite lotion, perfume or cologne. Light a scented candle. Step outside and take a deep breath of fresh air.
  - **TASTE:** Food can affect your mood, and hunger can lead to irritability. Rather than turning to junk food, try sucking on hard candy or sipping herbal tea.

## Visit your member website for more information.

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