

Beavers My Adventure Challenge Award

Take Part In **Six** Other Outside Activities

Follow a Trail®

By Samantha Eagle

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My Adventure Challenge Award

Take Part In **Six** Other Outside Activities

Follow a Trail[©]

Overview

For this task the children will use tracking signs to follow a trail that you set.

Preparation Before The Meeting

1. Before you can set a route for the children to follow you need to be familiar with Tracking Signs. If you have been in Scouting for a while you may already know these if not I've included on the following page explanations of what the main Tracking Signs mean
2. Now you need to an area outside preferably a wood. **Collect** lots of twigs and stones the week before. You could get the children to collect these for you
3. Use pen and paper to plan your route(s) the week before, this will make it quicker on the night to set the **trail**. If you have a large group create two trails quite close to each other maybe leading to the same end then assign a leader to each group – I have given you an example trail at the end of this document
4. Print out the **Tracking Signs** in this document for the children – there are four on the page you need one between two
5. Have a little **treasure** ready at the end of the trail, this could be a bag with some chocolate coins in

Materials Needed

- Materials to lay your trail
- Little treasure for each trail

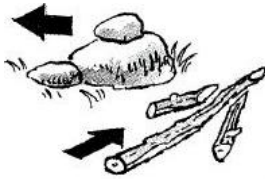
Preparation At The Meeting

1. Use your pre written route so lay your trail before the children arrive

Directions/Leader Speak

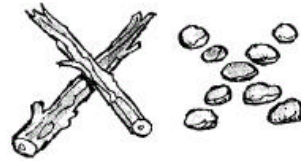
1. **Speak** - The activity we are going to do now for our 'My Adventure Challenge Award' is to follow a trail. I have laid a trail using what we call 'Tracking Signs'. Tracking signs are a method you can use to get someone to follow a route. At the end of the route there maybe some treasure!
2. **Action** – Hand out the tracking signs handout to each pair of children
3. **Speak** - This handout gives you some of the commons signs that you might see. Go through and read each one, ending with 'Gone Home'. Explain that when we see this one we may find the treasure and it also means that we have to finish and trek back to base
4. **Action** - Split your group up and assign a leader
5. **Speak** - Now I want everyone to stay together and with your leader while we find the tracking signs. Noone must run off. Look at the pictures on your handout to see if you can find something that looks like what you have on there
6. **Action** - Set off and try to get the kids to recognise some of the signs on their handout

THIS WAY



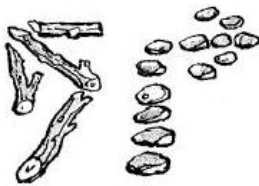
The easiest materials to use for this sign are twigs, although you can use Stones or Long Grass (tying it in a knot and bending it into the direction of travel).

NOT THIS WAY



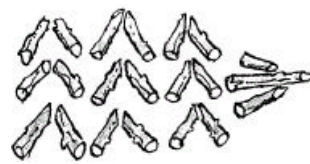
A simple cross tells people to not follow that direction or to warn them of a dangerous area. Make sure the cross is clearly marked and can be easily seen.

TURN LEFT OR RIGHT



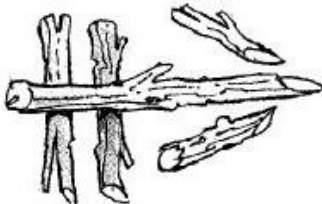
Make sure you have a clear bend in your arrow.

WATER IN THIS DIRECTION



You must have a nice clear arrow showing which way the water is. Include at least three lines of waves so it is clear what the sign is supposed to be.

THIS WAY OVER OBSTACLE



Again, make sure the arrow is clearly marked and the direction of the trail is obvious.

PARTY SPLIT UP



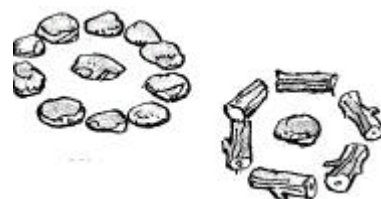
This sign will tell people following the trail that the group has split up. At the top of each arrowhead notice that the twigs represent how many people went in each direction

MESSAGE THIS WAY



This sign will point the way to a hidden message. Mark out a box and place an arrow pointing in the direction of the message. Inside the box you mark how many paces (normal walking steps) you must walk in that direction to find the message.

GONE HOME



This is a very important sign. This should always be the last sign you place as it signals that the trail has finished and you have to return home. It is a simple circle with a single marker in the centre. Once you see this sign you have finished!

 Water In This Direction	 Turn Left or Right	 This Way	 Not This Way
 This Way Over Obstacle	 Party Split Up	 Message This Way	 Gone Home

 Water In This Direction	 Turn Left or Right	 This Way	 Not This Way
 This Way Over Obstacle	 Party Split Up	 Message This Way	 Gone Home

 Water In This Direction	 Turn Left or Right	 This Way	 Not This Way
 This Way Over Obstacle	 Party Split Up	 Message This Way	 Gone Home

 Water In This Direction	 Turn Left or Right	 This Way	 Not This Way
 This Way Over Obstacle	 Party Split Up	 Message This Way	 Gone Home

Example Trail

