



# Communications

*Outdoor Skills – Elective Step 10*

## Purpose

The purpose of “**Communications/Signaling**” is to learn that there are many ways that we can communicate with others and the world through simple technology around us.




1. What types of communication devices have been used in the past?
2. What were these devices used for?
3. What types of messages can these devices communicate?
4. What communication devices could you use in the outdoors?
5. What devices can be crafted from possible nearby materials?

## Notes to the Trail Guide //////////////////////////////////////

1. The goal is not for the boys to be experts on these topics but to gain an increased knowledge and awareness of the Step.
2. Make it relative to your patrol.
3. Remember, these lessons should build from Fox to Hawk and from Hawk to Mountain Lion.
4. See the Leaders Guide for more information on Steps.

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## Skill Progression

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Picture matching</li><li>2. Identification Game</li><li>3. Nomenclature</li><li>4. Learn basic help/SOS methods</li></ol>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Use a basic communication method</li><li>2. Encode a message using a method</li></ol>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Transmit a message using a simple method</li><li>2. Attempt to communicate instruction using a chosen method</li></ol>

# Helps

1. What types of communication devices have been used in the past?
  - a. **Goal:** To understand that many types of communication devices have been and are still being used to this day.
  - b. **Lesson:** Learn to recognize a few devices.
  - c. **Examples:**
    - i. Smoke Signals
    - ii. Marine Flag
    - iii. Telegraph
2. What were these devices used for?
  - a. **Goal:** To understand communication was sometimes the key to changing the outcome of an event.
  - b. **Lesson:** Learn what a how one of these devices was used.
  - c. **Examples**
    - i. Smoke Signals: Used to warn others of danger.
    - ii. Marine Flags: Used by boats to communicate short messages.
    - iii. Telegraph: Used by towns and cities to communicate short messages.
3. What types of messages can these devices communicate?
  - a. **Goal:** To understand that communication comes in many different forms.
  - b. **Lesson:** Learn a different way to communicate a message.
  - c. **Examples:**
    - i. Smoke Signals use smoke.
    - ii. Marine flags rely on visual differences between flags.
    - iii. Telegraph used electrical impulses that were interpreted through sound into Morse code (dits and dahs, or dots and dashes).
4. What communication devices could you use in the outdoors?
  - a. **Goal:** To understand that there are some simple communication devices that can be used while camping or hiking.
  - b. **Lesson:** Learn a new way to communicate other than just talking or yelling.
  - c. **Examples:**
    - i. Light: Signal mirror, fire, and flashlight
    - ii. Smoke: Fire
    - iii. Noise: Horn or whistle
    - iv. Signs: Words in dirt or sticks forming letters
5. What devices can be crafted from possible nearby materials?
  - a. **Goal:** To understand that sometimes nature can provide a means to communicate.
  - b. **Lesson:** Learn a simple technique to communicate when outdoors.
  - c. **Examples:**
    - i. Make an improvised mirror.

- ii. Make something that can produce a distinct and loud sound.

## Scripture Ideas

### James 1:19

- Fox – Listen before you speak.
- Hawk – Take time to listen and think about what you should say.
- Mt Lion – Do not let anger make you say something hurtful.

### Colossians 4:6

- Fox – Speak kindly to others.
- Hawk – Kind words are far better than hurtful words.
- Mt Lion – Learn how to find the good in others and let them know.

## Activity Ideas

- See the relevant patrol and branch section of the activities
- Or, create your own activity relevant to your troop and region

## Game Ideas

- Check the games section online for game ideas
- Or, create a game that works for your patrol

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