



# Tracking

*Outdoor Skills – Elective Step 9*

## Purpose

The purpose of 'Tracking' is to learn how small and unnoticed evidence can tell us so much about our surroundings.




1. What is tracking?
2. How is tracking used?
3. What benefits are there to learning tracking when camping/hiking?
4. What is transference?
5. What animal prints can you learn to identify?

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

1. The goal is not for the boys to be experts at 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.

////////////////////////////////////

## Skill Progression

|  |  |
|--|--|
|   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Picture matching</li><li>2. Identification Game</li><li>3. Nomenclature</li><li>4. Simple animal prints</li></ol> |
|   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Identify animal trails</li><li>2. Identify basic prints</li><li>3. Recognize basic animal signs</li></ol>         |
|  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Follow an animal trail a short distance</li><li>2. Recognize transference, rubbing, or scat</li></ol>             |

# Helps

1. What is tracking?
  - a. **Goal:** To understand what tracking is.
  - b. **Lesson:** Learn some ideas and what tracking is.
  - c. **Examples:**
    - i. Identifying signs left by animals or people that have moved through an area.
2. How is tracking used?
  - a. **Goal:** To understand how tracking is used.
  - b. **Lesson:** Learn a few simple ways in which tracking has been used.
  - c. **Examples**
    - i. Hunting: Finding where animals have been and are going.
    - ii. Search and rescue: Finding lost people.
3. What benefits are there to learning tracking when camping/hiking?
  - a. **Goal:** To understand that certain tracking techniques can be used while camping or hiking.
  - b. **Lesson:** Learn some ways in which tracking can help on outdoor trips.
  - c. **Examples:**
    - i. Picking a safe camping area from large animals.
    - ii. Avoiding dangerous terrain.
4. What is transference?
  - a. **Goal:** To understand what transference is and what benefits it can provide.
  - b. **Lesson:** Learn some basic transference techniques.
  - c. **Examples:**
    - i. Water splash.
    - ii. Mud splash.
    - iii. Broken plants and branches (disturbance).
    - iv. Scat/animal waste.
5. What animal prints can you learn to identify?
  - a. **Goal:** To understand how to identify animal signs.
  - b. **Lesson:** Learn a few techniques to identify animal prints in your area.
  - c. **Examples:**
    - i. Dog
    - ii. Deer
    - iii. Human
    - iv. Pig
    - v. Bird
    - vi. Bear

## Scripture Ideas

### Job 12:7-10

- Fox – God has provided so much for us to learn from.
- Hawk – Every living thing provides an opportunity to learn and grow.
- Mt Lion – God provided a vast world for us to explore His amazing creation.

### Genesis 1:24

- Fox – God created all living things and they are vastly diverse.
- Hawk – God created all living things and they are vastly diverse.
- Mt Lion – God created all living things and they are vastly diverse.

## Activity Ideas

- See the relevant patrol and branch section of the activities
- Or, create your own activity relevant to your troop and region
- **Have boys “track” someone/something** across the church property. Use obvious “signs”. Signs may include: broken branch, bandana, torn cloth, water bottle, foot print, hat, or trash.
- Matching game with tracks.

## Game Ideas

- Check the games section online for game ideas
- Or, create a game that works for your patrol
- A couple of ideas are listed below

*Copyright © 2017 by Trail Life USA. All rights reserved.*