



Exploring 4-H at Home

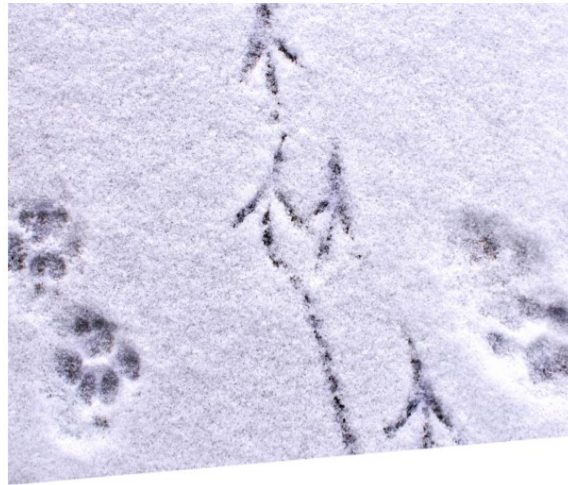


Sustainable Agriculture
and Food Security

Pillar: Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security

Project: Animal Tracking

Activity: Tracking Trek



CANADA
4-H Saskatchewan

Animal Tracking

Reference
Guide

Tracking Trek

Key Concepts

- Access to the outdoors is needed. You don't have to have a National Park in your backyard! Your backyard will do just fine! A park, pasture, schoolyard, river valley or forest will all work great
- Paper maps are handy for long treks and unknown terrain, google maps does not always know the way!
- The reference used in the Animal Tracking project, is Animal Tracks of Saskatchewan by Lone Pine Publishing as their field guide. You do not need to purchase this, but having a tracks book or app would be useful!

Information

- Always know where you are headed and consider your return route. Trail markers that might be obvious from one direction might not be from the other direction.
- Ask permission before you go to anyone's land. It is respectful and they can let you know of any dangers.
- Leave no trace except for your footprints.
- Always tell an adult where you are going, what direction you are headed and when you will be back.
- Don't touch scat or dead animals with your bare hands.
- Pack and prepare for anything.

Planning your Trek

- Brainstorm where you might go
- Use the trek plan below to come up with ideas for animal tracking in your area.
- Ask your guardians where you are able to go
- Back your bag with what you need for your trek (see worksheet below)
- Have fun!

Getting Packed Worksheet

You are going on an adventure to track wildlife. Before you head out to look for signs you need to pack. Your adventure is _____ (location/time of year/for how long). Already in your tracking kit you have plaster casting materials, a map of the area and your wildlife observation notebook. Which six other things would you pack with you? Circle them and then write in the space below why you chose them.

- Snow shoes
- Flashlight
- Personal medication/medical supplies
- Water
- Warm food
- Bear bang-er
- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Compass
- Camera
- GPS
- Sunglasses
- Mittens/toque
- Rope
- Cell phone
- Brush
- Tweezers
- Cool drink
- Mosquito spray
- Scat book
- Chocolate bar
- Running shoes
- Towel
- Ziplock bags
- Timer
- Flagging tape
- Shorts



I would take these things because:

Activity 1

Tracking Trek



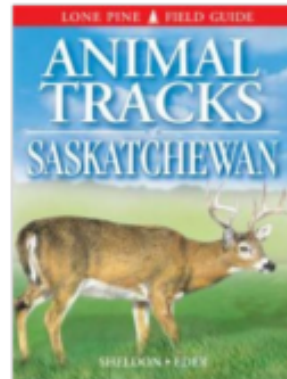
Time Estimate: ½ hour to full day or overnight trips. Your club should go on as many treks as possible as you go through the project.

About

You will practice your skills of observation, finding wildlife signs, and tracking. By setting out on many treks throughout the 4-H year you will improve your skills and fill your wildlife observation notebook with many adventures.

Materials

- Outdoor location (It is good to use a variety of locations over the year but also return to the same familiar locations over and over again)
- Track pack (packed appropriately for the outing)
- Animal Tracks of Saskatchewan guide
- Copy of any activities from the GuideMap of the area
- Appropriate number of helpers or leaders to supervise
- Track stick (for stage that you are in the project)
- Wildlife observation notebook



Instructions

1. Either the leader or the members can plan the trip. The first few trips the leader may want to plan and have you plan trips after that.
2. Ask permission for using private lands.
3. Pull up a map of the area where you want to track and figure out where you should start looking for wildlife.
4. Ensure you have the appropriate clearance for tracking treks from your parents or guardians.
5. Plan a trek far enough in advance that you can pack accordingly and dress appropriately. The first couple of tracking treks your leader can help remind you what you need to have in your tracking pack and how to dress.
6. Plan the trip so there is enough time for finding a cool track and following it. Allow for unexpected delays and/or longer travel times.
7. Jot down your thoughts in your wildlife observation notebook as you go.

Discussion/Questions

Question and explore! Let your questions lead you to explore more!