

Sample Wildlife Program



Theme: There is a web of life that connects all the lives of the wild things that live here on OSMP; animals are just a part of that.

Introduction: Welcome to OSMP where the wild things live. Through today's hike we're going to explore the lives of the wild animals that live here. Any guesses as to who we might find here? (field answers appropriately)

"Who Am I?" Activity: introduces the animals that you'll discuss during the hike

Start the hike

Stop: Habitats:

Ask them what it is that they need to survive there?

Elicit the basics of habitat requirements: food, water, shelter, space and air, and relate them back to the "web of life" concept in the theme.

Stop: Habitat activity: Either Habitat Cookie, Bicycle or Pillow case

Stop: "Who Am I?" discussion: carnivore, herbivore, omnivore

Allow each person to name their animal and ask them what they think their animal eats.

Show the "web of life" connections between who eats whom.

Stop: Discussion explores the importance of plants to all wild animals

Possible Activity: Sun Energy Pulse, Sun Source Discussion, Bee puppet. Re-enforce the "web of life" theme by clarifying that plants harvest the solar energy that sustains the animals.

Stop: Emphasizes the connectedness of all life

Point to animals and ask them their relationship to one another.

Activity: Cougar – Deer – Plant –Spin off on Paper – Rock – Scissors, but with a nature twist.

Stop: Shelter: examine typical "shelter" found in a forest: snag, nest, animal fur, rocks, caves etc..

Stop: 1st Animal - Abert squirrels

Relationship to healthy forest, what they feed on, their lifestyle and their predators

Stop: 2nd Animal: Black Bear

Same as above plus: What do you do if you see a bear?

Stop: 3rd Animal: Mountain Lion

Same as above plus: What do you do if you see a lion?

Concluding Activity: Interview with Nature

Conclusion: We've learned a great deal about a small number of the wild animals that live here in OSMP and how they need each other and their habitat to survive. What are some of the things that surprised you or that you find the most interesting about their lives? (Do you have a favorite animal? Why? Etc.)

How can you help take care of it? "Leave No Trace" discussion appropriate for youngsters

- "Is it okay to pick a flower or take a pretty rock home?" No, because that flower may be someone's food and the rock may provide someone else with shelter.
- "What would happen if your dog chased a wild animal?" That causes an animal to burn precious calories and may even kill it or a baby it is carrying.
- "What happens if everyone walked off trail?"
- "Might a bear eat the plastic bag that held your sandwich if you left it behind? Would that be good for the bear?"
- "Would it be okay to bring a pretty rock home?" No, that might be an insect's shelter from the rain.

Remember the web of life. Everything you find here is part of the web, is part of the home these animals and plants live in. It's our responsibility to leave it all here for them.