



TRAIL LIFE USA™

**WOODLANDS TRAIL
LEADERS GUIDE**



WOODLANDS TRAIL LEADERS GUIDE

The Woodlands Trail
Development Team

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WORTHY
TRAILMAN
PRESS

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First edition.

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the children of the world,
in whose freshness and innocence we see replayed,
on a small scale, God's creation of the world.

Welcome to the Woodlands Trail

Congratulations! You are about to embark upon an exciting new adventure. Trail Life USA combines outdoor experiences, leadership opportunities, and team adventures with a focus on biblical values, principles, and wisdom. The Woodlands Trail program is where the youngest participants begin their journey.

The Woodlands Trail program has been carefully constructed with several goals in mind. First, the program is designed to provide a curriculum-based youth development program focused on active cumulative learning rather than on earning the next uniform insignia or emblem. Success is not measured in the quantity of insignia but in the quality of the young man. Second, the program has been intentionally crafted to create a sense of belonging and familiarity among all Woodlands Trail program age groups. A young boy entering the program at the kindergarten level will understand common terms, customs, and awards that extend to his fifth grade year. Third, the program was developed to encourage multi-age groupings of boys. This allows the boys to have exposure to older youth who may encourage the younger boys. It also affords an opportunity to older youth in the program to learn about leadership of those younger than themselves. Finally, the program was written so that it may be easily administered by adult leaders in a variety of circumstances and geographic locations.

It is the fervent hope of both Trail Life USA and the Woodlands Trail Program Development Team that the fun and experiences of this program will create a desire within boys to complete the entire Trailman adventure, culminating with the Freedom Award and that through the entire experience, each boy will grow strong spiritually as well as physically and mentally.

Sincerely,

The Woodlands Trail Development Team

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ABOUT THIS GUIDEBOOK

This book is the main guide to implementation of the Woodlands Trail program. These materials are to be used in conjunction with the Woodlands Trail meeting plans that are provided separately.

The first printing of this guidebook is meant to be used by registered volunteers within Trail Life USA. Portions of the guidebook may be printed by registered volunteers for use by participants during meetings. Registered volunteers and/or participants in the Trail Life USA program are expressly allowed to make copies of any portion or this entire guidebook for the purpose of delivering the Woodlands Trail program.

The Woodlands Trail program provides a wide range of meeting plans and ideas; however, it is not meant to be the exclusive source of ideas for program delivery. Registered adult leaders, parents, and guardians should feel free to use other sources that might be unique to their home locale. Community assets such as museums, historic sites, battlegrounds, national parks, and local places of worship can add considerably to the Woodlands Trail experience. Unique local planning is specifically encouraged within the instructional areas of hobbies and science and technology.

Within each meeting plan there is a section called “Faith (Trail Guide Thoughts).” As part of the Woodlands Trail meeting framework, the Trail Guide Thoughts creates a tie-in between the meeting topic and the Holy Scriptures; therefore, successful delivery of the Woodlands Trail program as envisioned and created can only be accomplished with this guidebook in one hand and the inspired and authoritative Word of God in the other.

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SAFETY FIRST, LAST AND ALWAYS

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of everyone involved with Trail Life USA to ensure the safety of all program participants. This includes adult volunteers, parents and guardians, and the program participants themselves. For child-protection purposes, there will never be fewer than two registered adult leaders with the boys at any time at any location for any reason. There will also be a targeted ratio of registered adult volunteers to boys at all levels. The recommended ratio of registered adults to boys is:

1 to 4 for boys in grades K-1 1 to 8 for boys in grades 2-3 1 to 10 for boys in grades 4-5
--

Registered Volunteers

Registered volunteers at all levels must complete the Child Safety Youth Protection Training (CSYPT) course. CSYPT training must be renewed every two (2) years when reregistering for Trail Life USA. The responsibility for maintaining up-to-date CSYPT rests with the individual adult leader. Troop records of training will be maintained in the electronic Troop management system; these records shall be open for inspection by any adult leader.

Trail Life USA maintains a zero-tolerance policy for violation of child safety standards. Any failure on the part of local Troops or patrols to follow child safety standards shall be immediately addressed at the regional or national level. An adult leader who allows his or her registration or CSYPT to lapse may not participate in the program until their training is renewed.

Parents/Guardians and Program Participants

Parents or guardians should be shown verification that their child's adult leader has received current child safety training at the first meeting of each patrol during the program year. Parents and guardians should understand their own role in child safety and support Rangers, Trail Guides, or other registered volunteers in the implementation of safety standards and procedures.

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VISION, MISSION, and MOTTO

Vision

Our vision is to be the premier national character development organization for young men which produces Godly and responsible husbands, fathers, and citizens.

The Trail Life USA program is open to all boys irrespective of race, religion, ethnicity, or national origin. While boys may come from every religious background, adult leaders in the program – from the National Executive Board to individual unit volunteers – will adhere to a standard Statement of Faith and Values.

The program and themes seek to teach practical life skills, an appreciation for the outdoors, service to others, leadership, and character development.

Mission

Our mission is simple and clear: to guide generations of courageous young men to honor God, lead with integrity, serve others, and experience outdoor adventure.

Motto

“Walk Worthy”

based on Colossians 1:10

—
“...that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God ...”

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STATEMENT OF FAITH AND VALUES

The Statement of Faith and Values is designed to affirm the need for those in leadership to follow biblical standards. Leaders are held to a higher standard than those who are not in leadership and must agree to the tenets contained in the Statement. All adults in leadership roles—whether staff or volunteer at any level—must agree to sign and adhere to the Statement of Faith. Youth members are not required to sign this statement.

Statement of Faith

We believe there is One Triune God – God the Father; Jesus Christ, His one and only Son; and the Holy Spirit – Creator of the universe and eternally existent. We believe the Holy Scriptures (Old and New Testaments) to be the inspired and authoritative Word of God. We believe each person is created in His image for the purpose of communing with and worshiping God. We believe in the ministry of the Holy Spirit, Who enables us to live godly lives. We believe each of us is called to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We believe God calls us to lives of purity, service, stewardship and integrity.

Statement of Values

Purity // God calls us to lives of holiness, being pure of heart, mind, word and deed. We are to reserve sexual activity for the sanctity of marriage, a lifelong commitment before God between a man and a woman.

Service // God calls us to become responsible members of our community and the world through selfless acts that contribute to the welfare of others.

Stewardship // God calls us to use our God-given time, talents, and money wisely.

Integrity // God calls us to live moral lives that demonstrate an inward motivation to do what is biblically right regardless of the cost.

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MEMBERSHIP STANDARDS

Membership in the program has both youth and adult elements.

Youth membership in the program is open to all who meet the membership requirements, and is currently designed for biologically male children under the age of 18.

The adult applicant must be at least 18 years of age and subscribe to and abide by the statement of Christian faith and the Oath and Creed of the program.

While the program is undergirded by Biblical values and unapologetically reflects a Christian worldview, there is also a clearly defined inclusion policy for youth. Accordingly, all boys are welcome irrespective of religion, race, national origin or socio-economic status. Our goal is for parents and families of every faith to be able to place their boys in a youth program that endeavors to provide moral consistency and ethical integrity in its adult leaders.

Charter partners own and operate local groups, selecting leaders and admitting members as they deem beneficial to their group and within the parameters of the national policy.

The basis for the program's ethical and moral standards is found in the Bible. In terms of sexual identification and behavior, we affirm that any sexual activity outside the context of the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman is sinful before God and therefore inconsistent with the values and principles of the program.

Within these limits, we grant membership to adults and youth who do not engage in or promote sexual immorality of any kind, or engage in behavior that would become a distraction to the mission of the program.

We welcome boys whose parents are seeking a faith-based outdoor adventure program that places an emphasis on character development, leadership, and moral purity, and who aspire to live in accordance with the values expressed in the program's Oath and Creed.

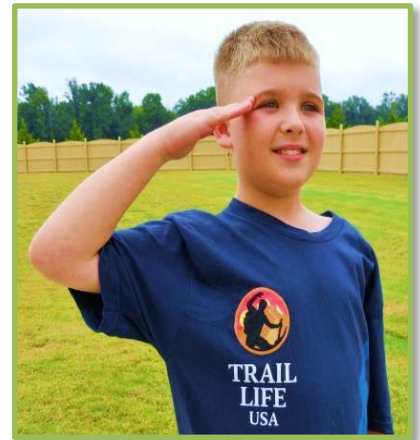
Trailman Oath

On my honor, I will do my best
To serve God and my country;
To respect authority;
To be a good steward of creation;
And to treat others as I want to be treated.

Trailman Salute

The Trailman salute is made by raising your right hand. The tip of your fingers should almost touch your right temple. If you wear glasses, the tip of your fingers should almost touch the frames of your glasses. If you are wearing a uniform hat, the tip of your fingers should touch the brim.

When you are in full Trailman uniform, you salute when the flag passes by you (including when posting the colors or retiring the flag), when the flag moves up a flagpole, and at appropriate times when directed to do so by adult volunteers.



Trailman Sign

The Trailman sign is made with the right hand held open, palm forward, raising your right arm with your elbow at a right angle.

The sign is used during reciting of the Trailman Oath. It is also used by the Troopmaster, Ranger, Trail Guides, or other Adult Leader to gain the attention of the Trailmen as needed.

Trailman Handshake

The Trailman Handshake is a wrist to wrist handshake.



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ORGANIZATION OF THE LOCALLY CHARTERED TROOP

Within the boundaries of the Trail Life USA nationally adopted beliefs and values, locally charter organizations are given some latitude to customize the organization of the locally chartered unit to fit the unique environment and circumstances of each charter organization. Local leadership is called upon to exercise wisdom and good judgment as they deliver program components to the youth being served.

Troop Structure

The locally chartered Troop is organized according to the following structure:

A **Troop** is the locally chartered organization, inclusive of all units.

Units are segments of Trail Life USA serving a specific age group of boys. These include Woodlands Trail, Navigators, and Adventurers.

Age Groups are found within a unit and are designations assigned to a boy based on his current age. For the Woodlands Trail Unit, age groups include Foxes, Hawks, and Mountain Lions.

A **Patrol** is a small grouping of Trailmen within the unit. For ease of reference, patrols may be given numeric designations. (i.e. Fox Patrol 1, Fox Patrol 2). Within the Woodlands Trail unit, patrols will be led by adult volunteers. In Navigators and Adventurers units, patrols will be led by boys within the program, with advice and support from adult volunteers. The program is designed for age groups to be separated; however, based on program participation and availability of adult volunteers, age groups may need to be merged into combination patrols. If so, the local Troop should make accommodations to allow each boy to complete his individual program.

Patrols in all units will be given a numerical designation. Fox and Hawk patrols would ideally number no more than ten boys. Mountain Lion patrols would ideally number no more than fifteen boys.

Below is a diagram of a Troop from the perspective of a Woodlands Trail unit participant:



Leadership within the Troop

Registered adult volunteers provide Troop-level leadership. Within the Woodlands Trail program, adult volunteers will lead patrols. As boys mature and move into the Navigators and Adventurers Programs, they will assume increasing levels of responsibility for leadership within their own patrols.

Various sized Troops will have varying levels of volunteer support. The local Troop has the responsibility of determining how adult volunteers may be best utilized. Adult volunteers leading patrols would ideally make a two-year commitment to lead their patrol. The Troopmaster and the heads of each unit would have only one job within the Troop. It is possible, however, to combine positions when necessary.

Troop Level Positions

In keeping with our emphasis on the value of male mentorship, the following positions are restricted to males: Troop Chaplain, Troopmaster, Ranger, Trailmaster, Advisors and all Trail Guides in the Navigators and Adventurers Units. The Charter Organization Representative is not restricted to males unless dual registering as the Troop Chaplain. Trail Guides in the Mountain Lion patrols are recommended to be males, but not restricted. All other positions may be held by females including Committee Chair, Treasurer, all other Committee Members, and Trail Guides in the Woodlands Unit.

TROOP COMMITTEE: CORE LEADERSHIP TEAM (Required Positions to Charter a Troop):

Charter Organization Representative (C.O.R.)—Appointed by the pastor/institutional head to serve as liaison between the Troop and the Charter Organization (also known as the “Charter Partner”), making sure that both recognize the other’s importance and roles as part of the same team. The C.O.R. serves as the Troop’s representative to (and may be appointed the organization’s voter on major decisions of) the national board. The C.O.R. may dual-register as Troop Chaplain. [This is the only position that may dual-register]

Committee Chair—Appointed by the C.O.R., he convenes and presides over Troop Committee meetings; appoints and supervises the Troop Committee (and additional adult leadership positions as needed); and indirectly oversees “direct contact leaders” (see below) through the Troopmaster.

Troopmaster—Oversees all direct contact leaders; understands all programmatic operations of the Troop; reports successes and systemic challenges faced by leaders and youth. The Troopmaster is coach of, and Troop Committee representative for, the Ranger, Trailmaster, and Advisor; and their Trail Guide assistants.

Troop Chaplain—Assures that the Troop emphasizes and stays true to its Christian mission (organizing prayer for meetings, services at campouts, etc.). He is qualified to give spiritual counseling and promotes the regular religious participation of each member.

Treasurer—Record keeper, maintaining accounts for all financial transactions. Regularly reports the financial status of the Troop. The Treasurer coordinates (and communicates to parents the process of) Troop budgeting. Understands and communicates approved Trail Life USA fundraising guidelines. Handles unit funds; pays bills; coordinates and supervises fundraising (any of these duties listed can—and should—be delegated to other volunteers but will still fall under the Treasurer’s supervision).

The Charter Organization is responsible for establishing proper checks and balances regarding the Troop’s finances and purchases.

DIRECT CONTACT LEADERS:

Ranger—A registered adult (age 21 or over) who oversees operation of the Woodlands Trail unit by providing direction, coaching, and support. As a servant leader, this position supports the Trail Guides in the unit. This position is responsible for overall program delivery of the Woodlands Trail program within the Troop. The position assists the

Troopmaster as necessary. If additional adults volunteer to assist in the oversight of the Woodlands Trail unit, they would be titled “Rangers,” and the leader of all Rangers would be titled “Senior Ranger.” This position is NOT a voting member of the Troop Committee but may be asked to attend Troop Committee meetings.

Trail Guides—are registered adults (age 18 or over) who assist the Ranger, Trailmaster, or Advisor in delivering the Troop program. Trail Guides are NOT formal members of the Committee. They do NOT attend Troop Committee meetings. This position is the “front line” of service to program participants. If more than one individual desires to assist patrols, they are all titled “Trail Guides”. There are no “Assistants.”

OTHER LEADERSHIP ROLES:

Troop Advancement Chair—Appointed by the Committee Chair to ensure that the unit has at least monthly boards of review, regular courts of honor, and that the unit is providing opportunity for timely advancement within the Trail Life USA model. The Advancement Chair is also responsible for record-keeping and submitting advancement reports.

Troop Outdoor/Activities Chair—Appointed by the Committee Chair to obtain permission to use camping sites, serves as transportation coordinator, and ensures a monthly outdoor program.

Troop Membership Chair—Appointed by the Committee Chair to help ensure regular recruiting of new members, provide a smooth transition of new Trailmen into the unit, and orientation for new parents.

Troop Training Chair—Appointed by the Committee Chair to ensure that training opportunities are available and maintain training records and materials; also responsible for ensuring current Child Safety Youth Protection Training for all registered leaders.

Troop Community Service Chair—Appointed by the Committee Chair to coordinate the annual community service program, recommended to include four Troop service projects per year.

Troop Secretary—Appointed by the Committee Chair to keep minutes and records, send notices to members, etc.

Troop Equipment Coordinator—Appointed by the Committee Chair to work with the youth Quartermaster and is responsible for inventory, storage, and maintenance of unit equipment.

Troop Public Relations Chair—Appointed by the Committee Chair to provide news and announcements about the unit to newspapers, websites, etc. May also be the Troop’s Webmaster (if desired). Promotes service projects. Promotes new membership and informs people in the town or neighborhood that Trail Life USA is available.

Troop Fundraising Chair—Appointed by the treasurer to organize and supervise fundraising events and ensure that every youth member has the opportunity, and tools needed, to participate.

Uniforms

There are three distinct levels of uniforms within Trail Life USA. Participants in the Woodlands Trail Unit should wear one of these three uniforms when participating in organized patrol or Troop events. All officially sanctioned uniforms are available at the online Trail Life USA store:

www.TrailLifeUSAstore.com

The Trail uniform shirt is the least formal of the three uniform selections. It consists of the forest green Woodlands Trail T-shirt and approved pants. As its name implies, this informal uniform is suitable for hiking, camping, service project or other outdoor event where comfort is key but Trailman identification is desired.



Woodlands Trail Unit
Trail Uniform



Woodlands Trail Unit
Travel Uniform

The Travel uniform is more formal than the Trail uniform and is an option suitable for Troop or patrol travel, certain meetings, or events where the full Troop uniform is not desired or would be impractical.

As of the date of this publication, the Troop uniform is still under development. The Troop uniform is scheduled to be unveiled in 2014. The Troop uniform is considered the most formal uniform and is designed to display Troop and other identifying information, as well as the rank and awards of the Trailman.

In addition to the Woodlands Trail unit trail and travel shirts depicted on these pages, Trailmen of all ages may wear official Trail Life USA headgear, belts, pants, or outerwear. Questions regarding the proper display of uniforms should be resolved by the Trail Guide, Ranger, or Troopmaster. Generally, Trailmen should not wear torn or otherwise defaced or altered uniforms and should be neat in appearance. The professional and uniform addition of Troop numbers on Trail and Travel uniforms by individual Troops is permitted. The fonts and colors used for such additions should match the existing lettering to the greatest extent possible.

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DELIVERING THE WOODLANDS TRAIL PROGRAM

Age Groups

Foxes:	Kindergarten and 5 years old by 10/31
Hawks:	2nd Grade and 7 years old by 10/31
Mountain Lions:	4th Grade and 9 years old by 10/31

Exceptions to the above participation requirements may be submitted in writing to the Troop Committee for final decision.

Advancement

Both age and school grade eligibility will be factors in placement and advancement.

Boys remain at their age group until completion of their current grade level within school. Therefore, a first grade boy who enters the program midway through his first grade year is a Fox and will be eligible to become a Hawk upon successful completion of the first grade. Within the Mountain Lion age group, boys entering during their fifth grade year will be eligible to advance to Navigator upon successful completion of the fifth grade.

As soon as boys complete the grade level for which they are currently eligible, assuming grade/age requirements are met, they may begin working on achievements for their next age group.

Awards

While the Woodlands Trail Program includes numerous awards such as Branch Awards and the Forest Badge, it should be specifically noted that acquiring awards is not the goal of the Woodlands Trail experience. The program provides a structure or framework to motivate boys to actively participate in a program designed to not only teach essential life skills, but also to teach them about eternal life possible through Jesus Christ.

Unlike other youth adventure programs, the Woodlands Trail Program grants basic credits, in the form of Leaves for participation. At the same time, the program recognizes that most boys do not control the circumstances that allow for their participation as an elementary-aged Trailman. For this reason, special allowance has been built into the program allowing Leaves to be credited to a new Trailman based on when he is able to join the program. The credit of Leaves to the Trailman allows the Trailman the opportunity to work hard and achieve the same awards as a boy who began the program earlier within his age group.

In this manner, the program provides a real-world example of the concept of grace. And, it proves that the object of the program is not the amount of patches one may accumulate, but the character and faith built along the way.

Awards may be earned at all unit levels. Award criteria will be age-appropriate for the boy's cognitive and physical levels of development.

The following categories of awards may be earned by boys within the Woodlands Trail program:

- **Patrol Patch:** When a boy qualifies to enter one of the three (3) Woodlands Trail program age groups, the boy earns the patch for that group. This patch will be worn on the Troop uniform.
- **Leaves:** Through active participation in meetings as well as completion of activities and projects, Trailmen earn a pre-determined number of Leaves. Accumulation of Leaves occurs within each of the seven different Branches. Trailmen will be given methods to record their progress earning Leaves among the various Branches.
- **Branch Awards:** Seven distinct awards which correspond to the seven main instructional areas of the Woodlands Trail program. Each award is earned by completion of the required number of Leaves. An award will be given for each Branch earned. Each Branch Award will have a distinctive look for each consecutive age group. Branch Awards are displayed on the Troop Uniform.
- **Forest Badge:** Earned within each age group upon completion of all Branch Awards for that particular age group. Forest Badge Awards are displayed on the Troop Uniform.
- **Special Awards:** Special awards are given for completion of certain activities, projects, or accomplishments. Special awards are named for the purpose for which they are given.

A more thorough description of each of these awards follows.

Patrol Patch

This is the first award to be earned within the Woodlands Trail program. This award represents the age group and must be earned by method A or B below:

A. If the boy is a new Trailman, he must complete the following steps:

- Memorize the Trailman Oath
- Learn the Trailman Sign and when to use it
- Learn the Trailman Salute and when to use it
- Learn the Trailman Handshake
- Memorize the Pledge of Allegiance (Foxes recite only)
- Understand how to properly fold the American flag (Mountain Lions only)

OR

B. If the boy is a continuing Trailman and has previously completed the above requirements within a lower age group, the boy must meet the age /grade criteria as outlined in this document.

Leaves for the Branches

Through the accumulation of Leaves, boys earn their Branch Awards. Leaves are earned by actively participating in meetings as well as completion of activities and projects.

Leaves at Meetings: Within the Woodlands Trail program, every meeting plan includes instructional materials that are organized around one or more of the seven general areas of instruction (Branches). A boy's participation in the meeting earns him Leaves toward the Branches identified in the meeting plan. Active participation in a regular meeting of the patrol, including completion of all elements within the meeting, will earn the boy two (2) leaves. The Leaves may be assigned to multiple Branches, as listed within the provided lesson plan.

Leaves for Activities: In addition to meetings, boys participate in numerous supplemental activities. Activities can take many forms ranging from weekend events, after-school events, overnight events, camping trips, or a summer adventure. Active participation in a planned activity of the Troop or patrol, including completion of all elements within the activity, will earn the boy either three (3) or five (5) Leaves.

For activities which do not require an overnight stay, the boy will earn three (3) Leaves. For any activity which includes one (1) or more overnight stays (such as camping) the boy will earn five (5) leaves. The Leaves may be assigned to different branches, depending on the nature of the activity.

Leaves for Projects: Boys may be asked to complete projects. Projects may be individual in nature or may involve the patrol, Troop, or the boy's family or guardian(s). In every instance, projects must be assigned by the Ranger or Trail Guide and are not self-directed. Examples of projects may include the following: a food drive for a local soup kitchen or church pantry, visits to a nursing home, a clothing drive for the needy, park cleanups, or other projects that assist the community at large.

For purposes of the Forest Badge, projects which take place within the confines of a regular patrol meeting may count only toward the Leaves earned for that meeting. See individual meeting plans for additional information.

Active participation in a planned project of the Troop or Patrol will earn the boy either three (3) or five (5) leaves, depending on the nature of the project.

For projects which do not require an overnight stay, the boy will earn three (3) Leaves. For any projects which includes one (1) or more overnight stays the boy will earn five (5) leaves. The Leaves may be assigned to different branches, depending on the nature of the project.

Additional Opportunities for Leaves: The Woodlands Trail program consists of two years' worth of prewritten meeting plans for each of the age groups (Fox, Hawk, Mountain Lion). Collectively, the meeting plans provide opportunities for leaves in each one of the seven branches to varying degrees. Trail Life USA empowers local Trail Guides with great flexibility in crafting a tailor-made curriculum for local Units.

Also essential to the Trailman experience are leaf opportunities in addition to those within the provided meeting plans. Unique local events such as meetings that take place in the 5th week of a month, service projects, additional overnight adventures, special projects, and additional summertime meetings or camps will allow boys to earn additional necessary leaves in select branches.

Tracking Leaves: The Trail Guide records the leaves earned by each boy. The boy's parents or guardians may track the leaves as well. Boys may be presented leaf symbols or similar tokens for the leaves they have earned. Leaf tokens are not worn on the uniform.

“Create Your Own” Meeting Plans, Activities, or Projects

The Woodlands Trail program allows boys to earn Leaves for meetings, activities, or projects which are not specifically outlined within the provided lesson plans. This is allowed in recognition of the wide variation in climate, geography, and available resources throughout the nation.

For example, Troops may not have access to bicycles for a bicycle rodeo, or Troops within heavily urbanized areas may not be able to go camping in the great outdoors.

While it is the intention of the program that provided lesson plans are followed whenever possible, latitude is given to the local Troop as outlined below.

Approval of Create Your Own Meetings and Assigning Leaves

When a Trail Guide decides to cover topics which are not provided within the pre-written meeting plans, it is called a "Create-Your-Own Meeting Plan." Create-Your-Own meeting plans must follow the meeting outline of the 6-Fs (Focus, Fingers, Fun, Family, Forest Badge, Faith).

Trail Guides should submit a simple written summary of such meeting plans to their Ranger for approval. The Ranger should ensure that lesson plans, activities, or projects are (1) safe for all involved; (2) age-appropriate; and (3) consistent with the values and purposes of the organization. If any doubt exists, the Ranger should consult the Troopmaster or the Troop Committee. A copy of the alternative plan must be kept on file with the Ranger for the remainder of that program year. At the discretion of the Ranger, previously approved lesson plans may be reused. Lesson plans may also be submitted to the national office, where they will be considered for distribution to all Troops, with credit given to the author.

After approval of the alternative, the Trail Guide and Ranger shall assign Leaves for the alternative, in accordance with the standard presented within the section of this document entitled, "Leaves for the Branches," above. In assigning Leaves to the Branch, the Ranger and Trail Guide should carefully consider the Branch in which the Leaves fit. Use of the Branch definitions should be consulted within the section of this document entitled, "The Seven Branches of the Forest Badge."

Leaf Credits Upon Entering the Woodlands Trail Program

It is anticipated that many boys will join the Woodlands Trail Program at the start of a 2-year program cycle. However, boys are welcome to join at any time. Special consideration has been provided to empower boys who join late to have the opportunity to earn awards through their participation. As mentioned earlier in the section entitled “Awards” on page 12, elementary-aged boys do not often control the circumstances that would allow their program membership.

Leaves will be credited to boys that join the program after the start of the biennial program year in accordance with the following chart.

Year Joining	Months Joining	Leaves Credited Per Branch When Joining
ONE YEAR OF TWO YEAR PROGRAM	Jul / Aug / Sept	0
	Oct/Nov/Dec	2
	Jan/Feb/Mar	4
	Apr/May/June	6
TWO YEAR OF TWO YEAR PROGRAM	Jul / Aug / Sept	8
	Oct/Nov/Dec	10
	Jan/Feb/Mar	12
	Apr/May/June	14

The Seven Branches of the Forest Badge

The Woodlands Trail curriculum is built, in part, around the instructional components of the Forest Badge Award. There are seven main instructional areas, with an individual award possible in each of those areas.

Each individual award is called a “Branch.” Branch awards are designed to be worn on the Troop Uniform. The same seven Branches are earned within all three age groups (Fox, Hawk, and Mountain Lion). When a boy has completed work for all seven Branches in his specific age group, he is said to have earned his [Fox/Hawk/Mountain Lion] Forest Badge. The Forest Badge is the first Level Award earned by a Trailman who joins the Woodlands Trail program. Upon earning a Forest Badge, the boy is granted a special Forest Badge uniform patch unique to that age group. Boys that advance through age groups of the Woodlands Trail program continue to wear Forest Badges earned while a member of a lower age group. The Forest Badges are unique to the Woodlands Trail program and are not worn once boys are inducted into the Navigators program.

The seven (7) Branches of the Forest Badge and a brief description of each follow. Examples included within the descriptions are not meant to be exclusive but are provided for illustrative purposes only.

Heritage Branch: An exploration of a boy’s own family heritage (Fox Patrol), American heritage (Hawk Patrol), and Christian heritage (Mountain Lion Patrol). Emphasis is placed on upholding the finest traditions of the heritage we obtain from our forefathers. This branch would include, but not be limited to, such items as visiting historical sites, learning about the early church, conducting genealogical research, and exploring American history.

Hobbies Branch: An exploration of various indoor and outdoor hobbies that demand varying levels of knowledge, skill, or aptitude. This branch would include, but not be limited to, such items as bowling, horticulture, photography, bird watching, model building, strategy games, creating collections, and art. Woodlands Trail program developers have responded to feedback that many hobbies are dependent on geographical areas, as well as the resources available to individual Trailmen. Therefore, additional latitude in local meeting planning has been incorporated into the program. Trail Guides are asked to plan and organize local events and overnight outings for Trailmen to learn about hobbies both common to many people and unique to the Troop's geographical region. While some lesson plans involving hobbies have been provided, it is anticipated that most activities providing leaves for this branch would center on events planned by the local Trail Guide.

Life Skills Branch: Teaching life lessons ranging from the practical to higher-level interpersonal skill sets. This branch would include, but not be limited to, such items as food preparation, home or personal item repairs, construction, mechanics, public speaking, knowledge of safety practices, health and fitness, first aid, and dealing with difficult people or situations.

Outdoor Activities Branch: Having fun in the outdoors with sports and other activities. This branch would include, but not be limited to, such items as baseball, football, soccer, bicycling, track and field, and group or team games.

Pioneering Skills Branch: Gaining basic understanding of woodcraft, hiking, exploration, and camping skills. This branch would include, but not be limited to, such items as learning knots and lashings, proper use of knives (Mountain Lions only), Tread Lightly (outdoor principles), navigation, and plant/animal/hazard identification.

Science and Technology Branch: An exploration of physical and natural science concerning our created world. Woodlands Trail program developers recognize the extreme importance of science and technology skills in life today. Entire schools are devoted to the study of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (S.T.E.M.). Trailmen would be more likely to benefit from hands-on events and overnight outings. Several meeting plans involving science and technology have been provided. Additional meetings providing leaves for this branch would involve outings to unique local sites. Trailmen could take advantage of such things as: science labs, factory tours, mines, beaches, ships, quarries, planetariums, museums, observatories, aquariums, hospitals, airports, aquaculture farms, veterinarian office, broadcasting stations, children's hands-on science centers, nature centers, commercial caves, and farms. In the absence of these options, the Troop could plan science and technology fairs or other events to expose the boys to S.T.E.M. Trail Guides are expected to plan and organize these local opportunities.

Values Branch: Instilling biblically based values within the boys regarding any number of pertinent topics. A central focus of this branch are teachings of the Christian faith.

Branch Awards

Trailmen earn Branch Awards by earning leaves in accordance with the following:

Branch Award

Earned by obtaining 18 Leaves on that Branch.

The Branch Award designs will change with each successive age group so that differentiation is created between Branches earned as a Fox, a Hawk, and a Mountain Lion. A single requirement that goes toward earning a Branch is called a Leaf. The difficulty of requirements necessary to earn each Branch grow more challenging with each successive age group.

Trail Life USA reserves the right to revise the number of required leaves within branches or to otherwise make program modifications and adjustments as needed in future years.

Although Leaves may be issued at each meeting, Branch Awards should be presented to Trailmen at a meeting of the entire Troop, if at all possible.

The following emblems have been adopted as emblems to be incorporated into the Branch awards. Branch awards should be displayed in accordance with guidance provided by Trail Life USA.

Branch Award Emblems

Branch	Fox (K-1)	Hawk (2-3)	Mountain Lion (4-5)
Heritage	Family Tree	Statue of Liberty	National Monument to our Forefathers
Hobbies	Rocks and Miner's Pick	Coins (Round & Square)	Hammer/Saw
Life Skills	Two Kids Playing Soccer	Dutch Oven on a Tripod Over a Fire	First Aid
Outdoor Activities	Bicycle	Kid on a Bank Fishing	Hiker on a Path
Pioneering Skills	Big Leaf with Acorn	Knots	Crossed Pocket Knives
Science and Technology	Computer	Microscope	Rocket
Values	Noah's Ark	Bible	Cross

The Forest Badge

Trailmen who earn all 7 Branch Awards for Foxes, Hawks, or Mountain Lions will earn their Forest Badge for their respective age group.

Forest Badge
All 7 Branch Awards earned at their Level
(Fox, Hawk, or Mountain Lion)

It should be noted that Troops may initiate additional programming, in accordance with instructions in this Guidebook, to provide additional opportunities for Trailmen to earn leaves, branches, and thereby their Forest Badges.

Forest Badge Silvan Stars

Trailmen who receive their Forest Badge shall be eligible to earn certain additional Leaves through continued participation in the program within their age group. Trailmen who earn four (4) additional Leaves in a single branch shall be eligible to receive a Forest Badge Silvan Star. One Silvan Star shall be awarded for each branch making a maximum of seven stars. Silvan Stars are pinned to the Forest Badge and are worn on the uniform. Only leaves earned through active participation may be credited toward a Silvan Star. If a boy earns seven (7) Silvan Stars he is eligible to upgrade his Forest Badge to the silver-bordered Forest Badge unique to his age group.

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GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Program Year

The program will generally follow the region's typical school year, which may vary by state and be either nine (9) or ten (10) months in duration. For purposes of the Woodlands Trail program, meeting materials will be provided for all twelve (12) months. Months of full programming (school months) may be referred to as "Regular Months." Months when school is out may be referred to as "Summer Months." Summer months would typically have only one meeting per month.

Program Emphases

The Trail Life USA program is designed to instill six (6) basic values in boy members. As Trail Guides emphasize different values through the monthly meeting plans, boys develop these values and learn how to live them daily, building a strong foundation to live as godly men.

Program Emphases	
Teamwork	Leadership
Character	Heritage
Wisdom	Faith

Monthly Themes and Meeting Chart

Monthly themes recur annually within the Woodlands Trail program, albeit with varying meeting plans for the different age groups. The monthly themes are coupled with program emphases. Monthly themes have been standardized, but they may be interchanged or modified by local Troops due to local circumstances. The order of meetings within the month is at the discretion of the Troop and/or Trail Guides.

The number of meetings and focus of meetings change through the program year. At time of program creation, the number of meetings, monthly themes, and corresponding program emphases are as shown below.

Month	# Meetings	Theme	Emphases
Aug	1	Recruitment, Team Building	Teamwork
Sep	4	Safety	Wisdom
Oct	4	Camping	Teamwork
Nov	4	Giving Thanks	Heritage, Faith
Dec	2	Christmas	Faith
Jan	4	Service Project	Character
Feb	4	Men of Honor	Wisdom, Faith
Mar	4	Pioneering Skills	Wisdom
Apr	4	Camping	Teamwork
May	4	Citizenship/Patriotism	Wisdom, Character, Leadership
June	2	Advancement & Day Camp	Any/All
July	2	Summer Activities	Any/All
Possible:	39		

Trail Life USA Meetings

Meeting Frequency and Planning

Trail Life USA will offer a curriculum designed roughly to coincide with the typical public school calendar. There will be two meetings of the Troop, one *Hit the Trail!* meeting and one optional patrol meeting per month. The local Troop will have discretion over the order of the meetings. During summer break, there should be 1-2 meetings per month (Troop, unit, or patrol) to be determined by the individual Troop.

During the months in which public school is in session, the entire Troop should convene together in an opening ceremony. The Units would then meet separately, with the Woodlands Trail unit using structured patrol breakout sessions. Patrols will then close their patrol meetings individually. This will happen for **two meetings**. The Troopmaster will be responsible for planning the Troop Opening Ceremony in accordance with a standard outline of meeting elements.

The concept of the gathering of all boys at the Troop Opening Ceremony serves several functions:

- It helps create a new culture and sense of community by combining all boys.
- It allows older boys to mentor younger boys.
- It allows younger boys the opportunity to watch older boys as they take an active role in the program.
- It provides a platform for the dissemination of necessary information.

The opening ceremony should be very brief to grant maximum time for Unit and patrol meetings.

For a **third meeting** each month, the patrol, Unit, or Troop conducts a *Hit the Trail!* Meeting in which they have a fun experience and/or perform community service.

A **fourth meeting** of the month is designed and held by individual Patrols at a time and location selected by the Trail Guides. This meeting is considered optional, depending on the needs of the individual patrol and the age of the enrolled youth.

The overall meeting schedule for the year will be decided by the local Troop. It should be noted that during camping months, the camping experience may count as multiple meetings.

Troops have discretion to take meeting plans out of order, or to create new plans as needed.

Woodlands Trail Program Meeting Design

Regular Months

- Troop opening ceremony with breakout into age-group patrols: One “Standard Outline of Troop Meeting Elements” to be used.
- Patrol Meetings: Three (3) full meeting plans to be used at the Trail Guide’s discretion. There are typically two (2) structured patrol meetings per regular month, with a third optional patrol meeting added at the Trail Guide’s discretion.
- Optional Patrol Meeting

- Optional based on current needs of the Patrol(s).
 - May or may not correspond to the monthly theme.
 - Wide latitude is given to the Trail Guide for structure of this meeting. The Trail Guide can either (A) use one of the three full Patrol meeting plans provided by Trail Life USA or (B) may design a meeting to meet the unique needs of the Patrol(s).
- *Hit the Trail!* Meeting
 - General meeting outline and ideas provided.
 - Designed by Trail Guide and corresponding to the monthly theme and program emphasis.

Summer Months

- Summer meeting should be held at least once per month.
- These meetings may consist of all or a portion of the Troop as designated by the Troopmaster and Committee Chair.
- Wide latitude is given to the local adult volunteers for structure of these meetings.

Standard Outline of Troop Meeting Elements

The Troopmaster shall preside over the Troop opening meeting. In the absence of the Troopmaster, another registered adult volunteer may lead the meeting. In order to build common traditions and a sense of culture within Trail Life USA, all monthly Troop opening ceremonies shall have the following elements:

1. Call to Order (Troopmaster)
2. Opening Prayer
3. Presentation of the Colors
4. Pledge of Allegiance
5. Trailman Oath
6. Wisdom for the Wild (Faith Component)
7. Song/Skit/Stunt
8. Announcements
9. Dismissal to Patrols (Troopmaster)

Standard Regular Month Patrol Meeting Elements

The Trail Guide shall preside over the Patrol meeting. Two Patrol meetings shall follow Trail Life USA patrol meeting lesson plans. These plans include ***the six F's***:

Necessary Resources: At the beginning of each lesson plan, this section provides a list of items that will be needed for each meeting whether they are for a craft project or a visual aid component needed during the meeting. In the development of the Fingers segment, the goal was to keep the projects as simple as possible yet focusing on learning the main principle for the lesson.

1. **FOCUS:** The Focus portion of the patrol meeting is to provide an academic or instructional element. This is the emphasis of the patrol

time together to lay a foundation that the other F's will build upon. These lessons have an emphasis built around the Monthly themes and Meeting Chart listed above.

There are two simple guidelines to help Trail Guides preparing to teach a FOCUS segment:

(1.) **BE CREATIVE.** Be visual in your teaching if at all possible. Always teach with something in your hands. Any object is a great tool to use to teach the lesson. Use pictures when an object is not the right tool for the lesson. This will help capture the attention of the Trailmen and make the lesson interesting to them. There might be an opportunity to use a poem or song where they can learn the month's lesson.

(2.) **KEEP IT SIMPLE.** Think about your audience and their age. Think about how they will receive what you are communicating. When there are history lessons or lessons about characters from the Bible, the Trail Guide doesn't need to teach "above" the Trailmen's knowledge with language or concepts they may not understand. Remember, you want them to leave the meeting with the sense of learning something that they can recall later in life. This is why this segment is labeled FOCUS.

2. **FINGERS:** This portion of the meeting is to offer an opportunity for the Trailmen to experience a project with "hands-on" learning. This should be based from the Focus teaching segment. It is understood that boys learn to apply a lesson better when they can see and build or make something that would remind them of what is being taught. If the fingers project or activity needs to be changed, feel free to develop your own ideas.
3. **FUN:** This portion of the meeting is to allow a time where Trailmen can burn off some energy. This is the time of the meeting for the Trailmen to play games or participate in a physical activity. Some of the games or activities may need to be played indoors due to the weather in your area. If the game or activity is not appropriate for the season in your area, feel free to develop your own ideas and lead something that is more appropriate.

There may be a few items needed to gather for the game(s) before the meeting, so be sure to check the Necessary Resources section and/or the lesson plan carefully. This is a great opportunity for one of your assistant leaders to be responsible for and lead.

4. **FAMILY:** The Family portion of the meeting is simply the family emphasis for the principle taught. As the Trailmen learn throughout the years, it is the desire of Trail Life USA and the Woodland Trails Program to inform and involve the family in the learning process as much as possible. Each handout is provided for Trail Guides to print out and copy to send home for each core lesson plan.
5. **FOREST BADGE:** The Forest Badge portion of the meeting is to help identify the Branches taught and Leaves earned during a meeting for each age group. After the meeting, the Leaves earned should be recorded.

The Woodlands Trail curriculum is designed so each age group has a two-year structure. Each meeting is a piece of the two-year program toward earning the completed Branch awards and, therefore, the Forest Badge for each particular age group.

6. **FAITH:** This portion of the meeting is the final segment of the meeting. This portion of the meeting communicates pertinent biblical truths, values, and wisdom corresponding to the lesson. The Trail Guide will close the patrol meeting with prayer and a custom or tradition they would like to include. The Trail Guide is welcome to ask a member of the patrol or an adult to lead the closing prayer.

The Trail Guide is to use the version of the Bible used by the Charter organization. If a different version is to be used, then permission is to be obtained by the Troopmaster. What a great example of opening God's Word, placing this on our laps as we teach Trailmen godly principles and values to build "workmen who are not ashamed." Trail Life USA purposely desires to share God's truth and to learn to apply these truths to our lives. This is a core value behind our motto "Walk Worthy."

Hit the Trail! Meeting

The Trail Guide shall preside over *Hit the Trail!* meetings. All *Hit the Trail!* monthly meetings shall contain the following elements:

1. Gathering
2. Prayer
3. *Hit the Trail!* Activity, Event, Trip, or Community Project
4. Closing Prayer

Optional Third Monthly Patrol Meeting Outline

The meeting shall contain the following elements:

1. Gathering
2. Prayer
3. Activity

4. Closing Prayer
5. Close Meeting

Trail Guide Weekly Message

The original concept within the Woodlands Trail program was to provide a weekly printable handout accompanying each lesson plan. However, the development team has received specific feedback concerning this idea. Developers now understand that many Trail Guides would likely send a weekly electronic message to parents or guardians. These communications would include instructions regarding meetings, events, or other important information. This practice is encouraged as a way to conserve natural resources and communicate more effectively with parents or guardians.

A set handout would not allow the full amount of customization desired within the program. In deference to the individual needs of Trail Guides and Troops, a template has been provided within the Forms Section of this document. Trail Guides are able to use this template or create one of their own when they communicate electronically with parents/guardians. Trail Guides may choose to do such things as:

- Add links to websites pertinent to the lesson or monthly theme
- Add links to online surveys (such as Survey Monkey) or scheduling software (such as Doodle)
- Add additional scripture references or value-based lesson tie-ins
- Embed their own video clip (such as a how-to guide)
- Add resource requests for parents/guardians

Given today's electronic devices, the possibilities are nearly endless! The development team encourages the entire Trail Life USA family to share your best ideas and examples of your weekly messages. Based on the initial program year feedback, the template will be changed to best meet program needs.

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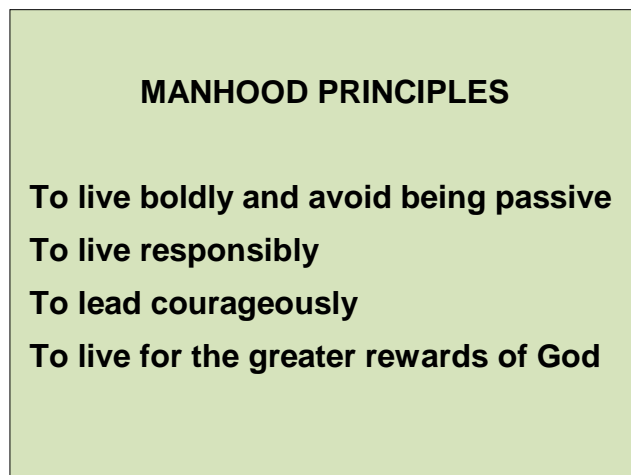
SPECIAL AWARDS

Timberline Award

The Timberline Award is the highest award a Trailman can achieve in the Woodlands program. It was developed to celebrate a boy's entrance into the new world of Trail Life USA's Navigators program.

Just as the tall timbers stop at the Timberline's edge, so must a Mountain Lion's time stop in the Woodlands Trail program. As the Trailman proceeds on his individual path, he leaves the Woodlands Trail and embarks on a new trail of exploration and experiences. The Trailman leaves with many good wishes and prayers that he will continue to Walk Worthy with the God that created him, loves him, and guides him.

There are four Manhood Principles and requirements for the Timberline Award.



The requirements for this award are as follows:

To show that you are living boldly and are avoiding being passive, the Trailman will have earned his Mountain Lion Forest Badge and invited a friend that is not currently a registered member to a Woodlands Trail meeting, outing or activity. In addition, the Trailman will have attended an overnight campout with the Troop during his Mountain Lion year(s).

To show that you are living responsibly, you have kept a written record of chores that are completed at home that has been signed off by a parent or guardian. You are also completing assignments at school on time and doing your best to achieve the A/B honor roll.

To show that you are leading courageously, you have planned a service project in your community and enlisting help from your fellow Trailmen to complete it. Your service project helped to make your community cleaner, better, safer or fulfilled a need. The total combined hours spent by all who helped with the service project should total no less than twenty (20) hours.

To show that you live for the greater rewards of God, you have done one or both of the following:

You are known as someone who always speaks the truth. Your Trail Guide, parent or mentor may ask you a question that is difficult for you to tell the truth because you may have been worried about getting into trouble. You, however, told the truth and showed that you are honest and trustworthy.

or

You have shown Christ-like behavior. You have sacrificed your wants and needs for someone else without wanting to be recognized for it. You have shown that you love others as yourself by your actions.

Transfer opportunity:

Requirements for a Trailman coming into the Woodlands Trail program from the Cub Scouting, Webelos program:

In order for a Trailman to receive transfer credit:

- A Trailman must transfer into the Woodlands Trail program as a fifth grader.
- At the time of the transfer, the boy must have earned the Boy Scouts of America Webelos Patch and completed the Arrow of Light requirements five (5) and seven (7).
- A Trailman must actively participate in Woodlands for the remainder of the program year.
- As a member of a Mountain Lion unit, complete the Timberline Award except for tenure and the Forest Badge.

Note: This transfer opportunity may be temporary. Notice of the sunset date of the transfer period shall be given on the Trail Life USA website and communicated to Troops.

THE WORTHY LIFE PROGRAM

Worthy Life Program - Overview

Special awards may be given for completion of certain activities, projects, or accomplishments. Special awards are named for the purpose for which they are given. It should be noted that special awards will be developed over time, following full program implementation.

The most important special award within the Woodlands Trail program centers on faith. This award is titled the Worthy Life Award. Requirements are different for different age groups. The award may be earned once in each age group, with the badge for the award changing for each age group.

SPIRITUAL PROGRESSION - Worthy Life Program Overview

	FOXES	HAWKS	MOUNTAIN LIONS
PRINCIPLES	God loves me!	My neighbor – The good Samaritan	My community
	Basic verses on God's love: John 3:16	My family - responsibility, teamwork, cooperation	Spiritual disciplines
		Basic verses on faith and belief	Basic verses on sharing my faith with others
			Biblical manhood - beginnings
SERVICE	Perform an act of service for your church, your Troop's church, or through one of their ministries. May be repeated with a different act of service.	Perform an act of service for your church, your Troop's church, or through one of their ministries. May be repeated with a different act of service.	Perform an act of service for your church, your Troop's church, or through one of their ministries. May be repeated with a different act of service.
WORSHIP	Basics of prayer	Teach your family or unit a song for grace or prayer before a meal	Perform the invocation or benediction for a Troop awards ceremony or special event
	Participate in a camp prayer - Hit the Trail! prayer	Perform or lead grace before a meal on a campout	Perform or lead grace before a meal on a campout
	Explain "Our Father who art in heaven" - what it means to call God "Father"	Explain what the phrase "Forgive us our debts (trespasses) as we forgive our debtors (those who trespass against us)" means to you.	Explain "Give us this day our daily bread" and "lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil"

WORSHIP (cont'd)	Attend a special Christmas, Easter, or other church holiday service and discuss what you learned with your family	Attend a special Christmas, Easter, or other church holiday service and discuss what you learned with your family	Attend a special Christmas, Easter, or other church holiday service and discuss what you learned with your family
RELATIONSHIP TO GOD	What is faith?	How do I live out my faith?	Obstacles to growing in my faith
	Family values of faith	My personal values of faith	Worldview vs. My view of faith
			Biblical Manhood - Beginnings
HEROES OF FAITH	Abraham - Faith and righteousness	Good Samaritan Story	Matthew 25:31 - 46 Sheep vs. Goats
	Joseph - Making the best out of Life	Deut. 6:5-6 Family responsibility	Matthew 28:19-20 Great Commission
	Moses - Doing things God's way	Paul - Standing for my faith	Timothy - Learning to be a leader
	Jesus - Son of God - building faith	Nehemiah - Faith to do great things	Peter - Denying Christ but returning to Christ
	Cont'd	Esther - Faith during tough times	Samson - Staying within God's plan
RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS		<i>Pray Program, Catholic Awards, Eastern Orthodox, Members of the Church of Christ</i>	<i>Pray Program, Catholic Awards, Eastern Orthodox, Members of the Church of Christ</i>

WORTHY LIFE PROGRAM – FOXES

SPIRITUAL THEME: Who is God? And...God Loves Me!

KEY GOAL: To develop faith in the Lord through learning (discipleship) and activities (worship and ministry).

TRAIL GUIDE INSTRUCTIONS: The requirements listed below are to help the Trailmen develop their faith in the Lord through learning (discipleship) and activities (worship and ministry). The requirements are to be included in regularly scheduled or *Hit the Trail!* meetings or at a campout as the Trail Guide would plan them. A suggestion in planning would be to divide the requirements into sections so that they will be completed according to a certain timeline that can fit in a one or two year period. The Family Values of Faith are created for the Trailmen to work with their Family in these areas of discipleship in the home.

What You'll Need:

- Bible for the Trail Guide (Required for each activity)
- Bible for each Fox (Recommended that each Fox have his personal Bible, so he can learn and practice finding reference points in God's Word)
- See individual requirements for additional materials needed

FOX REQUIREMENTS: Complete all 8 requirements.

1. _____ Memorize John 3:16.

TRAIL GUIDE: Lead a discussion with the Foxes about God's love for us and what that means.

Let's talk about it:

- Why did Jesus have to be "sent" for us and why do we need to "believe" in Him?
 - What is "eternal life"?
2. _____ Perform an act of service for your church, the charter organization church, or through any other church ministry.
3. _____ Understand the basics of prayer using the "ACTS" concept below.

TRAIL GUIDE: A prayer bookmark is located at the end of this Worthy Life section. Make a copy of the Bookmark and distribute to each Trailman. The bookmark is used to help teach the "ACTS" concept. Remind the Trailmen to place the bookmark in his Bible to help him remember how to pray when he talks with God.

Discuss what each word that forms the acronym means, using the information provided.

A—Adoration

C—Confession

T—Thanksgiving

S—Supplication

Adoration is another word for love. When we pray, we need to remember to tell God how much we love Him and why we love Him so much.

Confession is a word for admitting when we've done something bad. God wants us to behave like Jesus did. He also wants us to do what Jesus said to do. He was always nice, always respectful, always trusting God, and did everything with love towards God and others. When we disobey what God and Jesus taught us in the Bible and behave a different way, it is called a sin. So when we commit a sin, it's important to tell God about it and ask for His forgiveness. Then we need to try not to repeat the same mistake.

Thanksgiving is a word for giving thanks for our blessings, which are special gifts from God. Some of our gifts from God are a healthy body, a family that loves us, the bunny in the backyard that brings a huge smile to our face, and, yes, our friends. God gives many blessings to us and we should thank Him every day for them.

Supplication is a big word that is a little like a wish list. Yes, sort of like a Christmas list, except not asking God for toys. Instead, asking God for things that are more meaningful. At night we pray for God to help us sleep well and not to have bad dreams because getting a good night of rest is vital to growing and having the ability to learn new things in school. It is good to ask God to help us and others with things we need in our lives and to guide us in making wise choices.

ACTIVITY: Use the bookmark provided at the end of this section. Print the bookmark on cardstock for each Fox. You may choose to have the boys decorate their bookmarks and/or add a tassel with a leather strip or yarn.

What you'll need:

- One copy on cardstock of the bookmark design at the end of this section for each Fox.
 - Scissors to cut out the design for each Fox
 - Glue stick to adhere the back to the front
 - *Optional:* markers, colored pencils, etc., to decorate the bookmark
 - *Optional:* hole punch and string, yarn, or thin leather strip to make a 'tassel' on the bookmark.
4. _____ Participate in a camp prayer or a *Hit the Trail!* prayer.
 5. _____ Find where the Lord's Prayer is located in the Gospels, and explain "Our Father who art in heaven." What does it mean to call God "Father"? (Matthew 6:9-15, Luke 11:2-4)

6. _____ Attend a special Christmas, Easter, or other church holiday service and discuss what you learned with your family.
7. _____ Understand the concept of Faith in God. Complete parts (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e) below.

TRAIL GUIDE: Lead a discussion on faith. Help the Foxes explore and understand the following:

- What is Faith? Use the information below to aid you in this discussion. The Children’s dictionary defines faith as “trusting in something or someone.”
- What about faith in God?
- How is it that we believe in God? (Refer the Foxes to John 3:16 and the word “believe” in Jesus)

The Bible defines faith as “the evidence of things not seen.” “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1) This Bible verse means that faith cannot be seen through the human eye but that faith works in a way that only God knows and sees. Faith sometimes takes great determination (strength of mind and character), and God gives us faith as a free gift - to those who ask for it.

Activity: Show the Foxes a Chair. Ask - how they would know that the Chair will hold a them up when they sit in it. Explain that they have faith that the Chair will hold them up with sturdy legs and a seat for them to sit on. They see it and believe it. Sit in the Chair to demonstrate putting your faith into action.

FAMILY VALUES OF FAITH: In order for their children to develop FAITH, it is important that parents possess, model, and practice their faith in front of the children. Choose to read the Bible, discuss a passage of scripture, or pray with your child or children several times in one week.

FAITH CAN BE DEVELOPED AND LEARNED IN THIS MANNER:

Purpose: To encourage the Foxes to elevate (lift up) their thoughts to an unseen God, whom we must love, praise, and thank with all our hearts.

a. _____ Awareness of God in Creation

Visit a place where God’s creation (nature) can be seen all around. Look at the beauty of the plants, flowers, trees, rivers, mountains, fields, etc. Make the Foxes aware that these cannot exist or continue to exist without someone (God) taking care of them. They need to consider who is making this possible. Gardeners and farmers may water the plants and trees, but it is God who allows them to grow or maintain their beauty. These things of nature provide our food, water, medicine, houses and many other useful things. By developing this awareness, the children will be led to lift up their thoughts to an unseen God whom we should to praise and thank with all our hearts.

b. _____ Telling of Stories about Persons Who Had Strong Faith in God

There are many available stories from the Bible about the lives of grown-ups who had a deep faith in God. They were rewarded because of their faith, not only by

material reward but also by peace, joy, love, good friends, and protection from danger. They would receive all that they would wish for as long as it was for their good. These men practiced their faith from the time they were very young. As they grew to adulthood so did their faith. Many of these men had great success because of their faith and devotion to God.

Example: Abraham - Faith and Righteousness

And God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. - (Genesis 17:9) – Here is a call for faith in God to do as God says.

Read the story in Genesis 22:1-18 – Talk about what was required of Abraham. When Abraham obeyed God - God fulfilled His promise and blessed Abraham for his faith. (Genesis 22:16-18)

Let's talk about it:

- How can we be “faithful” like Abraham was?
Answer: Keep trusting God every day and do what God asks of us.
- Is it easy?
Answer: No, it's not. Abraham made mistakes along the way. The best way is God's way.
- Should we do what God says for us to do in the Bible? If so, how?
Answer: Yes, absolutely. It is by faith that we can do what God tells us to do – we have a loyalty and allegiance to Him – we trust Him
- Should we do things in faith for God, thinking we are going to get something for being “good”?
Answer: No. God wants us to be faithful first. If we are faithful, from that faith we will want to do “good” things but expect nothing in return.

c. _____ Responding to the Goodness of God

Doing everything that God expects us to do, as asked by Him in the Ten Commandments, would be a good way of responding to God's goodness. The Ten Commandments should be explained to the children. Encourage them also to pray daily from their hearts, in their own words, using the “ACTS” concept (adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication) as a helpful guide. Their activities during the day could, likewise, be offered to God as prayer.

Example: Joseph - Making the Best out of Life

This story presents God at work helping Joseph, through his suffering, to bring about the best possible outcome. Even though Joseph was the victim of his brother's sin, God was with him and blessed him. Be sure to emphasize that God was keeping his promise through saving Joseph and the promised family. Review the story of Joseph in Genesis 37-50 and discuss these things with the Foxes:

Let's talk about it:

- What bad thing did Joseph's brothers do?
Answer: Joseph's brothers hated him and tried to get rid of him.
- Was Joseph alone in Egypt?
Answer: No, God was with him.
- How did God take care of Joseph?
Answer: God gave Joseph wisdom and made him ruler of that land.
- How did God make Joseph a helper to the Egyptians?
Answer: God let Joseph know about the coming famine and gave Joseph the job of storing up food.
- When Joseph's brothers came for food, how did he respond?
Answer: He forgave them and welcomed them.

d. Developing Love and Care for Self and Others

God wants us to take good care of ourselves and others as much as we are able. The Foxes could be guided to take care of their - health, physically, mentally, and spiritually. Here are some examples that you can use: eating properly, getting enough rest, studying well, doing religious duties, helping around the house, and trying to behave... all to be done for the love of God. They must always be conscious of trying to help others, especially those in need.

Example: Moses - Doing things God's Way (Exodus 16)

Moses took a step of faith by leading God's people. Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt. But God led them into the desert. What are some of the problems with living in the desert? They walked around and camped there for forty years. Would it be hard to have faith that God will take care of us and provide for us?

Summarize and read the appropriate parts of Exodus 16 to the Foxes. Moses was a man of faith and knew that God would take care of His people even though they griped and complained. God provided a blessing for them in a big way - manna. Explain that the people were hungry and God provided them food from Heaven (manna). What if the Israelites wanted to do things their way instead of God's way? Would they receive God's blessings?

Let's talk about it:

- What are some of the problems with living in the desert?
Answer: It's dry, hot, sandy, sandstorms, hard to build a house, sand gets everywhere, etc.
- Do you think it was hard for the Israelites to have faith that God would take care of them and provide for their needs?
Answer: Yes. You have to have water and food to live in the desert. There is not much to eat or drink in the desert.
- What if the Israelites had wanted to do things their way instead of God's way?
Answer: They whined and griped about not having food or water, but God

took care of them. He gave them food (manna) and water (from the split in the rocks).

- Is it hard for us to have faith that God will take care of us and provide for us?

Answer: Yes, it is. We should trust in Him all the time.

e. _____ Continuing Faith in God Through Little Trials

Sometimes, the children may encounter difficulties, in spite of trying their best to maintain a strong faith in God. They should know that they can trust God when they pray to **help** them through the “trials” of life. Their parents know what is best for them, and God, who loves them very much, does too. They will soon see **why**, as they grow up and they grow in their faith.

FAMILY VALUES OF FAITH: Parents are encouraged to find both simple and ingenious ways of training their sons and daughters to develop a strong faith in God. If all children are guided to have a strong faith in God, there will be no doubt that this world can become a better place in which to live! If more young people learn to put their faith in God while they are young, they can practice their faith and will be better grown-ups and better citizens in the years to come!

Example: Jesus - Son of God - Building Faith

Jesus taught: “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.” (Matthew 6:33-34) How does the Lord want us to “live by faith” here?

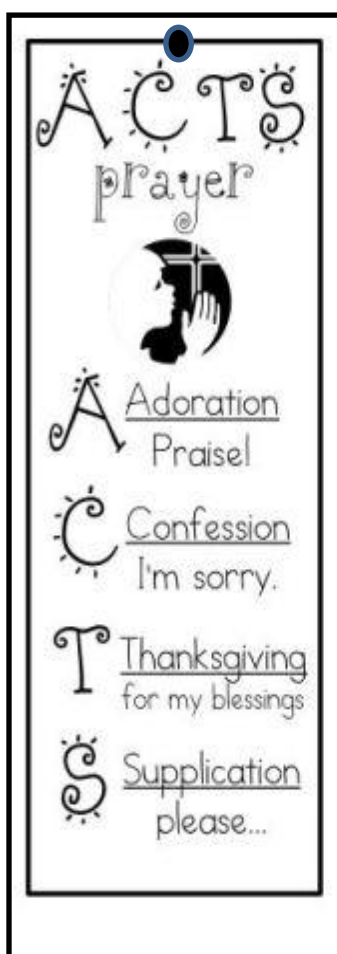
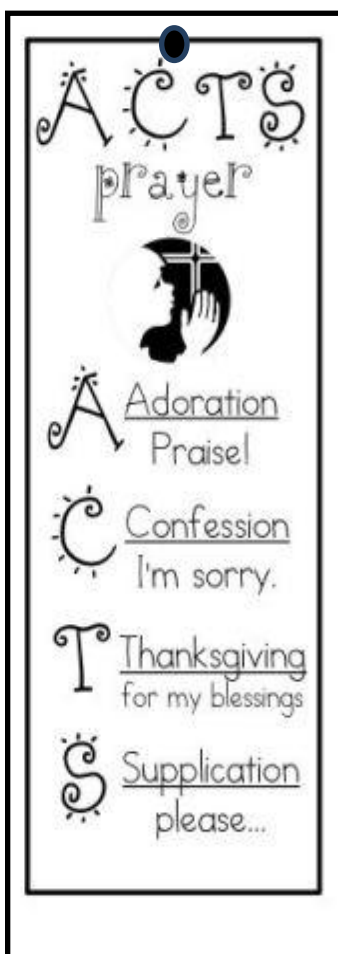
Let’s talk about it:

- How does the Lord want us to “live by faith” here?
Answer: Jesus wants us to look to God first all the time. Don’t worry about things because God will take care of us.

8. _____ Summary for the Fox Worthy Life Program - Talk to the Fox about what he learned during this stage of the Worthy Life Program.

- Understanding God’s Love in John 3:16
- Understanding a Basic Prayer Pattern
- Understanding who God is – “Our Father”
- Understanding what Faith is with examples of Abraham, Joseph, Moses, and Jesus

ACTS Prayer Bookmark: Requirement 3 - Activity



WORTHY LIFE PROGRAM – HAWKS

SPIRITUAL THEME: My Faith and Belief, My Neighbor and My Family

(responsibility, teamwork and cooperation)

Key Goal: To develop faith in the Lord through learning (discipleship) and activities (worship and ministry).

TRAIL GUIDE INSTRUCTIONS: The requirements listed below are to help the Trailmen develop their faith in the Lord through learning (discipleship) and activities (worship and ministry). The requirements are to be included in regularly scheduled or “Hit the Trail!” meetings or campouts, at the Trail Guide’s discretion. A suggestion in planning would be to divide the requirements into sections so that they will be completed according to a certain timeline that can fit in a one or two year period. The Family Values of Faith/Family Point are created for the Trailmen to work with their Family in these areas of discipleship in the home.

What You’ll Need:

- Bible for the Trail Guide (Required for each activity)
- Bible for each Hawk (Recommended that each Hawk have his personal Bible, so that he can learn and practice finding reference points in God’s Word)
- See individual requirements for additional materials needed

HAWKS REQUIREMENTS: Complete all 11 Requirements.

1. _____ Perform an act of service for your church, your charter organization, or through any other church ministry.
2. _____ Teach your family or unit a song for grace or a prayer before a meal.
3. _____ Perform or lead grace before a meal on a campout.
4. _____ The Lord’s Prayer Study (Matthew 6:9-15, Luke 11:2-4) : Explain what the phrase "Forgive us our debts (trespasses) as we forgive our debtors (those who trespass against us)" means to you.
5. _____ Attend a special Christmas, Easter, or other church holiday service and discuss what you learned with your family.
6. _____ PASTOR/MINISTER POINT: Do “Teaching and Focus: Faith in Jesus Christ” below. This requirement is to be completed with a member of the clergy from the Charter Organization or your faith organization.

Teaching and Focus: Faith in Jesus Christ

a. Protestant – Talk to the Minister of the church you attend about faith in Jesus Christ and what that means. Invite the Minister to a meeting to talk with the Patrol members.

b. Catholic – Talk with your Priest about faith in Jesus Christ and what that means. Invite the priest to the meeting to talk with the Patrol members.

c. Eastern Orthodox - Talk with your Priest about faith in Jesus Christ and what that means. Invite the Priest to the meeting to talk with the Patrol members.

d. Church of Christ - Talk with your Minister of the church you attend about faith in Jesus Christ and what that means. Invite the Minister to the meeting to talk with the Patrol members.

7. _____ Good Samaritan Lesson: Knowing and Understanding the principle of the Parable of the Good Samaritan: Helping my family and my neighbor.

These are some things you will need for this lesson:

- Bibles (Luke 10)
- Small tube of hand lotion (choose a fragrance-free mild lotion to avoid allergies)
- One box of adhesive bandages
- One roll of sterile gauze
- Play money
- Children's coloring page from "The Good Samaritan" (find this online; there are plenty)

Teaching the Good Samaritan Bible Story: Read the story from the Gospel of Luke (Chapter 10) about the Good Samaritan. Become familiar with the story too so you are comfortable telling it aloud. As you read the Bible story to the Hawks, employ props like gauze and lotion to demonstrate how the Good Samaritan helped the injured man. Showing the story in a visual way engages most of the senses and helps the Hawks retain the Bible lesson better.

Here are some suggestions: Take turns pretending to be the injured man or one of the other characters of the Bible lesson.

- Have a child lie on the floor and pretend to be hurt. As you tell the story, have a "priest" walk by the injured child and hurry away.
- When you tell how the Good Samaritan helped the man, rub lotion on the Hawk's hands and say: "This is how the Good Samaritan put oil on the hurt man."
- Use the gauze and lightly bandage a Hawk's arm while saying: "The Good Samaritan bandaged the man's injury like this."
- Select a Hawk to be the innkeeper and pay him with the play money. Say something like this: "My friend is hurt. Please take care of him. If he owes any money when he leaves, I will pay it when I return."

Discussion Questions: Have the Hawks color the sheet you have brought with the picture of the Good Samaritan as you lead with these questions. Here are some suggested open-ended discussion questions. Listening to the answers allows an understanding of the group's grasp of the Bible story and the concepts taught.

- What did the priest do when he saw the injured man? (*walked by fast*)
- Who helped the hurt man? (*The Good Samaritan*)
- Where did the Good Samaritan take the man who was hurt? (*The Inn*)

- Why did the Good Samaritan help? (*various answers*)
- Which of the men showed love and kindness? (*The Good Samaritan*)

Here is a sample prayer to use as you close: "Dear Jesus: Thank you for teaching me with your stories. Help me to be a good helper just like the Good Samaritan. Amen."

8. _____ HERO OF THE FAITH: Daniel -Learn about Daniel in the Old Testament (Daniel 6:1-28) and what he did to "stand up" for his faith. The goal is to discuss the importance of standing up for what we believe in.

Discussion Questions:

1. What was written in the document the king signed? (*Anyone who makes a petition to any god or man besides you, O king, for thirty days, shall be cast into the Lions' Den.*)
2. Why did Daniel get into trouble? (*He broke the new law...He prayed to God not the king*)
3. What was the king's reaction when Daniel was arrested? (*He was upset and concerned that his friend was in trouble*)
4. What happened to Daniel in the Lions' Den? (*Daniel prayed that God would protect and deliver him – he had faith that God was in control no matter what happened to him*)

TRAIL GUIDE: Act out the story. Be sure to assign some people to play the part of the lions! Use sound effects, if possible, for the lions. At the end of the lesson, take time to sit in a circle and pray with the Hawks. Show them how important it is to pray, just like Daniel did.

9. _____ Earn the Religious Emblem for your denomination. Ordering information for booklets is listed below. Medal information for your specific denomination can be found below.
- a) **The Protestant Program** (God and Me/Grades 1-3) To purchase the required booklet, contact Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.) may be contacted at 1-800-933-7729 or by e-mail at http://www.praypub.org/main_frameset.htm
 - b) **Catholic Awards** – (Family of God/Grades 2-3) To purchase the required booklet, contact National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) may be contacted at 202-636-3825 or by e-mail at <http://www.nfcym.org/gscf/recognitions.htm>
 - c) **Eastern Orthodox** - (Light of Christ/Ages 6-7) to purchase the required booklet, contact Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.) may be contacted at 1-800-933-7729 or by e-mail at http://www.praypub.org/main_frameset.htm or
NCCS 972-580-2114, National Catholic Committee on Scouting, P. O. Box 152079, Irving, Texas 75015-2079

- d) **Members of the Church of Christ** – (Loving Servant/Grades 1-3) to purchase the required booklet, contact Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.) may be contacted at 1-800-933-7729 or by e-mail at http://www.praypub.org/main_frameset.htm

Or

Churches of Christ for Scouting, 401 Cypress St., Ste. 406, Abilene, TX 79601;
Phone: 325-370-1679 / www.goodservant.org

10. _____ **FAMILY POINT** – TEAMWORK AND COOPERATION – DO THIS AT HOME. *This is located on the last page of this section. Make copies as needed.*
11. _____ **SUMMARY FOR THE HAWK WORTHY LIFE PROGRAM** (Talk to the hawk about what he learned during this stage of the Worthy Life Program)
- a. How do I live out my faith at home? *(By being a responsible part of my family and working together and keeping God first as a family – God likes it when I obey my parents)*
- b. How do I live out my faith in my community? *(By helping others like the Good Samaritan – I have responsibility to help others.)*
- c. How do I live out my faith at church? *(By participating in worship with other believers, ministering to the church and the community, growing through Bible study or Sunday School and/or children’s ministry programs, pray and read the Bible.)*

FAMILY TEAMWORK AND COOPERATION – ACTIVITY

“Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up. Furthermore, if two lie down together they keep warm, but how can one be warm alone? And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.” (Eccl. 4:9-12)

Do you think of your family as a team? Have you ever wanted your children to be a little more supportive of each other? Do you believe cooperation is important when accomplishing family goals? How does each family member contribute to the family? Are your children aware of their skills and talents? Do you ever feel as if your family is running in several different *directions*?

Most families have several different commitments so there isn't as much time to spend together. For this reason, it is important, now more than ever, to spend fun time together! When families are willing to listen to each other and work together to achieve a common goal, it creates a bond that lasts for a lifetime. The family unit is the perfect place to practice the following teamwork skills: *trust, communication, listening, and cooperating with each other.*

The Water Game is ideal to practice valuable life skills; you will need two blindfolds, two plastic cups, and a bottle of water.

- a) Blindfold two family members; have one sit down and hold the plastic cup on their head or lap. The other family member will hold the plastic cup with the water and stand approximately three or four feet away.
- b) The third family member, using communication skills, will direct the family member with the cup of water to pour it into the other family member's empty cup.
- c) Everyone in the family will get a turn holding the empty cup, pouring the water into the empty cup, and directing where and how to pour the water into the empty cup.

To encourage children to talk about their feelings, try asking these questions: How did you feel when you were waiting for the water to be poured into your cup? What were you thinking when you poured the water into the empty cup? When you got wet, how did you feel? How do you think the other family member felt when they got wet?

The definition of teamwork is many hands, many hearts, many minds, one goal. Throughout their lives, children will be involved in many different groups. Since the family unit is where your children will learn about teamwork, below are three fun activities you can do to practice working together.

- a) Make a collage of various groups or teams! You will be able to get some old magazines at your local library to use. Have your family look for and cut out pictures of children or adults working as a team; then glue them onto a poster board. This will give you the opportunity to discuss how each person brings his or her own special talents and skills to the family, team, or group he or she is involved with.
- b) Write a story together! Have an adult start the story; then each child will take a turn adding to the story. Either a child or adult will finish the story. With younger children, have them draw pictures and write what they say under the picture.
- c) Do a random act of kindness for someone else! Have the family decide what you want to accomplish; what might stop you; how will each family member contribute, and when do you want to achieve your goal?

How will each family member contribute? Since children sometimes have difficulty seeing their talents and skills, play the M&M Game. Put a dish of candy in the middle of the table and spin an empty plastic bottle. When it stops in front of a family member, everyone else states one skill or talent the family member has. Then they take an M&M. Keep playing the game until all family members have an idea of their skills and talents.

Family night is a good time to try some of these games and activities! As a Family, plan several family nights where you can work on teamwork and cooperation. Use the Bible verses provided above to talk about how they fit into the family and how God really wants families to work together.

WORTHY LIFE PROGRAM – MOUNTAIN LIONS

SPIRITUAL THEME FOR MOUNTAIN LIONS: My Family, My Community, and Biblical Manhood

Key Goal: To develop faith in the Lord through learning (discipleship) and activities (worship and ministry).

TRAIL GUIDE INSTRUCTIONS: The requirements listed below are to help the Trailmen develop their faith in the Lord through learning (discipleship) and activities (worship and ministry). The requirements are to be included in regularly scheduled or “hit the trail” meetings or at a campout as the Trail Guide would plan them. A suggestion in planning would be to divide the requirements into sections so that they will be completed according to a certain timeline that can fit in a one or two year period. The Family Values of Faith/Family Point are created for the Trailmen to work with their Family in these areas of discipleship in the home.

What You'll Need:

- Bible for the Trail Guide or Ranger (Required for each activity)
- Bible for each Mountain Lion (Recommended that each Mountain Lion have his personal Bible, so that he can learn and practice finding reference points in God's Word)
- See individual requirements for additional materials needed

MOUNTAIN LIONS REQUIREMENTS: Complete all 12 Requirements.

1. _____ Perform an act of service for your church, your Troop's church, or through one of their ministries.
2. _____ Perform an act of service for your personal church, the charter organization church, or through any other church ministry.
3. _____ Perform or lead grace before a meal on a campout.
4. _____ The Lord's Prayer Study (Matthew 6:9-15, Luke 11:2-4): Explain "Give us this day our daily bread"— How does God provide for me daily? How do I place my trust in God that He will provide – and "lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil" - We are always tempted to do the wrong things, so how does my faith work with my decision making?

Go over this - *DOING GOD'S WILL* – Think about the decision and ask yourself questions – How is this going to affect me? How will this affect my family? How will this affect my walk with Christ? (Talk about what it means to WALK WORTHY)
5. _____ Attend a special Christmas, Easter, or other church holiday service and discuss what you learned with your family.
6. _____ FAMILY POINT: Obstacles of Faith: Do this requirement at home with Parents. When talking about Obstacles of our Faith, here are several to go over with your Mountain Lion:

a. Warnings of What's Ahead – prepare your children for what's ahead, what they may face and what they may deal with.

Parents need to take an opportunity to set children up for success as teenagers by sharing how God sees them. Assure the children of their importance to God. Help them find their talents and spiritual gifts by reminding them they are wonderfully made (Psalm 139), encouraging them to do great things. (Jeremiah 29:11 and Ephesians 2:10)

For example, family ministry leaders today are sharing talks about purity and what the Bible teaches about purity. It is necessary in the 5th and 6th Grades to warn of what's ahead in the teenage years and what they will face. Consider talking to your children's minister, youth leader, or minister regarding resources that will help communicate this information.

b. Self: Temptations, selfishness, and pride are all obstacles to living a selfless Christian life. Sometimes we hear phrases like, "It's a constant battle to do what's right."

The gospel is clear: We are to also deny ourselves. (Luke 9:23) This is hard when the culture is saying 'you' are the most important thing. This affects all aspects of life: how you pursue relationships, dating, marriage, and also how you see God relationally. Putting God first in our decisions and thoughts will help when dealing with Pride. Go over the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-25.

c. Peers: As a youth coordinator, Donna Thurston wrote, "I think the biggest obstacles are peers who don't value or aren't invested in spiritual development...If they're getting mixed messages from many other sources inside or outside the church, this can be very confusing." (Children's Ministry Magazine 2005 – Stephanie Martin)

Our children may learn from friends that being a Christian means one who can't have any fun. "At my school," says Samantha, "there are so many things you hear, from swearing to gossip to nasty jokes. It's hard to stay on track when you have friends and people in your classes who enjoy that stuff, and you want to fit in." (Children's Ministry Magazine 2005 – Stephanie Martin)

(Article Contribution - Stephanie Martin is a freelance writer and editor in Colorado. Please keep in mind that phone numbers, addresses, and prices are subject to change. Originally published in March-April, 2005 in Children's Ministry Magazine)

7. _____ HERO OF FAITH: Timothy: The Primary Role of a Man of God

TRAIL GUIDE: You can teach these lessons during an alternate meeting and get help from the Troop chaplain if you desire. Also, you may teach these lessons at a campout setting with father's teaching their sons, or you teaching them.

INTRODUCTION: Who is Timothy in the Bible? He was a disciple, a student of Paul. Paul wrote two letters to Timothy, and we can read what he said when he was teaching him.

Timothy had learned about Jesus when he was a little boy. His mother and grandmother taught him about Jesus and helped him learn what it meant to

believe in Him. The Bible does not tell us exactly what happened to Timothy's father. All we know is that his mother and grandmother raised him. Paul knew that Timothy would be a good friend and helper as they traveled to tell people about Jesus. Paul asked Timothy to join him. Timothy traveled with Paul and Silas. He helped many people know about Jesus and grow in their faith in Jesus Christ.

What Lessons can I learn from Timothy's letters about being a Man of God?

Lesson #1: INTEGRITY: (2 Tim. 1:1-7): The quality of being honest and fair. Integrity is part of your faith, especially when you walk with God in an open and honest relationship. You are to be honest and fair with your parents, family, and friends.

Lesson #2: CONVICTION: (2 Tim. 1:8-12): It is what we accept and what we do not accept, according to the Bible. In our lives, that which we stand against and that which we stand for are very clear. Begin the foundation of what you believe. Your parents and clergy can help with that.

Lesson #3: COURAGE: (2 Tim. 1:13-18): If I have to give my life for my convictions, I am willing to do it. Think about the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the book of Daniel, saying that they weren't going to bow before this idol; we are not going to worship you; we are not going to pray to you to the king. Then they said our God is able to deliver us and if he does not, we still are not going to. That is courage.

Lesson #4: PERSEVERANCE: (2 Tim. 2:8-13): Perseverance is the key to the whole thing. Staying on course. Hebrews 12:1-3 tells a story of what perseverance is: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted." Running the race with endurance and fixing our eyes on Jesus.

Lesson #5: FOCUS: (2 Tim. 2:14-19): Focus needs to be the one thing that God has called you to do and to give your best. Paul said this one thing I do forgetting those things which are behind, I press toward those things which are in front. (Phil. 3:13)

8. _____ HERO OF FAITH: Peter (Mark 14:27-31 and John 21:15-25)

Lesson: The lesson comes from Mark Chapter 14 (show them in your Bible). This story is about the disciple Peter, one of Jesus' closest followers. Let's go back to the Last Supper. After Jesus shares His last meal with His disciples, he tells them they will all fall away and abandon Him, their Shepherd. Peter declares to Jesus, "Even if all the other fall away, I will not!" But Jesus knows all. He tells Peter, "Today, even this very night, before the rooster crows, you yourself will disown me three times." But Peter did not believe he would ever do such a thing!

He kept insisting, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" The others said the same thing also.

Now we are going to skip ahead. Remember that Peter kept falling asleep in the garden instead of praying like Jesus asked. Soon Judas came with a group of men who wanted to kill Jesus. Judas showed them who Jesus was by giving Him a kiss. They arrested Jesus, and all of the disciples fled because they were afraid! Peter decided to follow them at a distance to see where they took Jesus. Peter came to a courtyard, and a servant girl of a high priest said, "You were with Jesus!" But Peter denied it, saying, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about." Then he went out onto the porch. The same servant girl saw him and began to tell others, "This is one of Jesus' followers!" But again, Peter denied that he followed Jesus. After a little while, others began saying to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, one of Jesus' followers!" Peter acted angry! He yelled, "I do not know this man you are talking about!!" Immediately a rooster crowed a second time....Peter remembered what Jesus said, "Before a rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." Peter began to weep.

Discussion Questions:

1. Did what Jesus say to Peter come true? (Yes)
2. Why do you think Peter began to weep when he remembered what Jesus said? (*He felt ashamed (bad, guilty) for what he had done*)
3. Was Peter guilty? (Yes) Should he have felt ashamed? (Yes)
4. What do you think Jesus thinks of Peter? (*Allow them to contemplate this without giving them an answer quite yet*)
5. When we sin, it makes us feel very bad sometimes too. Have you ever felt ashamed?
Can you tell me about it? (*Allow time for them to discuss*)

Closing Comments: Peter wept because he felt ashamed and guilty. He saw how sinful he was. It embarrassed him to know what an awful sin he had done. We are sinners. We will always sin. This means we will often feel ashamed like Peter did in today's lesson. But Jesus was not angry with Peter. In fact, His love is so perfect, He chose to use Peter for great things even though Peter denied Him. Jesus forgave Peter – (read the passage in John 21) - Peter became a great man of God who shared the Gospel with many, many people later.

9. _____ **FAMILY DEVOTIONAL:** Talk about ways to impact the community as a family as Jesus did. (*This family devotional is located at the end of this section*)
10. _____ Earn the Religious Emblem for your denomination at the Mountain Lions Age Group
 - a) **The Protestant Program** (God and Family/Grades 4-5) To purchase the required booklet, contact Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.), at 1-800-933-7729 or by e-mail at http://www.praypub.org/main_frameset.htm

b) **Catholic Awards** – (I Live My Faith/Grades 4-6) To purchase the required booklet, contact National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) may be contacted at 202-636-3825 or by e-mail at <http://www.nfcym.org/gscf/recognitions.htm>

c) **Eastern Orthodox** – (Parvuli Dei/Ages 8-10) to purchase the required booklet, contact Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.) may be contacted at 1-800-933-7729 or by e-mail at http://www.praypub.org/main_frameset.htm

or

NCCS 972-580-2114, National Catholic Committee on Scouting, P. O. Box 152079, Irving, Texas 75015-2079

d) **Members of the Church of Christ** – (Joyful Servant/Grades 4-5) to purchase the required booklet, contact Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.) may be contacted at 1-800-933-7729 or by e-mail at http://www.praypub.org/main_frameset.htm

Or

Churches of Christ for Scouting, 401 Cypress St., Ste. 406, Abilene, TX 79601;
Phone: 325-370-1679 / www.goodservant.org

11. _____ FAMILY DEVOTIONAL: Lesson on what the Bible says about the family
(This family devotional is located on the last page of this section.)

12. _____ SUMMARY FOR THE MOUNTAIN LIONS WORTHY LIFE PROGRAM

(Talk to the Mountain Lion about what he learned during this stage of the Worthy Life Program)

a. What is a biblical family? (*People loving God with all their heart, mind, and soul*)

What is parenting? (*Parenting is to lead children to love the Lord with their heart, soul, and mind*)

b. What qualities about biblical manhood did I learn from Timothy? (*Integrity, Conviction, Courage, Perseverance, and Focus*) Why are these qualities important? (*I need these to walk worthy with Christ in my life*)

c. What lesson did I learn from Peter's denial? (*Sometimes we can make mistakes, but God can still use us, I can be forgiven for my sins through Christ....we get back up and start WALKING WORTHY*)

d. In doing God's will, what questions should I ask myself? (think about the decision and ask yourself questions – How is this going to affect me? How will this affect my family? How will this affect my walk with Christ?)

e. How can my family help in the community? (*They can give many reasons....and also talk about why we should help*)

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL: CARE FOR THE COMMUNITY AS A FAMILY

INTRODUCTION: Do you think children can help others? What are some ways you can help your friends? Can moms and dads help care for other people? There are many ways we can help. We can share a lunch with a friend or do extra chores at home. God can use adults like our parents and children, too, to care for other people and share God's love. In our story today, Jesus and a little boy together helped thousands of people!

As a family, read John 6:5-13.

The Bible says: "Bear one another's burdens." Galatians 6:2

Discussion Questions: Let's take a closer look at the story we heard today.

1. How many men came to see Jesus? (*5,000 men*)
2. Who gave Jesus his lunch? (*A boy*)
3. What did the boy have for his lunch? (*5 loaves of bread and 2 fish*)

POINT: The boy had no idea what was about to happen. Can you imagine having someone take your small lunch and trying to feed 5,000 hungry men? With the faith of the boy and the help of the disciples, Jesus performed a miracle and fed the 5,000! The boy and the disciples served God by helping to feed the people.

What are some ways you can help others? How can we help others in our neighborhood? Why is it important to help people?

We should pray for God to show us ways that we can serve Him. Serving God is a way of showing our obedience to Him. He wants us to care and share with other people. There are so many things you can do for others even though you are a child, just like the boy in the story. We need to find things that we are good at and use those things to serve God.

Let's pray to God for His help:

Dear God, Help me to find things that I am good at and use those things to help others. Show me ways I can help people and share Your love. Help me to obey You in all I do. In Jesus' Name - Amen.

TO DO: Find a project your family can do for your neighbor.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL: WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT FAMILY

1. Families in the Bible were important to God. The role of the child was to learn about God! Home is to be the perfect school, and the parent is the perfect teacher. Father is preacher and priest, and the mother is teacher. Both of them are needed!
2. Family mandate is biblical, and we should follow God's commands and God's ways, "...and that you may tell in the hearing of your son, and of your grandson, how I have dealt harshly with the Egyptians and what signs I have done among them, that you may know that I am the LORD." (Exodus 10:2)
3. WHY??
 - a. FAMILY is God's first way
 - i. Adam and Eve was the beginning – man and woman
 - ii. Deut. 6 teaches about the role of the family
 - b. What was FAMILY compared to?
 - i. The church is a family (Eph. 2:19; 1 Cor. 1:10)
 - ii. The Biblical doctrine of adoption is for us all (Romans 8:14-17)
 - iii. The church is the bride of Christ (Eph. 5:22-32)
 - iv. The saints do the ministry (Eph. 4:11-12)

The Great Commandment: And Jesus said to the Pharisee, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." (Matthew 22:37)

Joined together with: "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." (Deut. 6:6-9)

The Biblical Family is defined as People loving God with all of their heart, soul, and mind. Parenting is to lead children to love the Lord with their heart, soul, and mind.

Fireguard

Mountain Lion Requirements

Rangers and Trail Guides Instructions: This is an additional learning tool for the Mountain Lions to help instruct them on fire safety. Upon the completion of this instruction, as well hands on learning, the Mountain Lion may earn the **FIREGUARD CARD**, which may be carried as proof of completion of skills necessary to handle all aspects of camp fire safety when going on outdoor activities with his Patrol, Troop, or family. The FIREGUARD CARD shall be made available at the Trail Life USA online store.



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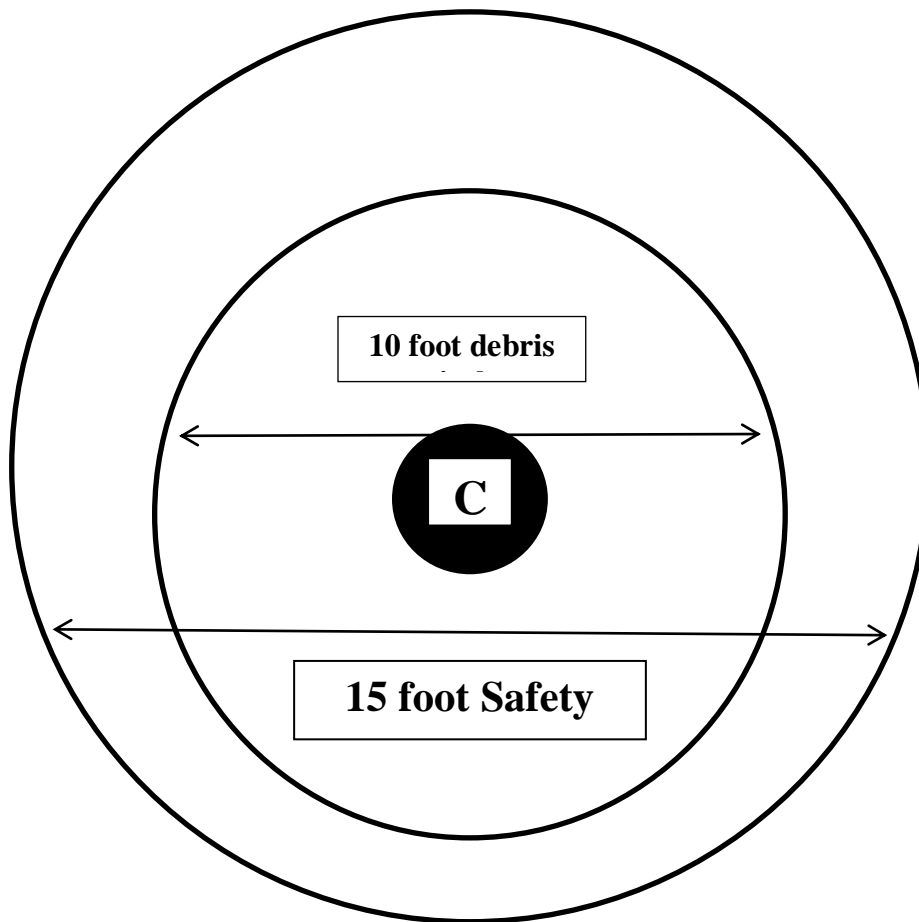
PART 1: WHERE CAN I START A FIRE?

1. Check with local authorities in your area regarding your state or county rules and regulations (as well as burn ban) in the area you are planning to camp or have a campfire. If you are staying at a state or national park, the Park Ranger will have the needed information posted. Some locations or areas prohibit campfires, so be aware of any posted restrictions.
2. If you are at a campground, look for an existing campfire ring or area where the fire can be safely built.
3. If there is no existing campfire ring, you will need to make one.

Safety Rules about setting up a Campfire Ring are as follows:

- a. **SAFETY CIRCLE:** Make sure you are at a safe distance away from tents and picnic areas. Smoky the Bear recommends a fifteen foot radius that is clear of any potential dangers. (<http://www.smokeybear.com/pick-your-spot.asp>)
- b. **POTENTIAL DANGERS:**
 - Never start a fire by or under a tree or bushes – this potential danger could spread the fire across many acres of land, causing damage to trees, land, and wildlife habitation.
 - Never start a fire close to or by a building or structure. This potential danger, if the fire were to get out of control, could spread to the building or structure causing them to burn.
- c. Follow the Tread Lightly principles
<http://treadlightly.org/tread-lightlys-tips-for-responsible-camping/>,

PART 2: Where and How to Dig a Campfire Pit



STEP 1: Find a space big enough for a fifteen foot safety circle. Follow the safety rules for obstructions.

STEP 2: Within the Safety Circle, form a ten foot debris circle and pick up twigs and remove other objects that could cause the fire to spread or be a fire hazard.

STEP 3: In the center of the debris circle, dig a campfire pit that is about one foot deep.

STEP 4: Find some rocks to form a ring around your campfire pit.

SAFETY TOOLS NEEDED: Make sure you have a shovel and a bucket of water or sand (depending on your location) close to your campfire pit for emergencies.

Things to Consider: If we follow Tread Lightly Guidelines, we should not remove branches from live trees where we camp. This damages the trees. Use twigs and or wood on the ground from trees that have fallen. Make sure you comply with national or state park rules and regulations on gathering firewood. Some national and state parks

allow you to bring your own firewood to the camping facility; however, it is suggested that you contact them to check before camping. While hiking or camping in wilderness settings, be careful to use Tread Lightly [www.treadlightly.org] or US Forestry Service Campfire guidelines.

PART 3: How to Build a Campfire

1. There are three types of wood that need to be gathered or brought into the campsite:
 - a. Tinder – twigs, leaves or pine needles
 - b. Kindling – small twigs bigger than tinder
 - c. Wood – bigger pieces of wood, logs
2. Use a stacking method – Tinder first, then add Kindling, then add large pieces of wood on last.

(Make sure you leave room to light the tinder with a match) – you can study different types of campfires - <http://www.campfiredude.com/campfire-lays.shtml> or <http://www.artofmanliness.com/2009/09/22/three-essential-campfires-snack-fire-cooking-fire-and-comfort-fire/>

PART 4: How to Start a Campfire

1. Lighting the Fire
 - a. Light the tinder with flint and steel (If Trail Guides want to instruct on this, research the safety and use of flint and steel on the internet) or,
 - b. Light the tinder with a match or lighter. Always use Matches safely. Mountain Lions should show to the Trail Guide proper striking technique and safe storage of matches or any lighters before use at a Trail Life USA meeting or event
 - c. When Backpacking, waterproof matches are a good item to have when camping and hiking. Place them in a small Ziploc bag or a small container when packing for a hiking trip. Show the proper use and care of waterproof or strike type matches.
2. Wait until the tinder is lit and add some more tinder to the flame.
3. Blow towards the bottom of the fire. Once the fire is established, add kindling and wood to the flame to keep it going.
4. The fire needs to be a manageable circumference and height. Keep safety in mind as you build your fire. It needs to be one you can control. Remember, a tall fire at some point will fall.
5. Never leave a fire unattended. Someone always needs to be on “fire watch.”
6. Do not put anything into or take anything out of the fire.
7. Do not put any foreign objects in the fire; some will explode and could be potentially hazardous.

PART 5: Putting Out a Campfire

1. It is best to let the fire burn all the wood down to ash.
2. If time will not permit all of the wood to burn down to ash, use water to extinguish the fire. Douse the fire completely. Pay attention to the red parts that still glow. (Tip: if water is not available, use dirt)
3. Use the shovel to stir the ash, wood, and water together. It will help put out all of the warm spots.
4. You shouldn't feel any more heat coming from where the fire is. The goal is to make the area cold. Add water and stir with the shovel, as needed, until the fire is completely out.
5. Since the fire is in a pit, make sure it is completely cold and out before you cover it up.
6. If the fire was not made within the boundaries of a pre-determined fire ring, you are to make the area look as if there was no fire or pit. Do your best to cover the spot well with a shovel.

Campfire Safety Videos Resources:

<http://www.smokeybear.com/campfire-safety.asp> - US Forestry Service Short Videos

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YY_1aBQZ2JM – Campfire Safety with the HEAT Team



Woodsmen

Rangers and Trail Guides Instructions: This an additional learning tool for the Trailmen to help instruct on knife use and safety. Upon the completion of instruction, as well as hands on learning, the Trailmen may earn the **WOODSMEN CARD** which may be carried as proof of completion of skills necessary to handle all aspects of knife safety when going on outdoor activities with his family, Patrol, or Troop. The WOODSMEN CARD shall be made available at the Trail Life USA online store.

Point: Folding knives make the best “first” knife for a Trailmen because

they are smaller and lighter and can be safely carried in a pocket. Pocket knives are best used to teach children basic knife safety. Before any Trailmen use a pocketknife, it is important to teach safety and proper use. The following is a guide to some common-sense, yet instructive, folding knife safety rules for children.



WOODSMEN

SAFETY SAYING: When using a knife, always keep in mind –

“A knife is a tool, not a toy.”

Allow the Trailmen to repeat this phrase back to you several times before picking up a knife, and remind them of it frequently during this training and outings. Make sure it is known to only use a knife when it is needed. We should never use a knife to show off or use it while we are angry. Remembering a knife as a tool will help when making decisions on its use.

PART 1: WHERE CAN I CARRY A KNIFE?

Set clear rules on when and where it’s appropriate to carry the blade. A knife should only be brought out and used with the Trail Guide or parent’s permission and under close supervision in places such as a Trail Life USA Meeting or Outing and a Family Campout or other Outdoor Event. An inappropriate place would be to carry a knife to school or the store.

PART 2: HOW DO I USE A KNIFE?

1. Establish a SAFETY CIRCLE: Before opening and using a folding knife, a Trailman should learn to become aware of their surroundings in order to prevent injuring others. Instruct the Trailman to hold the closed knife at arm’s length and slowly spin around in a circle. If the Trailman is able to turn without bumping into anyone, he has a safe zone where the knife can be used without hurting anyone. Never walk or run with an open knife. Stay still when using a knife in the safety circle.

2. Passing the Knife: A Trailman should also be taught how to safely pass a knife to someone else. A folding knife should always be closed before passing. For older Trailmen, practice handing off an open knife: Hold it by the blade, cutting edge facing away from the hand, and present the handle to the other person. The Trailmen receiving the knife should acknowledge with a, "Thank you, I have it," to let the passer know he or she has control of the knife.
3. Show how to safely open and close the knife.
 - a. First, grip the handle in your non-dominant hand.
 - b. Place the thumbnail of your dominant hand into the groove on the back of the blade.
 - c. Pull the blade out as far as possible, ensuring it won't snap back.
 - d. Use your dominant hand to pull back on the thick point of the blade to lock it into place.
 - e. Reverse the process to close the knife.
4. Show how to properly cut with a folding knife. When we learn this skill, a good way to practice is to carve a bar of soap.
 - a. Double-check that the blade is locked in the open position.
 - b. Grip the handle with your whole hand.
 - c. Cut away from your body.
 - d. Don't use too much force.

PART 3: HOW DO I CARE FOR MY KNIFE?

1. Keep the knife sharp; explain why a dull knife is dangerous.

A dull knife doesn't serve the purpose for which it was intended. You want a knife that will cut through something; a dull knife doesn't do that. It doesn't slice through the cutting material cleanly and easily. With a dull knife, you must use more force to get something cut.

If we are using extra force to cut, we are not letting the tool do the work. As a result, the knife can slip or twist uncontrollably. The next thing you know, you've cut yourself. Cuts made with a dull knife are usually worse. This kind of cut makes it more difficult for the body to heal.

Taken from <http://preppingtosurvive.com/2012/10/22/dull-knives-are-dangerous/>

Demonstrate how to sharpen a knife with a sharpening stone. This link shows the most basic means of sharpening a blade.

<http://www.artofmanliness.com/2009/03/05/how-to-sharpen-a-pocket-knife/>

2. Keep the blade oiled for smooth opening. Demonstrate where to put the oil and how much is applied.
3. Clean and dry your knife after each use. After cleaning, place the blade in the closed position.
4. In the beginning, the Trailman's knife, while not in use, should be given to the Trail Guides or parents. After learning is complete, the Trailman should take responsibility to fold the knife and put it away in a safe place.

Concepts and Terminology used from:

<https://www.coastportland.com/articles/folding-knife-safety-rules-for-kids/>

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CEREMONIES

Trail Life USA Suggested Induction Ceremony

Master of Ceremony (MC): We welcome you to our Annual Trail Life USA Induction Ceremony.

(Name) will conduct the Flag Ceremony. Please prepare yourselves for the Flag Ceremony.

Caller Commands:

Color Guard advance: Flags are brought forward

Color Guard post colors: Flags are posted into stands

Salute - Pledge

Pledge of Allegiance

Two

Color retreat: Color Guard leaves Flag area

MC: (Boy's name) will read Trail Life Motto

Read aloud the Motto:

"Walk Worthy" Colossians 1:10: "that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."

MC: (Boy's name) will read a short statement of Troop Verse, number and significance or passion/vision.

Insert information here.

MC: Ranger (name) will conduct the Induction Ceremony

Read aloud the following: Welcome to our Trail Life USA Induction Ceremony. These young men are about to begin a journey that will set a noble and honorable standard for all those who follow in their footsteps. In preparation of this, we will light a special candle – which will represent the light of our creator, God. This is the representation of His light that we hope each of you will pass on to all the world as you live the Trail Life USA Motto and Oath.

(As candle is lit, read below)

It has been said,

*"True strength is always strength given over to God's purposes. It is God's idea to make men strong so that they would use that strength to protect women, children or anyone else. There's something heroic in that. Male strength is a gift from God, and like all gifts from God, it's always and everywhere meant to be used to bless others."
- Seven Great Men, Eric Metaxas.*

This Induction Ceremony celebrates your commitment as a Trail Life Trailman - as you embark on the Trail to Manhood.

(Read individual names of those joining the Troop. Have the boys come forward as their names are called and stand facing audience. Call mothers, fathers or adult representative to come forward and stand next to the young men.)

Trailmen, prepare yourselves with the Trailman Sign as we recite the Trail Life USA Oath.

Ranger: Repeat after me.

*On my honor, I will do my best
to serve God and my country; (give time for them to echo)
to respect authority; (give time to echo)
to be a good steward of Creation; (give time to echo)
and to treat others as I want to be treated. (give time to echo).*

Trailmen turn to each other and seal your commitment with the Trailman handshake. By so doing, you commit to hold each other accountable.

Ranger: Now repeat after me Trail Life USA Adult Leaders, Fathers and Mentors.

*I ask God for grace
to live and teach these young Trailmen
the Principles of Biblical Manhood.*

Adult Leaders and Trailmen: With your right hand, raise your Standards or make the Trailman Sign.

Trail Ranger: Leaders and Trailmen, repeat after me:

*To live boldly and avoid being passive (give time to echo)
To live responsibly (give time to echo)
To lead courageously (give time to echo)
To live for greater rewards of God (give time to echo)*

Congratulations, men! You have now been Inducted into Trail Life USA . Walk Worthy! in all that you do.

MC: Troop Chaplin will now close us in prayer.

MC: Basic Flag Retirement Ceremony

Color Guard advance

Salute

Color Guard retire the colors

Color Guard Retreat

Color Guard Dismissed

MC: (Closing statements and invitation to refreshments).

Portions based on book by Robert Lewis, *Raising a Modern Day Knight* (used with permission by Focus on the Family)

The Woodlands Trail Suggested Timberline Award Ceremony

This ceremony can take place at the Charter organization's large meeting place or may be held outdoors around a campfire with families involved. If there is a hill or mountain in the vicinity, the ceremony might be held atop at a high location.

Greeting

Blessing upon the Ceremony: Troop Chaplain

Flag Ceremony and Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction and Purpose of Ceremony

Calling of Recipients: Ranger

Would those who seek to pass the Timberline please come forward?

It has been said that when on the trail that the most important point to know is where you are. You cannot begin to determine where you are going or how you will get there until you are fully aware of where you are. Once your location is determined, you can then see clearly to navigate to wherever you want to go.

You have journeyed upward through the Woodlands Trail program and have reached the Timberline. Your experience on the Woodlands Trail has shown you much about who you are. With the help of faithful Trail Guides, mentors, family, and friends, you have discovered much about yourself and the world around you. The Timberline is the upper edge of the forest. The trees have passed, and you are able to see in all directions.

As you have climbed upward, there have been many mentors along the way.

Trail Guides, will you step forward and say a word or two of encouragement to these young Trailmen?

Portions based on book by Robert Lewis, *Raising a Modern Day Knight* (used with permission by Focus on the Family)

Ranger says:

Now, passing the Timberline, you are able to see in all directions around you - North, South, East, and West. Just as there are four cardinal directions, there are four Manhood Principles that, if followed, will take you far in your journey into manhood.

Falter at one point and the direction of your life will change greatly.

Have all Trailmen turn to face the cardinal direction the Ranger is speaking about.

Trailmen, turn to the East.

The East represents the eastern gate of the land of Eden. In Genesis 3:23-24, we read of how the disobedience of Adam and Eve led to them being expelled from the Garden of Eden. The Eastern gate reminds us to live boldly and reject being passive.

Genesis 3 tells of the fall of man. Within this chapter you find the account of the conversation between the serpent and Eve. In verse 6 of that chapter, the Bible tells us that “She also gave some to her husband, who was with her...”

Did you catch that? The scripture says that the man was with the woman. Instead of the man boldly correcting the serpent and protecting his wife, he stood in the background and was passive. He did nothing and remained silent as she argued with the serpent. It is our role as men to lead in our homes and throughout our life, protecting others and living boldly for God.

Trailmen, will you live boldly and reject living a passive life?

Trailmen, turn to the South.

As we turn South, let us be reminded to live responsibly.

We should faithfully carry our own backpack through life's trail, and we should carry each other's pack for a while if it becomes a burden to them. In the sixth chapter of the book of Galatians, the Apostle Paul tells us to carry our own load but to bear one another's burdens. Living responsibly means that we do what is needed and what is right. It is our responsibility to care for our family, love our neighbor as ourselves, and to be faithful leaders.

Trailmen, will you live responsibly?

Trailmen, turn to the West.

The West reminds us to lead courageously.

When we think of the American Wild West we think of tough cowboys who lived hard lives. It was John Wayne, as a cowboy, who said, "Courage is being scared to death but saddling up anyway." In the Bible, when Jesus was tested by Satan after going without any food for forty days, He responded courageously with Scripture that he had memorized. In the book of Matthew, Chapter 4, we read of Jesus standing up to Satan firmly, even after Satan offered Him many amazing things. Jesus said, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.' ” Like Jesus, we will be tempted in this world to run after money, pleasure, power, and fame. Leading courageously means that we recognize that, in spite of fear, our priority is following God and leading others to do the same, regardless of the consequences.

Trailmen, will you lead courageously?

Trailmen, turn to the North.

The North is the greatest of all points. This Point reminds us to live for the greater rewards of God.

Moses was a man that had the opportunity to live under the most powerful man in Egypt, the Pharaoh. He could have anything that he wanted, but the Bible says in Hebrews 11:24-26, "24: By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; 25: choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin; 26: He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward." As men, we are called to live disciplined lives. Discipline is putting off something that we want so that later we can have something that we want more. Moses was looking for the greater reward in the future. You are called to do the same.

Will you live for the greater rewards of God?

Trailmen, look above.

Above you is Christ himself. If followed closely, Jesus will lead you into all truth and righteousness. The Bible says that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father, except through Him. We read also that He will never leave us nor forsake us. When we walk with Jesus, we will never go astray.

If you agree to live in accordance with these instructions, please say, "I will."

Trailmen, when your name is called, step forward to the Troopmaster.

Troopmaster gives the award.

Call for the Family or Mentors to come stand by their Trailman.

Family, friends and mentors please join us in prayer to encourage these award recipients to continue to Walk Worthy in all areas of their lives. (Prayer time inserted here)

Ladies and Gentlemen in our audience, would you rise and give a warm hand for our Woodlands Trail Timberline Award recipients.

The Optional Branch Awards Ceremony

WOODLANDS TRAIL BRANCH	TREE CONNECTION
Heritage Branch	Roots
Hobbies Branch	Leaves
Life Skills Branch	Water
Outdoor Activities Branch	Branches of the Tree
Pioneering Skills Branch	Bark
Science and Tech Branch	Tree Rings
Values Branch	Sunlight

HERITAGE BRANCH

Would all of the following boys come forward to be recognized for earning the Heritage Branch Award?

CALL THE NAMES OF THE BOYS RECEIVING THE HERITAGE BRANCH AWARD.

Just as the roots form the foundation of the tree. Heritage forms the foundation of the person. It is the roots that hold the tree secure against strong winds and storms. It is the roots that allow the tree to grow straight and tall. Your knowledge of the heritage of your family and nation will have the same affect throughout your life. Your roots will grow longer and stronger the more you know about your family's history and the heritage of our country. The trials and successes of those who have gone before you will aid you in your own path. Everything they did was to so you could stand here today. You honor them just by wanting to know who they were, how they lived and even how some of them gave their lives to honor our country. You have collected enough leaves to complete this part of your journey and tonight you are awarded with the Heritage Branch Award for your Patrol level.

Hand each Trailman the Heritage Branch Award pin.

Please join me in congratulating these young men on their accomplishment.

HOBBIES BRANCH

Would all of the following boys come forward to be recognized for earning the Hobbies Branch Award?

CALL THE NAMES OF THE BOYS RECEIVING THE HOBBIES BRANCH AWARD.

What are some of the fun things you like to do? How do you like to spend your free time? Hobbies are so very important and fun. They allow us to show and share with others our hopes, dreams, and imagination. Freedom of expression is one of our greatest human traits. The tree connection for the Hobbies Branch is the leaf. Leaves come in so many different shapes, colors, and fragrances. So, too, do hobbies. Hobbies help to make us different from one another, as leaves help us to pick out different trees. With all of the leaves you have acquired, you are awarded the Hobbies Branch Award pin for your Patrol level. Like the leaves on a tree that turn color and fall, your hobbies may change through the years. But growing new hobbies can be a lot of fun.

Hand each Trailman the Hobbies Branch Award pin.

Please join me in congratulating these young men on their accomplishment.

LIFE SKILLS BRANCH

Would all of the following boys come forward to be recognized for earning the Life Skills Branch Award?

CALL THE NAMES OF THE BOYS RECEIVING THE LIFE SKILLS BRANCH AWARD.

No tree can grow without water. The amount of water determines the size and strength of the tree. The life skills you learn will determine the strength and size of your character. The purity of your character will sustain many areas of your life. These life skills will water and nourish your basic abilities and allow you to use them to go further in all other areas. Completing the leaves for this branch has awarded you with the Life Skills Branch Award for your Patrol level. As water helps the body, life skills will help you in all areas of your life.

Hand each Trailman the Life Skills Branch Award pin.

Please join me in congratulating these young men on their accomplishment.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Would all of the following boys come forward to be recognized for earning the Science and Technology Branch Award?

CALL THE NAMES OF THE BOYS RECEIVING THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BRANCH AWARD.

The search for knowledge will never end. Your desire to learn more, to learn new things, or even re-learn things you already know will encompass your entire life. This is like the rings of the tree - they are ever increasing and expanding. As you travel along your path you will add new rings. These rings will form the basis of who you are. Trees create rings at different stages of their lives and no two trees have the same number or the same space between their rings. Do not let others deter you from learning all you can about the world around you. The world is God's creation just as you are, and he wishes for you to discover it and marvel in his work.

Hand each Trailman the Science and Technology Branch pin.

Please join me in congratulating these young men on their accomplishment.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES BRANCH

Would all of the following boys come forward to be recognized for earning the Outdoor Activities Branch Award?

CALL THE NAMES OF THE BOYS RECEIVING THE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES BRANCH AWARD.

Have you ever taken a long look at the branches of a tree? They vary in length, weight, and color. Some grow straight while others split. Some have many leaves while others are bare. The same is true for outdoor activities. There are many outdoor activities that you can pursue and none are exactly the same. No two people look at the same activity the same way or perform an activity the same way. How you feel about any one activity helps to show how different and unique you are to your friends. By completing the required leaves in this Branch, you are awarded the Outdoor Activities Branch pin for your Patrol level. Whether you have a few branches or many, these activities make up who you are and you should wave your branches proudly for all to see.

Hand each Trailman the Outdoor Activities Branch Award pin.

Please join me in congratulating these young men on their accomplishment.

PIONEERING SKILLS

Would all of the following boys come forward to be recognized for earning the Pioneering Skills Branch Award?

CALL THE NAMES OF THE BOYS RECEIVING THE PIONEERING SKILLS BRANCH AWARD.

The bark of the tree provides protection from wind and rain. Your pioneering skills will help you in much the same way. They will give you the tools to succeed in rough times. The bark expands and covers every inch of the tree, just as your skills will grow and aid you in every situation you face. Pliable yet strong, constant yet can grow back, the bark symbolizes your abilities to adjust to your surroundings and protect yourself when problems arise. You have completed all the necessary tasks in this branch and are awarded the Pioneering Skills Award pin. Keep your bark strong.

Hand each Trailman the Pioneering Skills Branch Award pin.

Please join me in congratulating these young men on their accomplishment.

VALUES

Would all of the following boys come forward to be recognized for earning the Values Branch Award?

CALL THE NAMES OF THE BOYS RECEIVING THE VALUES BRANCH AWARD.

How does sunlight affect the tree? What happens to a tree without sunlight? Yours values serve as the sunlight to who you are. Just as the tree growing in the direction of the light, your character will grow in the direction of your values. These values are based in your connection to God and without them your character will wither, just as a tree withers without sunlight. Your faith and values cannot be touched, or seen, or smelled but we know that it is alive within you. Sunlight cannot be contained or controlled. By completing the required leaves on the values branch you are here by awarded the Values Branch pin. Remember, your faith will shine as a beacon to everyone around you.

Hand each Trailman the Values Branch Award pin.

Please join me in congratulating these young men on their accomplishment.

=11=

GUIDING TRAILMEN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

God has specifically crafted every person with a unique personality, behaviors, and needs. Sometimes, a boy can exhibit behaviors or needs that present a challenge in a social group setting, such as Troop and Patrol meetings. Most likely it will not be long into your service before you encounter a Trailman with a special need. The purpose of this section is to highlight Trail Life USA's benefits and provide direction to guide all boys, regardless of need.

The two main benefits Trail Life USA offers its boys and leaders are structure and consistency, both of which are vital for boys with special needs. Some of the most common special needs you can expect will be boys with ADD/ADHD, mild behavioral difficulties, and, possibly, boys on the autistic spectrum. Trail Life USA has been meticulously and purposefully structured to provide all boys with the foundation they need to become godly men.

Structure and consistency are fundamental for any program involving children. Following Trail Life USA's program prescribed in the Leader's Guide will provide boys with these necessary components. Each Standard Patrol Meeting is organized into the 6 F's: Focus, Fingers, Fun, Family, Forest Badge, and Faith. Following the 6 F's will ensure the predictability of each meeting, alleviating the need for the boys to guess what will happen next and eliminating down time in the meeting that could be filled with unprompted physical play.

Consistency of the program is also a critical component for young boys. It is recommended that the Patrol and Troop maintain a predictable, consistent meeting schedule. Also, rotating a small number of dedicated Trail Guides will ensure consistency for the boys and allow for flexibility among the serving adults to substitute for each other as needed. On meetings when a guest speaker visits, allow the regular Trail Guide to open the meeting as normal and discuss what changes the boys can expect for the remainder of the meeting.

Unwanted behavior can be diminished or eliminated when clear expectations are initially stated and reviewed throughout the course of the year. At the start of each year, it is advisable for the Troopmaster and Trail Guides to briefly discuss desired behaviors, such as respecting others, using appropriate language, keeping hands to self and walking inside the building (which can be connected to stewardship of their charter organization). However, more explicit discussions may be needed for boys with behavioral difficulties. In such cases, the Trail Guides, using two-deep leadership, should not hesitate to instruct the boy aside from the large group and discuss the inappropriate behaviors with the parents/guardians.

Behavior problems can also be eliminated by expecting and responding to behaviors consistently during each meeting. For example, if a Trail Guide allows the boys to play rough during the Fun activity one week but then strictly enforces the “no rough play rule” another week, an inconsistent message is sent to the boys. This may result in a boy with special needs having to guess what may or may not be allowed at the current meeting. This could create anxiety and undesired behaviors.

Finally, when planning for the upcoming meeting, anticipate times during the meeting that difficult behavior could occur. Preface that activity with clear expectations. For example, if the Meeting Option calls for a Fun activity that requires a lot of physical touch, it would be wise to preface the game with a short (2 minute) discussion regarding appropriate touch and respecting others. Make a positive statement such as, “I know we will not have any problems will we? (while shaking your head)” Allow the boys to respond (which they should automatically say, “no” shaking their heads with yours) and then state something like, “If someone does get too rough or out of hand, he will be asked to sit out of the game for a few minutes. If he makes good choices with his behavior then he will be invited back with the group.” The most critical part to follow is that if a boy does need a break from the group, enforce it, and allow him to rejoin the group as you promised.

In closing, this guide is not intended to be all encompassing but a good start to provide a basic understanding and instruction in working with boys with special needs. When the Troop and Patrols are set up on the foundation of a solid structure and consistency, you will be well on your way to providing a Troop where all boys can begin their journey to the Freedom Award.

Resources for more information on specific needs:

ADHD: <http://kidshealth.org/parent/medical/learning/adhd.html#>

Autism (Autistic Spectrum Disorder)
http://kidshealth.org/parent/medical/learning/pervasive_develop_disorders.html#cat142

Emotional/Behavioral Difficulties: <http://nichcy.org/teaching-students-with-e-d>
<http://education.cu-portland.edu/blog/teaching-strategies/5-tips-for-handling-ebd-kids-emotional-behavior-disorder-in-an-inclusive-classroom/>

How to handle specific undesired behaviors (such as a boy who continually disrupts the meeting):

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/five-persistent-behavior-problems-and-how-handle-them-grades-6-C2%968> (this resource targets middle school grades, but recommendations are applicable to younger boys.)

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/25-sure-fire-strategies-handling-difficult-students>

=12=

FORMS SECTION

The forms included within this section are optional and are provided for your convenience only.

By my signature below, I am attesting that I have read, understand, and believe in the Trail Life USA Statement of Faith and Statement of Values as written on this page.

Statement of Faith

We believe there is One Triune God – God the Father; Jesus Christ, His one and only Son; and the Holy Spirit – Creator of the universe and eternally existent. We believe the Holy Scriptures (Old and New Testaments) to be the inspired and authoritative Word of God. We believe each person is created in His image for the purpose of communing with and worshiping God. We believe in the ministry of the Holy Spirit, Who enables us to live godly lives. We believe each of us is called to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We believe God calls us to lives of purity, service, stewardship and integrity.

Statement of Values

Purity // God calls us to lives of holiness, being pure of heart, mind, word and deed. We are to reserve sexual activity for the sanctity of marriage, a lifelong commitment before God between a man and a woman.

Service // God calls us to become responsible members of our community and the world through selfless acts that contribute to the welfare of others.

Stewardship // God calls us to use our God-given time, talents, and money wisely.

Integrity // God calls us to live moral lives that demonstrate an inward motivation to do what is biblically right regardless of the cost.

SIGNATURE

DATE

PRINTED NAME

ATTEST

DATE

PRINTED NAME



TRAIL LIFE USA™

TRAIL GUIDE WEEKLY MESSAGE SAMPLE TEMPLATE

Date of Meeting

Monthly Theme and Program Emphases

Main Focus of the Lesson

Leaves Earned by the Trailmen (listed by Trailman name and leaf quantity)

Bible verse reference or spiritual theme to be conveyed

Family Activity (What should be done at home with the Trailman? Homework?)

Ranger/Trail Guide Reminders for the next meeting.

- Date of the next meeting
- Location of the next meeting
- Resources to bring to the next meeting
- Special duties or responsibilities to be assigned to Trailmen or families

Trail Life USA would like to take this opportunity to thank the following men and women for donating their time, gifts and talents in helping to create the Woodlands Trail Program and Curriculum.

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Creator of Fireguard and Woodsman

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