

Fun Hikes

ALPHABET HIKE – Assign one or more letters of the alphabet to the girls and let them find nature objects beginning with these letters. (Another time have groups find something for each letter of the alphabet.)

ANIMAL HUNT – Find six animals that share your environment and discuss how and where they live.

ANIMAL, VEGETABLE, MINERAL HIKE – While on a hike or using a store window, identify and list materials that are animal, vegetable or mineral.

BIRD HIKE – Look for different birds (see if you know them by sight). Could look for nests (don't touch).

COLOR HIKE – Find things all the same color. If you walk in couples, one side look for reds, the other for yellows, for example.

Divide the group by colors and let girls in each group list everything they see of their color. (e.g. – make a red group, blue group, etc.)

COMPASS AND TRAIL SIGN HIKE – Using the compass and trail signs (see Handbooks), lay a trail for a group to follow. If each person is given written directions, it is fun to go until all have arrived at the chosen spot. This is a good hike to a *Laughing Place*. A teller of funny stories could be at the trail's end.

CRAYON RUBBINGS – Place a piece of paper on an object or a portion of one (telephone pole), sidewalk, fire hydrant, tree). While holding the paper in place, rub a crayon over the paper so that the texture of the object becomes evident. Can you find objects that have similar textures? (Collect several rubbings, done in one or several colors and make a collage.)

CREEK'S END HIKE – Follow a creek or dry creek bed to its origin.

CURIOSITY HIKE – Find some odd or curious object, such as bark, stone, stick, etc. By using imagination, tell what animal the object represents.



FIVE SENSES HIKE – Smell, taste, see, touch, hear, and find something with each sense.

INCH HIKE – Find things that are only an inch long (no more) and still complete.

INDIAN STEALTH – A short listening hike – go through woods without any sound.

INSECT HIKE – You can just look for and examine those you find, or collect dead specimens for a nature exhibit.

MAP MAKING – Make a map of your troop or camping area and identify points of interest.

MEAL HIKE – Hike to a good vantage point to look at the world around; cook a meal. For a breakfast hike, watch the sun rise.

MICRO HIKE –Take a magnifying glass (lens) and search for the tiniest plants or insects that you can find.

MONOGRAM HIKE – Find three or more objects beginning with your initial.

MOONLIGHT HIKE – See and hear nature in darkness. Helps set the mood if talking is done in whispers.

OBSERVATION HIKE – Look for birds, trees, flowers, leaves, etc. Look for homes in nature – ant-hill, snake hole, etc. Make your eyes really see.

ONION HIKE – One group rubs onions on trees to indicate the trail for another group that follows by smelling it's way.

ORIENTEERING – This is an advanced type of cross-country hike, using the compass and a map. Check the age level handbook.

PENNY HIKE –Heads-left. Tails-right. Flip the penny to tell you which way to go. Best for in town in a familiar neighborhood so you don't get lost!

PICTURE HIKE - WITH A CAMERA - learn how to take good, well-composed pictures. This is best if you have the opportunity to study the completed prints. **WHILE SKETCHING** - go find something interesting to draw. May use crayon, watercolor, pencils, or a piece of charcoal from the fireplace.

PROGRESSIVE SUPPER HIKE – A three stop hike with different food and recreation at each stop; probably ending at a camp fire where song, stunts and a popcorn feast bring a jolly journey to a close.

RAINBOW HIKE – Object is to find and list as many colors in nature as possible.

RAINY DAY HIKE – All decked out in rain clothing, go out for a half-hour walk in the rain.

SEALED ORDER HIKE – Several sets of orders are placed over an area, all different colored to indicate teams. Teams set out to follow their orders. All groups go different directions to reach all points along the way. All end at a "treasure." Often, a skill must be practiced at the end of the trail.

SEED HIKE – Look for plants bearing seeds. Bring some of each back; mount, label, and display for other's enjoyment.

SHAPE HUNT – Find and identify the shapes (square, round, triangular, etc.) of different things such as buildings, leaves, rocks, and trees.

SOUNDS HIKE – Listen for all kinds of sounds in nature; close sounds, far away sounds; soft, harsh, etc. (this is a good quiet hike.)

SPIDER WEB HIKE – This is a good early morning hike. Sometimes a camera can record some lovely patterns in dewdrops.

STAR HIKE – Hike to a hill on a clear evening to study the stars and their legends. Sleeping bags may be taken for an overnight sleep out.

TRACK HIKE – Look for clear animal tracks that you know or don't know yet.

UPSIDE DOWN HIKE – Turn rocks, logs, leaves, etc., over to see what is living underneath. Be sure to replace them without harming any living inhabitants.

WOOD HIKE – If you have to have wood for your fire, what could be more fun than everyone going out together to accumulate a pile?