

Pack 106 Trail of Advancement – GeoCache Trail Setup

The idea behind the Geocache Trail was a way to get scouts and their families outside, and while doing so helping them mark off some items towards achievements. I used Bison tubes as the geocaches.

The plan is relatively simple, with Webelos being the longest hike, you will need to find an area that has a loop that is 3 miles. We are fortunate to have a few areas like this within our neighborhood.

After you have a location the next part is planning the hike. Wolves and Bears need to hike 1 mile, Webelos need to hike 3. Lions and Tigers have no distance requirement, instead, they are short hikes. The following are the distances used.

Lion – this one is set near the parking area, this is the starting point for all ranks. Lions can complete their Mountain Lion.

Lions – Mountain Lion – Complete Requirement

Identify the six essentials, Talk about what to do if you get lost (SAW – Stay Answer Whistle)

Recite the Outdoor Code:

“As an American, I will do my best to

Be clean in my outdoor manners,

Be careful with fire,

Be considerate in the outdoors, and

Be Conservation minded.”

From the Lion tube – We walked .25 miles and placed the Tiger tube.

Tigers – Tigers in the Wild – Requirement 1, 2, 3A, 3B, 3C, 4, 6

Take you six essentials

Make sure you are dressed properly for the weather (check weather report with adult partner)

Recite the Outdoor Code

Tell your adult partner how you can be clean in your outdoor manners.

Discuss the ‘Leave No Trace’ Principles

Know before you Go

Choose the right path

*Trash your Trash
Leave what you find*

Be Careful with Fire

Respect Wildlife

Be Kind to Other Visitors

Tell why you should trash your trash

Find three different kinds of plants, animals, or signs that animals have been on or near the trail. Write what you saw in your handbook.

Find two different trees and two different plants. Write their names in your Tiger Handbook

From the Tiger Tube, we hiked another .75 miles, you could do this at .25 miles and the Wolves could turn around and go back to the starting for a 1 mile round trip. Our trail is such that there is a cutoff to get back to parking, it makes for about 1.3 miles to get back the start, but a little extra hiking never hurt anyone. *Wolves – Paws on the path – requirement 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6*

Take your six essentials

Choose the appropriate clothing for hike and weather.

Explain what the Buddy system is

Explain what to do if you get separated from group while hiking (Stay, Answer, Whistle – SAW)

Recite the Outddor Code and Leave No Trace Principles

Discuss how to show respect for wildlife.

Find two interesting things and discuss with your family.

Name two birds, two insects, and two other animals that live in your area and explain how you identified them.

For the Bear Tube, it was a little different, We measured a distance of .65 miles from the starting point. This point lies on the same trail, but allows the bears to hike directly to their tube if they want to forego the entire trail. I would have put it at .5 miles, however it was too close to previously place Geocaches.

Bears – Fur, Feathers, and Ferns – Requirements 1, 4

Identify six signs that any mammals, birds, insects, reptiles, or plants are living near

the place where you are hiking.

Observe wildlife from a distance. Describe what you saw.

For the Webelo/AOL Tube, they are required to follow the trail to all of the other ranks and back to parking. On our trail, it comes out to 3.35 miles.

Webelos/Aol – Webelos Walkabout – Requirements 1, 2, 3, 4, 6

Assemble a first aid kit suitable for the adventure

Recite the Outdoor code and Leave no trace principle, talk about how you can demonstrate them on your hike

Plan a nutritious snack for the hike

Act as either the trail leader, first aid leader, or lunch/snack leader

Below is a map of the trail that was used. Also, we encourage scouts to read the requirements before heading out, especially Webelos, as they will need to take snack and work as a leader for a portion of the hike. We have also told them to take their handbook with them so they can mark requirements as they are completed.

In order to hide Geocaches, you will need to create a Geocache account and read through the rules to hide. It is suggested that you spend some time finding Geocaches before jump into hiding them. I suggest using the Geocache app, it allows you to get the exact coordinates, this is critical when hiding. Once you submit on the website, they say it can take up to 7 days to be reviewed and approved, however, the Houston area reviewers are pretty fast and usually get to them within 24 hours.