



NATURE AND CONSERVATION PROJECTS FOR TROOP SITES

While many nature and conservation exhibits and demonstrations may appear in various areas throughout the camp, many projects can be carried out by the troop in its own campsite. Because the skill award program in camp is centered in the troop site, under the Scoutmaster's eye, boys can do their own Conservation and Environmental skill award projects as required and set them up around their own campsite. The eight projects shown here are keyed to illustrations on "Activities and Demonstrations on Troop Sites," No. 12007. Additionally, five of these projects (numbers 12, 19, 21, 22, and 23) are cross-referenced to illustrations which appear below.

9. Live Animal Trap.—See the sketch in "Scoutcraft Activities," No. 12002. This small-animal trap can be made from a juice can, snap-type mousetrap, wire, and boards. Set the trap in the evening and bait it with peanut butter. After Scouts have had a chance to observe trapped animal closely, release it.

12. Wildlife Signs.—See below.

19. Conservation Trail.—See below.

7. Tracking Pit.—Smooth an area about 8' x 6' in an out-of-way section in or near troop campsite. Dampen the earth within the pit and bury bait (peanut butter, apple, carrot, etc.) in an open level with the ground in the center. Enclose the pit with twine to keep people out. Nearby, place a waterproof container with a supply of plaster of paris, cardboard boxes, and cans for making casts of animal tracks.

8. Bird Attractor.—Hang a No. 10 tin can with a small hole poked in the bottom about 4' to 6' above an aluminum pie plate that you have placed on the ground. Fill the can with water and then take a position some distance away and observe. The dripping water will attract birds.

21. Soil Displays.—See runoff plots below. Also: (1) make two splashboards; one on bare ground and one on grass, make it "rain" on them and then measure difference in water splashings. (2) Punch six holes in the bottoms of two No. 10 tin cans, half fill one with woods topsoil and the other with clayey subsoil, pour equal amounts of water in each and note the difference in water soakage. (3) Test the two soils with your fingers, note how they differ from each other.

22. Peagboard Zoo and Herbarium.—See below.

23. Troop Weather Station.—See below.

THINGS TO DO IN NATURE AND CONSERVATION

These exhibits and demonstrations appear in widely separated areas of the camp—they are not concentrated in a single area. Well-carried-out resource conservation projects can become on-the-ground demonstrations, labeled as such. The gully that is plugged, streambank that is stabilized, woodland that is managed, or hedgerow that is planted are all carried out separately. Wood

samples, model fire towers, fire tools, tree cross sections, and other forestry-related materials should be exhibited near a woodland or forestry management plot. Nest boxes and large brush piles to serve as bird and animal shelters should be placed in areas suited to that purpose.

Additional ideas for exhibits and demonstrations can be found in "Scoutcraft Activities," No. 12002, and the activities "Idea File" under Summer Activities and Summertime Camporee. Assistance also can be secured from your local conservation technicians.



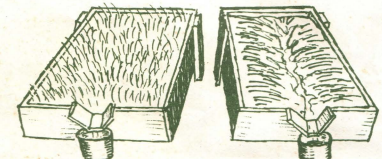
Conservation Trail.—This is a typical living section of a natural community showing common plants and animal signs. The trail should help boys pass skill award requirements.



Conservation Trail Signs.—Make them interesting by telling the interrelationship of the plant or animal to its environment, other plants and animals, or man.



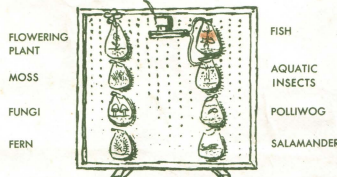
Soil Profile.—This cutaway section can teach how soil is formed and how it occurs in layers as (A) topsoil, (B) subsoil, and (C) parent soil.



Runoff Plots.—The causes and results of soil erosion and the methods of preventing erosion can be taught through these bare soil and sodded soil plots.



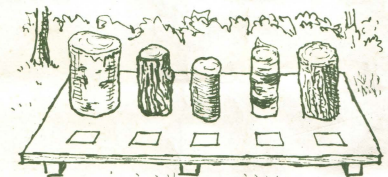
Stream Improvement Projects.—(A) Stone riprap, (B) streambank planting, (C) small log dam, (D) small V dam.



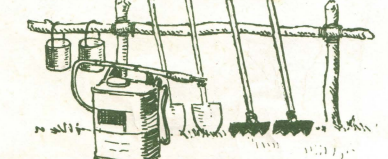
Peagboard Zoo and Herbarium.—Creates interest in nature and provides a method for short-term display of plants and animals in plastic bags attached to peagboard or plywood.



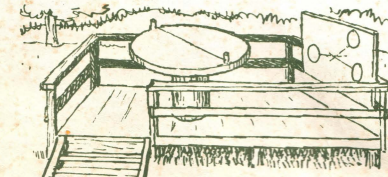
Forestry Management.—(A) A small, managed woodland for teaching forestry fundamentals, and (B) a model tree plantation. See your camp's conservation plan and consult your forester for help.



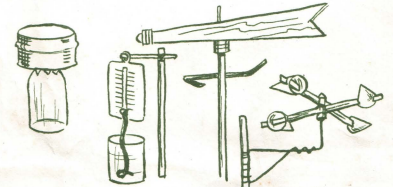
How a Tree Grows.—A display of cross sections of typical native trees can show the difference in the growth rate as related to species, where grown, and the degree of management in the woodland.



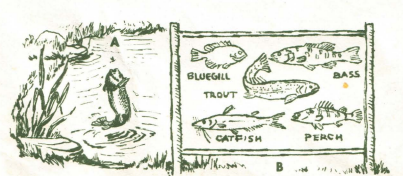
Fire Tools.—For teaching fire suppression in camp. Tools will vary in different sections of the country, consult your local authorities.



Model Fire Tower.—By using an alidade and a string map, the method used by foresters for locating a fire can be demonstrated.



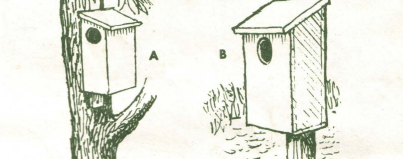
Troop Weather Station.—A rain gauge, hygrometer, wind vane, and anemometer can be made inexpensively from directions in the "Scout Handbook," No. 6500.



Fisheries Management.—(A) A managed lake or pond to provide good fishing, and (B) a fish-identification chart showing only the local species. See "How To Teach Fishing," No. 12023.



Brush Pile.—Cover for wildlife protection; constructed near wooded areas.



Nesting Boxes.—(A) Squirrel, and (B) wood duck.



Wildlife Signs.—Teaches where and how to look for wildlife and how to use wildlife signs in identification. May be placed on reverse side of troop bulletin board.

NOTE: Camp conservation projects should be based on the camp's conservation plan.