

Photo Safari / Nature Watching



Scouter Version

The Crean Award:

Discovery:
Environment

Terra Nova:
Promise & Law
Task/Role in Patrol
Learn a new Skill

Endurance:
Environment
Skills

Polar:
Skill

SPICES

Character
Spiritual

The Activity:

Objective:
Engage in the world around you and capturing what it has to offer from mountain peaks to wild animals. Remember the old saying "a picture paints a thousand words".

Activity Type:
Day Activity

Roles:
Activity Leader
Quartermaster



SCOUTS

Plan... "Photo Safari"



This challenge is one that you can let your imagination run wild and have pictures to show your journey. This can be anything from a weekly meeting activity to photographing a weekend camp or hiking expedition and everything between.

This challenge gives the opportunity to learn more about photography, nature and the environments around you.

It would also be a good project for a Special Interest Badge. **If an outside advisor is brought into to give advice on the project please ensure all SI guidelines are followed.**

What equipment you need

- Camera
- Tripod (optional)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Wildlife Handbooks (optional)



Obviously some cameras and equipment are very expensive and are not ideally suited to the rough and tumble of scout activities. Please ensure some scouts do not 'volunteer' equipment from home without parents or guardians clearly understanding what is involved.

What you need to know

- Basic Camera Tips/Techniques
- What makes a good photo
- How to let your imagination run free

Do... "Basic Camera Tips/Techniques"



1: Don't go crazy buying expensive gear straight away.

You can take very good photos with inexpensive cameras. The more you take the more you will know what camera will suit you when you upgrade.

3: Enjoy the learning process.

The best thing about a hobby like photography is never running out of things to learn. Don't be afraid to try out different settings, it's the best way to learn.

4: Work in groups.

See what others do and have small competitions to see who can take winning photos. Keep a small log book to record your photos.

2: Make a list of shots you would like to get.

For times when you don't have your camera and see great photo opportunities, take note of what it was and where it was so you can get the photo when you go back.

Please remind all scouts to take photos of appropriate subjects only. Remind them of the importance of personal privacy and the need to seek someone's permission before photographing them - this is especially important when children are involved.

Do... "What makes a good photo"



1: Read the manual.

Know how to use basic functions such as flash on and off, zoom and where the shutter button is. Start off with the "Auto" function.



3: Get Outside.

Getting out at all times of the day helps you get familiar with different natural light conditions. Times when most people are sleeping can have wonderful light conditions and make for dramatic and unusual photos simply because most people never see them.

2: Take your camera everywhere.

Having your camera with you all the time helps you get more familiar with settings and also helps you see things differently and identify more photo opportunities.



4: Compose your shot thoughtfully.

Frame your photo in your mind before taking it. Don't be afraid to get close to your subject and fill the frame. If your using a digital camera you can always crop the photo later.

5: Try an interesting angle.

Instead of shooting your subject straight on, try looking down on it or looking up from below. Pick an angle that shows maximum colour and minimum shadow.



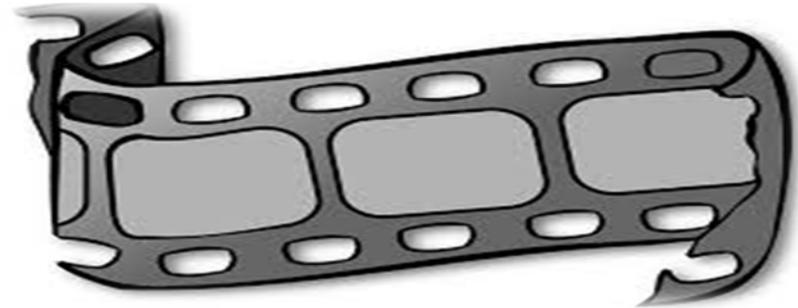
7: Go through your photos.

Go through your photos and pick out the best ones. See what methods you used to get them for the future. If the photo doesn't strike you as particularly interesting you can probably delete it.



6: Keep still.

Many people are amazed by how blurry their photos can be. Mainly with close-ups and long distance hold the camera firm and still to prevent the image from being blurred. Consider using a tripod



8: Practice, practice, practice.

The more photos you take the better you will get. Try out all the settings and different angles. The main thing is to have fun and be happy with your photos

Review... "Photo Safari"



Covering SPICES

Social

- Relationships
- Communication Skills
- Other Cultures
- Community Involvement
- Promise & Law

Physical

- Eat Well
- Personal Hygiene
- Balanced Lifestyle
- How Body works
- Physical Limitations
- Health Choices
- Access Help

Intellectual

- Achieving Goals
- New Ideas
- Learn from Decisions
- Team Member

Character

- Promise & Law
- Friends & Friendships
- Plan before do
- Ensuring Fairness
- Respect
- Differences & Views
- Following Dreams
- Live the Scouting Spirit

Emotional

- Aware of feelings
- Asking/Giving Help
- Responsibility for Emotions
- Controlling Emotions
- Going Further
- Beliefs & Values
- Developing Talents

Spiritual

- Promise & Law
- Impact on Environment
- Reflection
- Changing Beliefs

Review



This is an excellent activity to develop a skill and explore nature. It can be run as a patrol activity or as a Special Interest Badge.

In terms of SPICES, it is most applicable to the Spiritual realm. By taking photos of nature scouts will have to spend a lot of time outside, exploring the world and really concentrating on it. This should be used as a discussion point around how we see nature and our place in the world. Do the scouts now see the world differently? Did they notice new things? This may also be a good time to get scouts to think about creation more generally and discussions of God as creator. The photos should play a central role in any review, as they prompt memories and conversations.

Photography also is a good topic for a Special Interest Badge. In that case the review will have to be tailored to the specifics of the project and the individual.

For future projects, maybe ask the scouts to think about how they could explore other topics through photography. Other subjects could be nature-based, or could be social or cultural. Also, have the Scouts thought about running a photo exhibition?