



## Tips and Tricks for Group Leaders at Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

- **Do** remind your students what it means to be a naturalist – being observant, quiet, curious, etc. This is a great way to get everyone focused and back on track!
- **Do** stay in front of the group. That way, everyone will have the same chance to see wildlife and share their discoveries.
- **Do** stop and sit down from time to time with your students. It's important to have quiet time in your group and work on your journal pages.
- **Do** ask questions to keep students engaged. (Ex. what do you see? What do you hear? Who might have made this hole? etc.) Even if you know the answer, allow them to make discoveries, even if they're "wrong."
- **Do** foster participation from all of your students.
  - If someone is reluctant, give them a "job" to do, or ask specific questions.
  - If one student is answering everything, encourage them to give others a chance.
  - If students are distracted or unfocused, bring them back into the task by asking a direct question, or encouraging them to explore a specific object.
- **Do** let the students figure out how to use the equipment - this is part of their learning process!
- **Do** encourage students to fill out their journal pages completely. Remember, they do *not* have to be perfect. (For example, you do not have to spell words for them...they can sound them out).
- **Don't** feel like you have to know all the answers. "I don't know" is acceptable, but "I don't know, but let's sketch it or make some notes and see if we can find out together when we get back" is even better! We encourage you to come back with unanswered questions!
- **Don't** be afraid to jump right in and explore, journal, and share discoveries with your group of students – everyone will enjoy themselves more if

*"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder...he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in."*

- Rachel Carson





# How Animals Communicate



## Group Leader Guidelines

Thanks for agreeing to be a group leader today! Here are some tips to helping your students follow their noses through the scent activity and discover the identity of their mystery animal.

**Remember the scent of your group's canister** and follow your team's scent trail until you have recorded the numbers from each of your group's 5 clue cards.

**This is not a race!** No one should be running ahead or falling behind the group. Encourage students to make their decisions as a team.

**Try to avoid scent stations already occupied by other groups.**

**If your group is stumped**, refer to your **Mystery Animal Clue Collection** handout. Once you know the answer, guide your students to the correct answer by going over each one of the clues you already have. It's okay to revisit a scent station to be sure of your selections.

**Don't be fooled!** There may or may not be a clue for every team at each scent station. It is also possible that there may be more than one clue for a team at any scent station.

You will only have one clue for each of these categories:

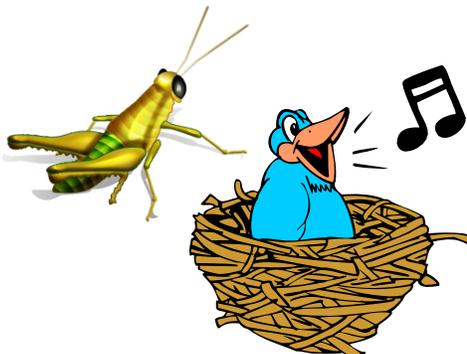
1. What My Animal Eats
2. What My Animal Looks Like
3. Where My Animal Lives
4. My Animal's Babies
5. A Special Fact About My Animal

Do you see/hear animals communicating outside?

### Smell



### Sounds



### Body Language

