

Tracking Wildlife

Group Leader Guidelines

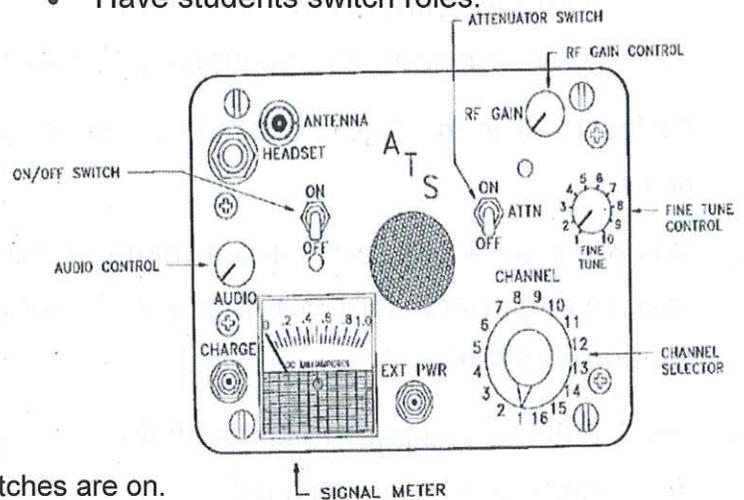
Divide your group into two teams. Assign one team the role of "Wildlife Tracker", the second team the role of "Collared Animal". Once the "Collared Animal" is located teams switch roles.

How to play "Wildlife Tracker"

- Assign one team member to carry the receiver around their neck.
- Assign a second team member to carry the antenna.
- Attach the coax cable to the antenna and receiver. *Make sure the antenna and receiver stay close to each other or the coax cable connection may break.*
- Hold the antenna, chest high, by the gripped handle and walk slowly in a full circle.
- Travel in the direction the signal comes in the loudest for a few hundred yards or until you encounter a major landscape change.

How to play "Collared Animal"

- Select one team member to carry the radio collar.
- NEVER hide just the collar.
- The entire team should hide with the collar as the "Wildlife Trackers" count out loud to 30 (or more).
- Hide within sight of the "Wildlife Trackers".
- The round is over when a "Wildlife Tracker" can correctly identify the location of at least one member of the "Collared Animal" team.
- Have students switch roles.



Trouble Shooting

We are not getting a signal beep

Check that BOTH the receiver and the antenna switches are on.

Check that the channel dialed on the receiver matches the number on the radio collar.

We cannot determine which direction the signal is the loudest

Refer to the needle indicator. The higher the needle jump the stronger the signal.

We cannot hear the signal clearly

Adjust the audio gain to a level the group can hear.

Use the fine tune to improve the tone. Adjust the RF GAIN to help reduce the "white noise" in the background.

Transmitter Channels

Bloomington: Ed. = 12, Ear tag = 7

Rapids Lake: Collar = 2, Collar = 7



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 you're involved, and you can lead by example!

"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

