

**Shenango Trail Hiking  
Badge  
By:  
Joy Reda**

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# Directions

- All Ages must complete the Hiker Column
- Ages 6-12 only have to complete 12 additional tasks (minimum 2 in each column).
- Ages 13 and up have to complete 14 additional tasks (minimum 2 in each column)
- Print off the tasks then highlight the ones completed and write the date finished.
- Attach all hands-on activities and worksheets.
- Include a picture of you on the trail.
- Turn in completed chart to Shenango River Watchers office at Buhl Park - 730 Forker Blvd, Hermitage, PA 16148 (open Mon-Thur 8AM-3PM or email [info@shenangoriverwatchers.org](mailto:info@shenangoriverwatchers.org))

**Directions:** Use the chart to record the dates you complete activities. The activities can be done as a group or individually. Then, turn the chart and activity sheets in to the Shenango River Watchers to receive your patch. The cost of the patch is \$3.00 with all proceeds going towards trail maintenance.

**Name:**

**Age:**

**Completed With:**

**Address:**

**Email Address:**

<b>H</b> <b>(How to Hike)</b>	<b>I</b> <b>(Investigate)</b>	<b>K</b> <b>(Knowledge)</b>	<b>E</b> <b>(Explore)</b>	<b>R</b> <b>(Resources)</b>
<b>How to prepare for a hike</b>	<b>Identify Wildflowers</b>	<b>Use a map to identify waterways and towns around the trail</b>	<b>Develop a plan to get physically fit for a hike</b>	<b>Attend a Shenango River Watchers hike on the trail</b>
<b>Learn to identify trail markers</b>	<b>Research Army Corp Engineers</b>	<b>History of the trail</b>	<b>Hike the Kidds Mill Loop (1 mile)</b>	<b>Attend a Shenango River Watchers trail cleanup day</b>
<b>Identify possible hazards for hiking</b>	<b>Identify and research animals on the trail</b>	<b>Visit the Canal Museum in Greenville</b>	<b>Hike Kidds Mill to New Hamburg (4 miles)</b>	<b>Help build or repair a bridge on the trail</b>
<b>Proper trail ethics (behavior)</b>	<b>Complete the scavenger hunt</b>	<b>Create your own poster advertising either an event or the trail</b>	<b>Hike New Hamburg to Big Bend (4 miles)</b>	<b>Help with a River Watchers event</b>



**Directions:** Use the chart to record the dates you complete activities. The activities can be done as a group or individually. Then, turn the chart and activity sheets in to the Shenango River Watchers to receive your patch. The cost of the patch is \$3.00 with all proceeds going towards trail maintenance (print this page).

**Name:**

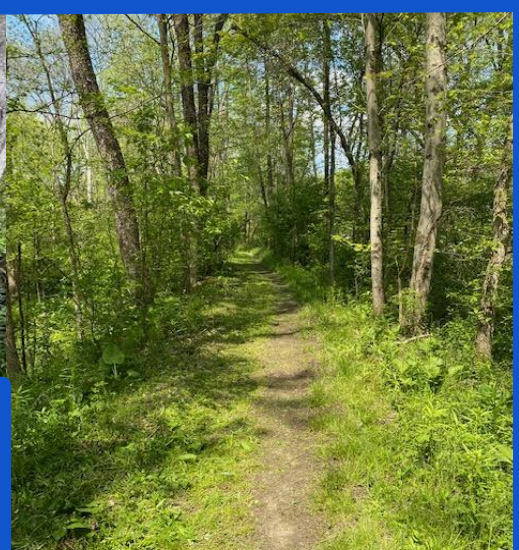
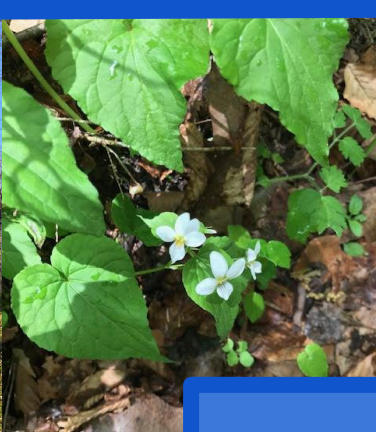
**Age:**

**Completed With:**

**Address:**

**Email Address:**

<b>H (How to Hike)</b>	<b>I (Investigate)</b>	<b>K (Knowledge)</b>	<b>E (Explore)</b>	<b>R (Resources)</b>
How to prepare for a hike	Identify Wildflowers	Use a map to identify waterways and towns around the trail	Develop a plan to get physically fit for a hike	Attend a Shenango River Watchers hike on the trail
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Proper trail ethics (behavior)	Complete the scavenger hunt	Create your own Poster advertising either an event or the trail	Hike New Hamburg to Big Bend (4 miles)	Help with a River Watchers event



# H

## How to Prepare for a Hike





# How to Prepare for a Hike

- Bring a backpack that is easy to carry for all essentials needed.
- Always let someone know of your hiking plans.
- Only take what's necessary for your hike.
- Always bring enough water and a small trail snack like trail mix or granola.
- Choose a trail you can handle and give yourself time to build up to more difficult levels.
- Hike with another person in case of injury or any emergency.
- Always stay on the designated trail.
- Stretch your body for five minutes before a hike.



# Activity for Ages 12 Years Old and Younger

1. Have your group complete the what you need vs. what you don't need worksheet. Break into small groups, give each group the attached handout, and give them 10-15 minutes to discuss and fill it out.
2. Prior to meeting have each group member prepare a bag/backpack with items that they think they might need for a 2 hour hike. Then, have the members form a circle and empty their bags. Next, say why to or why not to bring those items. If you are doing this on your own compare the items in the bag to the list provided.
3. If able, have your group try on different types of backpacks.
4. Make granola (or another snack) for the trail. Everyone share recipes.



**What To Bring**

**VS**

**What Not to Bring**

---

# What To Bring For A 2 Hour Hike

- Hiking backpack
- Weather-appropriate clothing (think moisture-wicking and layers)
- A bottle of water (10-12 ounces), more on a hot day
- 2-3 snacks (granola, pretzels, or crackers)
- Navigation tools such as a map and compass
- First-aid kit (any medications you may need, band aids, alcohol wipes, tweezers, bug spray, sunscreen, and bug bite cream)
- Knife or multi-tool
- Contact information (in case of an emergency)
- Whistle
- Field Guide
- Notebook/Pencil





# H How to Identify Trail Markers







**Paint-** Standard Marking System using rectangles with paint.



**Cairns or Ducks-** piles of rocks left behind by other hikers to lead new hikers in the right direction.



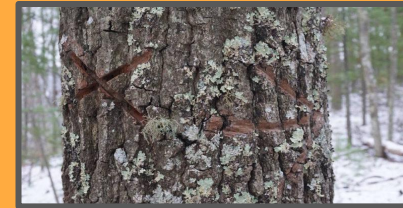
**Posts-** commonly used around cliffs where rocks and trees are not available.



**Flags-** tape or ribbon tied around a tree.



**Affixed Markers-** an alternative to paint markers.



**Etching-** Trail signs that are carved into a tree.

# Shenango Trail Signs 2023

**White Blaze** = Shenango Trail

**White Blaze Blue Dot** = Tow Path Trail  
near Big Bend

**Blue Blaze** = Kidds Mill Trail fishing loop  
begins and ends at Kidds Mill

**Yellow Trail** = Pew Road

**Red Markers** = Mile markers; Big Bend is  
0 and Kidds Mill is 8.75

\*These trails are being updated and should  
be marked correctly by summer of 2023.

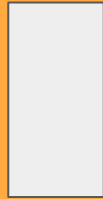


**Directions:** These are the standard markings for trail blazes. Use this slide to complete the activity on slide 15.

**Straight**



**Right Turn**



**Left Turn**



**Trail  
Straight**



**Trail Ends**



**Intersection**

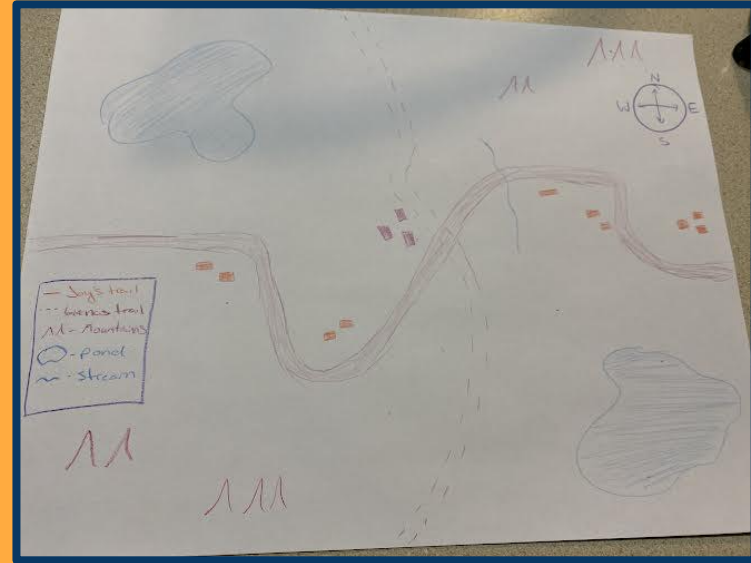


# Activity

Trail markers are direction guides for Hikers. Their placement on a tree gives the Hiker information such as which direction to go. Markers are also usually color coded so the Hiker knows which trail to follow should trails overlap.

**Directions:** Use the previous slide as a guide and have your group draw their own imaginary trail with trail markers. Be sure to include the following.

- A. Compass Rose
- B. Legend
- C. Trail Markers: Using the previous slide, place trail markers on your trail to guide your hikers as to which direction to take.
- D. Name Trail/s



**Example**





# H Hazards On A Trail





# 13 Hazards Of Hiking

1. Insects / Ticks
2. Water Crossings / Flooding
3. Waterborne Diseases
4. Hunters
5. Sunburn
6. Poison Ivy
7. Hazardous Plants
8. Weather
9. Roots and Rocks - Tripping Hazards
10. Dehydration
11. Wild Animals
12. No Cell Phone Reception
13. Getting Lost



# Ticks & Insects

## A Hazard On Any Trail

1. Ticks are common everywhere that plants grow, especially wild areas where deer, mice, and other animals that serve as hosts for ticks live and roam.
2. Ticks can carry several diseases including Lyme Disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, both of which can cause chronic health problems if not quickly identified and treated.
3. Mosquitoes are common along waterways and wetlands.
4. Mosquitoes can carry West Nile Disease and other diseases.
5. Insect repellent containing DEET will help prevent ticks and mosquitoes from biting you. Apply to all exposed skin and spray on your clothing.
6. Tuck pants into boots to keep ticks from crawling up under your pant legs.
7. When you're done hiking, check your body for any attached ticks. If you find any, call your doctor or go to an urgent care center.

# Waterborne diseases

## A Hazard On Any Trail

1. Surface waters (streams, river, lakes, ponds) across North America may contain pathogens that can make you and/or your pet sick. These include Giardia, Leptospira, and a wide variety of bacteria and viruses.
2. Bring your own safe water to drink, and if you're hiking with your dog, bring enough water and a bowl for your dog to drink from.
3. If you are going on a long (multi-day) hike and are using water treatment tablets or filters, make sure they are designed to kill or remove all pathogens, and are not expired.
4. Try to keep your dog from drinking from surface waters. Dogs can get giardiasis, leptospirosis, and other diseases from the water.
5. If you or your pet develop gastrointestinal issues within a couple days of your hike, and drank or swam in surface waters, see a healthcare professional.

# **Water Crossings / Flooding**

## **A Potential Hazard On Any Trail**

1. If you haven't been on a specific trail before, contact the folks who maintain it to learn important information about trail conditions. If the weather has been very wet, the trail may not be safe to hike because the stream crossings may be flooded.
2. Specifically for the Shenango Trail, the streams are high for a day or so after a day of rain, and if it's been raining for several days, it can take several more days for the streams to recede enough for safe hiking
3. Many small streams have stepping stones placed for safe crossing. If you can't see/find the stepping stones, it may not be safe to cross.

# Hunters

## A Potential Hazard On Any Trail

1. The Shenango Trail and many other trails in our area are on public land, on which it is permissible to hunt during certain time of the year.
2. It's especially important during deer season to wear fluorescent orange, so hunters can see you and don't mistake you for a deer. If you are hiking with your dog, your dog should also wear a fluorescent orange vest.
3. Know your surroundings. Although it isn't fool-proof, survey the parking spots in the area to the extent possible. This is especially helpful if you are a "regular" to the area. You can often get a sense of whether hunters are in the area by the nearby vehicles. Also, be on the lookout as you are on the trails.
4. Activate a light of some sort after dusk or before dawn.

# Sunburn

## A Hazard Year Around

1. Almost anywhere and anytime you can get sunburn. Even if the trail is covered in trees it is still possible to burn.
2. Always remember to apply sunscreen before going out onto a trail and every 2 hours after. You never know how long you will be out there.
3. Be mindful of the clothing choices you make before hiking. There are many brands of hiking clothing which promise extra UV blockage, in the form of UPF sun protection. However, a long sleeved shirt or a pair of pants is a great UV ray blocker, as long as you use them.
4. Wear a hat which protects your head, face, neck and ears.
5. If you're a frequent hiker, make sure you wear a pair of protective sunglasses.





# Poison Ivy

## A Hazard On Any Trail



1. Poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac can grow throughout the continental United States, including open areas, wooded areas, and even in your own back yard depending on where you live.
2. Pets may not be allergic to urushiol (oil resin) but they can get it into their fur and unsuspecting owners can be exposed to the oil when they pet their animals.
3. It can't be spread from person to person; only exposure to urushiol can start the rash.
4. It grows in areas from partial shade to full sun. Poison ivy is also adapted to a wide range of soil moisture conditions and commonly thrives in moist riparian areas as well as very dry and impoverished soils.
5. **POISON IVY IS VERY COMMON ALONG THE SHENANGO TRAIL!**
6. Other trails in North America may include poison ivy, poison oak, or poison sumac.

# More Hazardous Plants

## A Hazard on any Trail

1. **Poison oak** - shares the three-leaf look of poison ivy, although the leaves are less pointed, and features round edges (similar to leaves on an oak tree). The plant may have yellow or green flowers and is usually found as a shrub. Symptoms can include a rash, itching, and blisters.
2. **Poison Sumac** - may be harder to identify; it is also a shrub, but its stems may contain anywhere from seven to 13 years arranged in pairs. It may also have yellow or cream-colored berries. Symptoms can include patches or red, streaks of red, or raised blisters.
3. **Stinging Nettle** - This plant is covered by tiny hairs that act like hypodermic needles. Upon contact these hairs inject irritants into your skin, causing blisters and a burning, itchy sensation
4. If you come into contact with a poisonous plant, you should immediately wash your body with water and degreasing soap (dish soap) or detergent. You can also rinse your body with rubbing alcohol.



Poison Oak



Poison Sumac



Stinging Nettle

# Weather

## Potential Hazard for any Hike

1. Hikers should always check the local news, weather channel on tv or radio, and a weather app on their phone before hiking.
2. The best type of weather to hike in is a warm and breezy day but not too hot or windy.
3. Locations that are 85 degrees Fahrenheit or above, combined with lack of humidity, wind speed, and cloud cover is generally considered hot. It can leave hikers feeling exhausted and worn-out very quickly, which can lead to dangerous and life-threatening situations.
4. Anything 40 degrees F and below is considered cold weather for hiking. Remember to dress in layers. The base layer is the most important its purpose is to keep moisture away from the skin while still keeping you warm.
5. Remember to always be prepared and pack a raincoat as part of your gear.

# Roots and Rocks

## Tripping Hazards

1. Always look down at where you are walking.
2. Always check for roots, and do not walk with your head looking up at the sky.
3. At the beginning of the day your legs are the most strong and stable; as the day wears on your strength may wane. Be extra careful at the end of your hike.
4. If you come to a section of the trail that is difficult to pass due to slippery rocks or a steep downhill slope, look for an alternate area to cross.
5. Every trail is different and some are more rugged than others, and that includes roots sticking out of the ground and bumpy paths.
6. Logs can be slippery so walk on with great caution. Rocks in streams can be wobbly and slick.
7. Always bring bandaids and antiseptic or cleaning solution (a first aid kit) in case you get hurt.
8. About 11,000 hikers are injured in the U.S. on trails each year.
9. Ankles and knee sprains are the most common type of injuries for hikers.

# Dehydration

## A Hazard Year Around for any Hiker

1. It is very important that you bring enough water. Never leave your house without water when going on a hike.
2. Without water you can become very tired quickly, and you could become light headed to the point where you could faint.
3. Hiking in sun or wind will increase your risk of dehydration.
4. The general rule for how much water to bring when hiking is as follows:
  - Adults: 2 cups (about  $\frac{1}{2}$  liter) of water for every 1 hour of hiking
  - Children 1-2 cups of water for every hour of hiking
    - So, if you calculate that your hike will be 5 hours, then you need to bring *at least* 10 cups (2.3 liters) of water *per person*. Bear in mind that these are just general rules! Some people drink a lot more water than this. However, it is a good guideline to go by.
5. In hot or humid conditions calculate 4 cups of water per hour.

# Wild Animals

## Hazard on any Trail

1. It is important to be aware of your surroundings because you never know what could be living nearby.
2. Always leave the animals alone and continue on the trail. Do not provoke any animals.
3. Do not mess with any of their homes or nests - you could damage them.
4. Avoid hiking at dawn or dusk when animals such as bears are most active.
5. If you see a bear and it doesn't see you, quietly retreat and avoid sudden movements. If the bear sees you talk calmly to the bear and don't run. If the bear charges at you stand your ground. The bear may just run past you or the other way. If the bear attacks you then most experts agree you need to fight back. In areas with a lot of bears, bear spray is a good defense to have in your backpack.
6. A snake on the trail is something hikers may encounter. Don't try stepping over it or around it. Retrace your steps on the path and wait for the snake to move. Snakes are harder to see at night so its best to hike during the day to avoid them.
7. Deer are a common sight in Pennsylvania. Finding a fawn on a trail does not mean a mother abandoned it. Please do not touch or attempt to pet it - just leave it alone. This rule applies to any animal found on a trail.



# No Cell Phone Reception

1. ALWAYS let someone know when you leave for a hike and an expected time you will be back.
2. Many hiking trails do not have cell phone reception the whole way through the trail.
3. Always remember to bring a whistle incase you have no reception. A whistle can be heard up to 300 meters away.
4. Phones can also be a distraction when hiking!

**Trees and phones  
don't mix!**

**DON'T TEXT AND  
HIKE**



# Getting Lost

## Hikers Need to Know

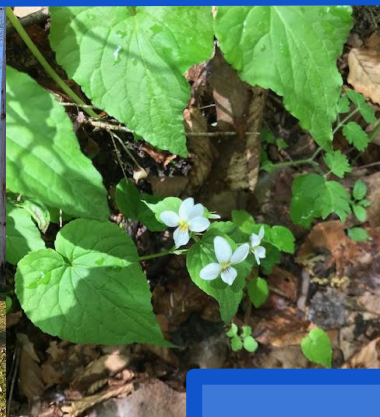
1. On average 2,000 hikers get lost each year.
2. Most hikers get lost because they don't stay on the trail. Do not leave the trail when on a hike especially if you are on an unfamiliar trail.
3. Bad weather can also cause hikers to lose their way. Always check out the weather before hiking and stay as close as is safe to the trail in bad weather.
4. Always remember to let someone know you are going out onto a trail and when you will be back. Not all trails have cell phone service.
5. When lost, do not continue to keep going. Stay put someone will come and find you. Make sure you stay on the path and not adventure off.
6. Bring a whistle just in case of no cell service and someone will be able to hear you.
7. Stay calm and make a plan.
8. If you need to save yourself look for a stream to follow because this may lead to a trail head or road. Only do this as a last resort.

# Trail Safety Questions

**Directions:** Answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper and discuss with your group or a friend. Then, check your responses against the answer key located on slide 67.

1. Why should you tell someone you are going on a hike?
2. Why should you educate yourself about the trail?
3. Why should you check out weather conditions before hiking?
4. Why should you hike with a buddy if possible?
5. Is it okay to leave the marked trail?
6. Is it okay to play hide-n-seek from your parents?
7. Does the Shenango trail have cell phone service?
8. What is the most common poisonous plant on the trail?
9. Why should you carry a whistle?
10. Whistles can be important- brainstorm why and how to use them.
11. Should you stay in view of your group? Why?
12. Why should you wear bright colors or camouflage?
13. At a trail fork or junction, why wait for your group?
14. What should you do if lost?
15. Why should you always carry a backpack with essential items?





# H Trail Ethics



# Trail Ethics

**Directions:** Review the Following with your Group

1. Yield to horses, bicycles, and vehicles - they have the right of way. Vehicles are not allowed on the Shenango Trail.
2. The Shenango Trail is dog friendly, make sure to clean up after your dog.
3. Keep your dog on a leash.
4. Pack out what you pack in. Do not leave anything that can have an impact on the environment behind - never leave litter behind!
5. Take only photos and memories. Do not pick flowers or harvest plants from a trail.
6. Always use the bathroom before you hike.
7. Leave wildlife alone - you don't want to startle them or cause anyone to get hurt..
8. Be respectful of the best views. Let others have a turn to look.
9. Stay on the trail. You can damage plants off of the trail or even get lost.
10. Always be kind to other hikers on the trail.
11. The Shenango Trail does not allow motorcycles, ATVs, or other vehicles.



# Don't Litter

**This is how long garbage takes to  
break down:**



**Plastic Bags  
10-1,000 years**



**Cotton T-shirt  
6 months**



**Styrofoam Cups  
500 years**



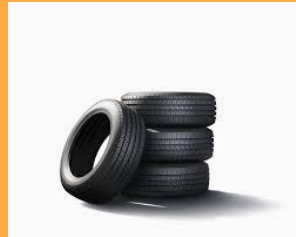
**Soup Cans  
50 years**



**Fruits/Vegetables  
5 days-1 month**



**Straws  
200 years**



**Tires  
2,000 years**



**Rope natural fiber  
3-14 months**



**6-pack  
holders  
450 years**



**Disposable  
Diapers  
500 years**



**Plastic Water Bottles  
450 years**





# I Identify Plants



# Wildflowers of Pennsylvania

In Pennsylvania there are more than 2,100 native plants, including many species of wildflowers. Some of the stand out wildflowers are the wild blue phlox, goldenrod, butterfly milkweed, and the state wildflower, the mountain laurel. Whether walking a hiking trail or your neighborhood, getting to know local plants and wildflowers can be a fun and interesting hobby.

Wildflowers are the backbone of ecosystems for pollinators, beneficial insects, birds, and other small animals. We use wildflowers in herbal medicinal remedies, and we depend on pollinators, such as the common honey bee, who then depend on the wildflowers. Studies have shown that native wildflowers are four times more attractive to pollinators than non-native wildflowers. Some native wildflowers cater specifically to their pollinators, and have evolved a particular shape, color, size, and flowering season to attract their target pollinator.

Wildflowers become far less beautiful once picked—they wilt shortly after being separated from the other parts of the plant, parts which had been providing the flower with water and sugar. Just one flower getting picked would not do much damage to an ecosystem, but if everyone visiting a natural area with wildflowers picked one flower, then the impact on the landscape would be insurmountable. Picking a flower causes that plant to lose its reproductive ability, so in the future there could be less wildflower seeds in the ground.

The following activity is going to give you an alternative to picking flowers and a new way to enjoy the magnificent flowers of Pennsylvania.



# Wild Flower Activity

## Complete the following steps:

- a. Read and review common terms regarding flowering plants and look at the examples located on the next two slides. Also, take a moment to review additional terms/descriptions for wildflowers in the *Peterson Guide to Wildflowers*. (copies are located at Shenango River Watchers office)
- b. Using the Plant ID Sheet complete the following:
  - i. Select a flower from the images provided (located after the Plant ID Cheat Sheet Slide)
  - ii. Using the Plant ID Sheet check off each box or answer the question about your flower
  - iii. Draw your plant on the ID Sheet beginning with the leaves, then the flower, and, if possible, seeds.
  - iv. Using the wildflower reference book look up your flower and see if you can correctly determine its name (Guide Books are located at the Shenango River Watchers office).
  - v. Check the answer key at the end of the slides.
- c. Out on the trail in the summer use the book to identify 5 flowers



Pennsylvania Mountain Laurel

# Eight Identification Clues and Definitions For Flowering Plants

**Monocot** - have parallel lines like grass (see example on next slide)

**Dicot** - have perpendicular or intersecting veins like a maple leaf (see example on next slide)

**Herbaceous** - they completely die each fall. (see example next slide)

**Woody** - means that some plants make wood that lasts through winter and build it up year after year

**Alternate** - have leaves & branches that emerge off the stem one-by-one in alternate directions.

**Opposite** - leaves, branches, & buds all emerge off the stalk in sets of two, immediately opposite

**Whorled** - leaves & branches emerge off the stem in bunches that completely circle the stalk (see example next slide)

**Basal**- means that there is no main stem (see example next slide)

**Regular** - tend to be quite symmetrical, with the petals evenly spaced around the outside (see example next slide)

**Irregular** - no consistent pattern amongst them (see example next slide)

**United** - petals are all connected (see example next slide)

**Separate** - It means you can pull off an individual petal without any noticeable effect to the flower (see example next slide)



**Separate**



**United**



**Irregular**



**Regular**



**Basal**



**Whorled**



**Herbaceous**



**Dicot**



**Monocot**

**EXAMPLES**

## Plant Identification Cheat Sheet

Question #1  
Is Your Plant a Monocot or a Dicot?

\_\_\_\_\_ Sketch The Leaves & Overall Patterns

- Monocot  
 Dicot

Question #2  
Is your plant herbaceous or woody?

- Herbaceous  
 Woody

Question #3  
What is the branching pattern?

- Alternate  
 Opposite  
 Whorled  
 Basal

Question #4  
Is the flower regular or irregular?

\_\_\_\_\_ Sketch The Flower

- Regular  
 Irregular

Question #5  
Are the petals united or separate?

- United  
 Separate

Question #6  
How many petals are on the flower?

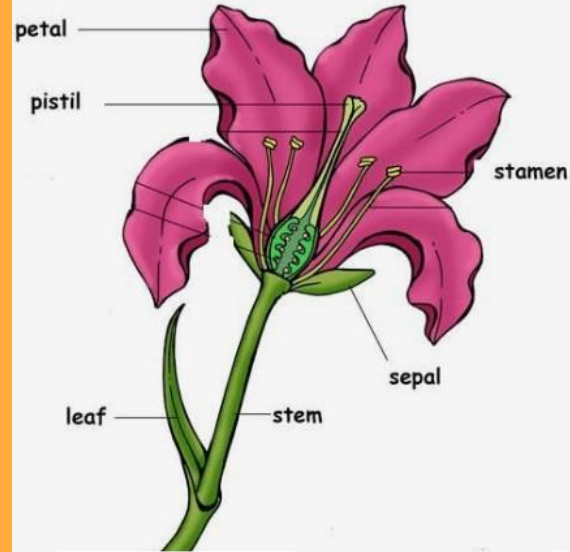
Question #7  
How many stamens are in the flower?

\_\_\_\_\_ Sketch The Seeds/Fruit

Question #8  
What do the seeds/fruit look like?

Learn how to use this cheat sheet at [nature mentoring website guide](#)

## The Parts of the Flower



QR Code for  
printable link

Use the below link to get a printable version of this form.

<https://nature-mentor.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Plant-ID-Cheat-Sheet.pdf>





**Example A**



**Example C**



**Example B**



**Example D**

**\*Answers on Slide 68**





# I Army Corps





# United States Army Corps of Engineers Activity

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is one of the nation's leading federal providers of outdoor recreation with more than 400 lake and river projects in 43 states. The Shenango River Lake is a 15,000 acre project managed by USACE covering two states. The Shenango Dam and River fall under the USACE protection, as does the land traversed by the Shenango Trail. The Corps is in charge of water levels and flood control. They are also responsible for the land around the river, the boat entrances, and the campground around the property. Their missions are flood risk management, navigation, environmental stewardship, and recreation in that order.

**Directions:** Research one of the following jobs which can lead to a career with Army Corps Engineering. Use the following website - The Bureau of Labor and Statistics occupational handbook <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

If working in a group, assign each group a job and have them write down a description, the salary, and level of education required. If you are working with an older group, have them look up colleges that offer degrees in the field the group is researching.

1. Cartographers and Photogrammetrists
2. Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians
3. Environmental Engineering
4. Industrial Engineers
5. Marine Engineers and Naval Architects
6. Surveying and Mapping Technicians
7. Agricultural Workers
8. Natural Resource Specialists
9. Forest and Conservation Workers
10. Logging Workers





I  
Identify Animals On The Trail





# Directions: Research Any Of These Animals And Find 3 Fun Facts



**Raccoon**



**Squirrel**



**Deer**



**Coyote**



**Chipmunk**



**Black Bear**



**Fox**



**Garden Snake**



**Lizard**



**Dog**

# Name That Animal Foot Print

\*Answers on slide 69



1



2



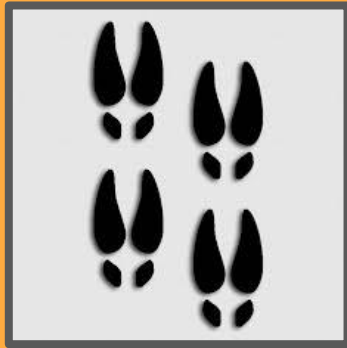
3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10





# I Scavenger Hunt



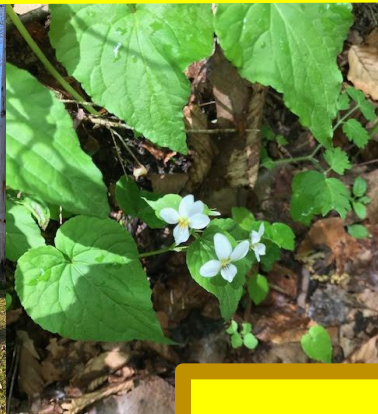
# Scavenger Hunt

## On Kidds Mill Trail Find 15 of these 20 Items

**Directions:** Look for the following items on the trail and take a picture. 15 of the 20 items are required to complete this task. Images should be shared with the SRW office to earn credit for completion.

1. A spider web
2. Take a picture on the Covered Bridge.
3. Any type of Insect
4. 4 types of leaves (DON'T TOUCH POISON IVY!)
5. A flat rock
6. A fish in the river next to the trail
7. A tree stump
8. A birds nest (do not disturb!)
9. 3 types of Birds
10. Animal foot prints
11. Poison ivy (do not touch)
12. A 4 legged animal
13. A mushroom
14. The Kidds Mill Loop Trail sign
15. A fallen branch
16. A hole in a tree
17. A rock bigger than your hand
18. A wild flower
19. The nameplate on the bridge built by Amelia Roch
20. Moss on a tree

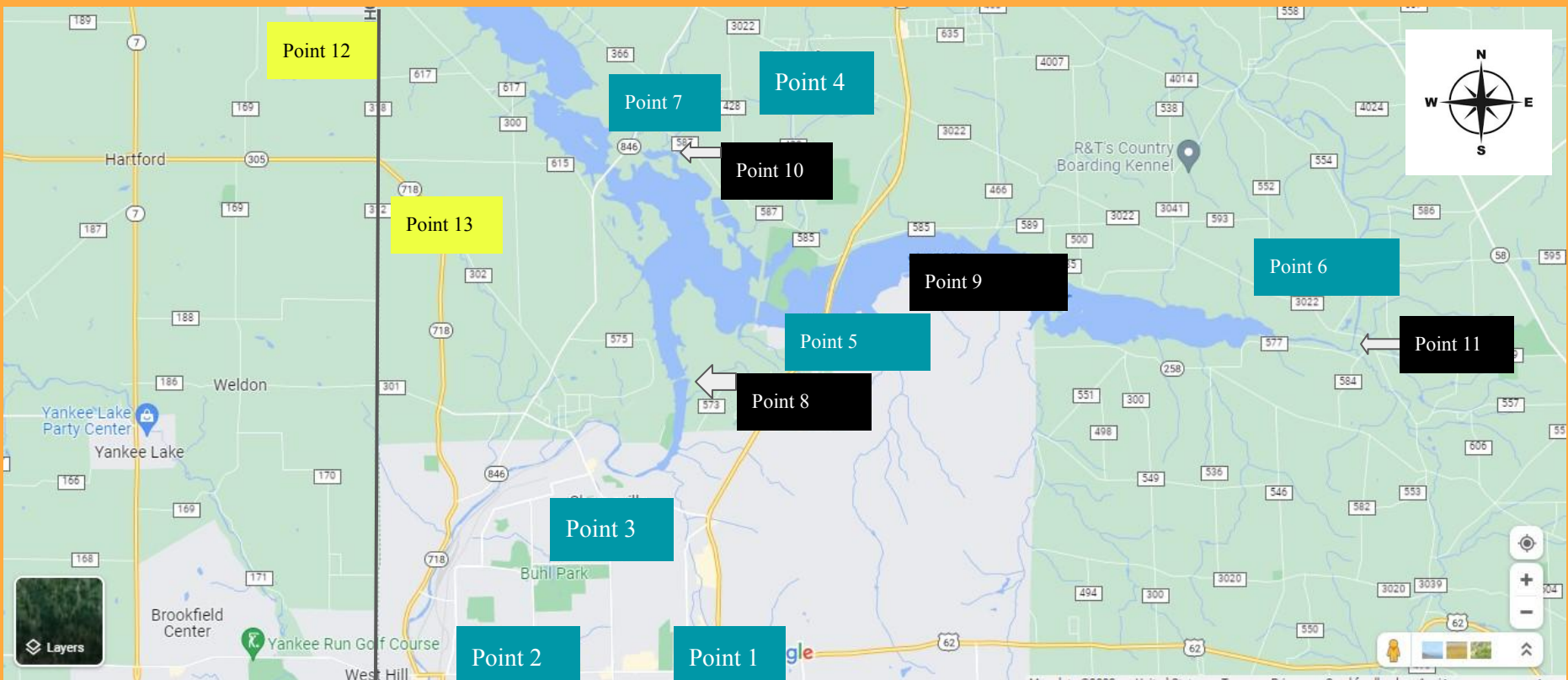




**K**  
**Identify Locations**







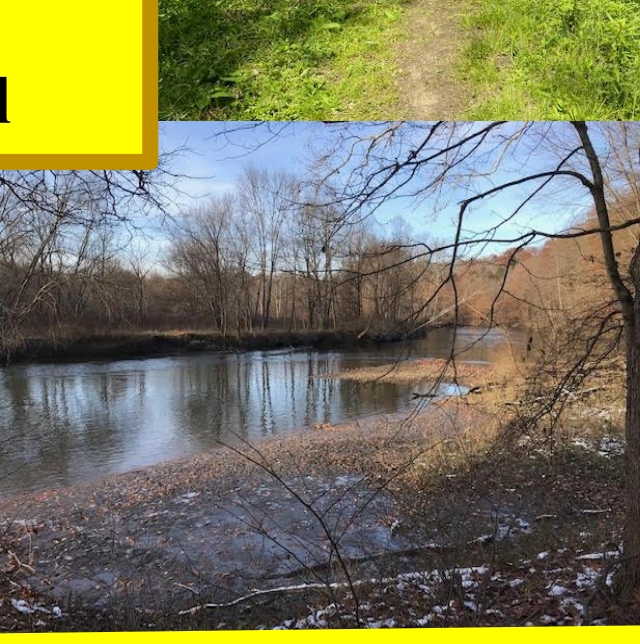
**Directions:** Match the point with its box. Points 1-7 are local cities and towns, 8-11 are locations, and 12- 13 are states. \*Ans. On slide 70.

**Word Bank:** (Cities / Towns) Sharpsville, Transfer, Hermitage, Sharon, South Pymatuning, Clark, Jefferson  
 (Locations) Chestnut Run Swim Beach, Shenango River Reservoir, Shenango Dam, Shenango Trail Big Bend Trailhead  
 (States) Pennsylvania, Ohio





# K History Of The Trail





## Please Read The Following:

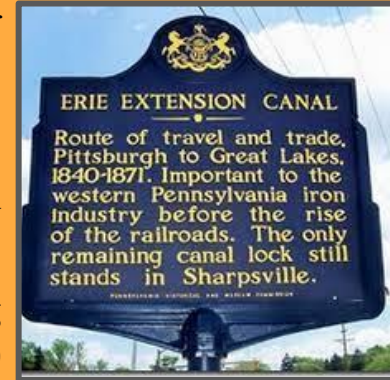
Erie businessman Rufus Reed and his son Charles were the prime movers behind the Erie Extension Canal. The Reeds owned a steamship company in Erie and wanted a canal to link the lake to points south so raw materials and finished goods could go by water. They eventually took ownership of the Canal and paid for it themselves.

The Erie Canal was built in stages and started at the Beaver River then ended at Greenville in 1843. It was built by German Immigrants and Irish Catholics. In Mercer County, on the "Big Bend" of the river south of Greenville, lived the pioneering German families who farmed along the waterway, who served the needs of the canal and its travelers, and defined the culture and traditions of the region.

The canal was in use until 1872 when the aqueduct over Elk Creek in Erie County collapsed and became no longer usable. Anything that was imaginable was transported on the canal. There was wheat, corn, clothes, iron ore, and anything from the east coast going west. Native Americans also used the canal to trade goods for furs. The canal was 130 miles long. The Shenango Trail includes part of the towpath that donkeys followed when they would haul barges along the canal.

Some believed that railroad designers had deliberately caused its destruction. Railroads were becoming the preferred transportation of the period; the canal beds provided the perfect basis for the railroad.

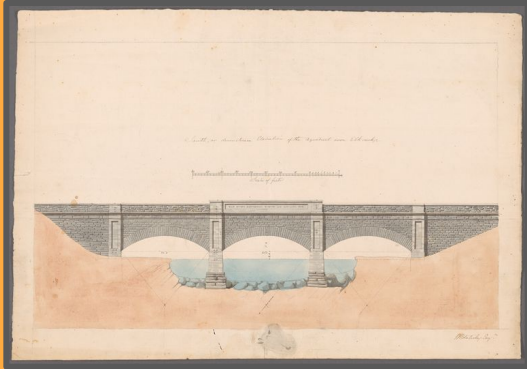
The Shenango Trail was revived by the Shenango Conservancy, and is now maintained by the Shenango River Watchers.



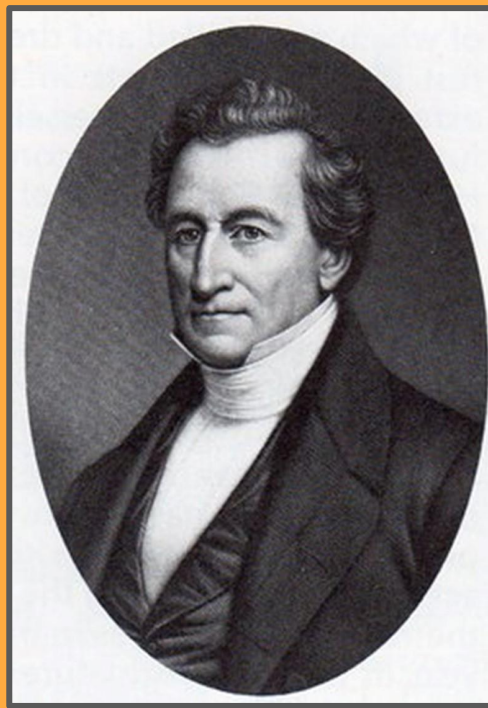




**The remains of canal lock 10 in Sharpsville**



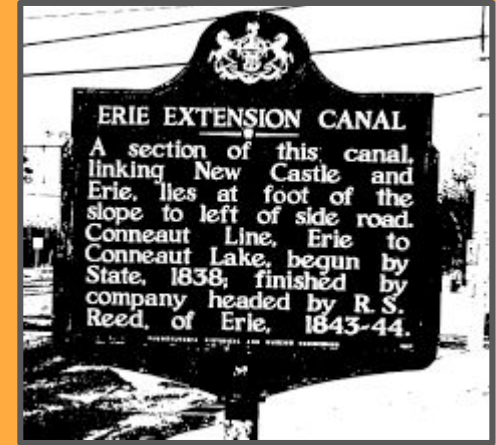
**New York Public Library Digital Collection.  
Benjamin Latrobe drawing of the elevation of  
the aqueduct over Elks Creek.**



**Rufus Reed: Owner and  
builder of the Erie Canal  
Extension**



**Image from the Erie Canal Museum**



**Historical sign marking the Erie  
Extension Canal**





**K**  
**Visit The Canal Museum**







**Directions:** Go Visit The Museum

## Greenville Canal Museum

60 Alan Ave, Greenville, PA 16125

For Special Showings contact Don Achenbach

724-588-3104

Saturday and Sunday 1:00-5:00 PM

[achsue@yahoo.com](mailto:achsue@yahoo.com)







**K**  
**Create Your Own Poster**

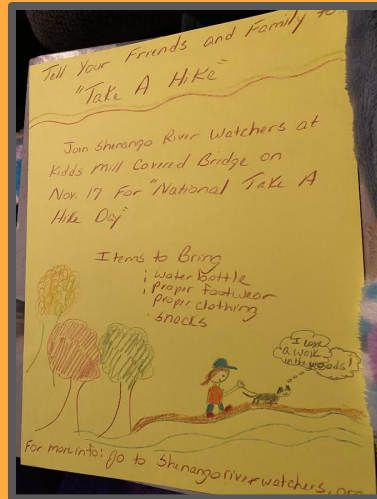
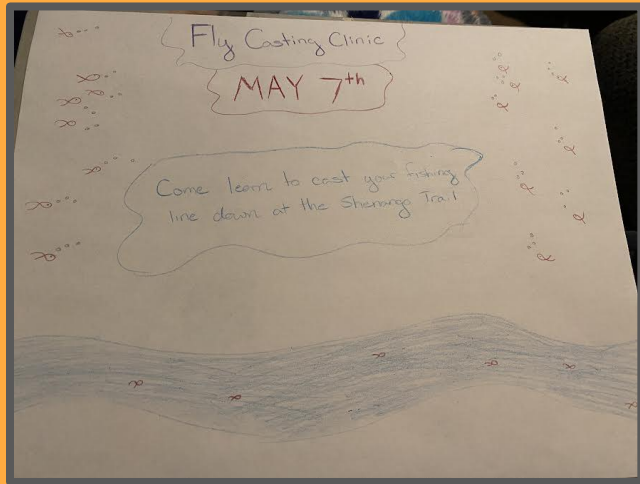




**Directions:** Make a poster either promoting the River or a Shenango River Watchers event. Events are located on slide 63.

**Items to Include:**

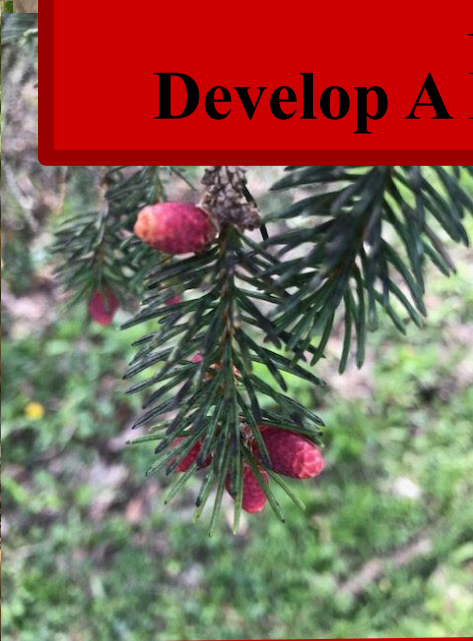
- Heading
- Date, time, and location of the event as well as contact information (ie: for more info contact [ShenangoRiverWatchers.org](http://ShenangoRiverWatchers.org))
- Brief description of the event
- Know your audience: Is your poster advertising to kids, adults, groups, hikers, or kayakers?
- Images







**E**  
**Develop A Fitness Plan**





**Directions:** Develop a plan to get physically fit for your hike. Make it fun by walking a different route each time, by visiting a local park, or by walking with your family and friends. For longer hikes be sure to include walking with your backpack or bag as part of your preparation.

## **Preparing for A Hike Example**

### **2 week fitness plan**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Break	Go for a ½ mile walk	Go for ½ mile walk	Break	Go walk around the park	½ a mile uphill walk	½ a mile walk
Break	Go on a walk with your dog	1 mile walk	Break	1 mile uphill walk	Go on a walk with a grandparent	Try a new trail



**E**  
**Explore**

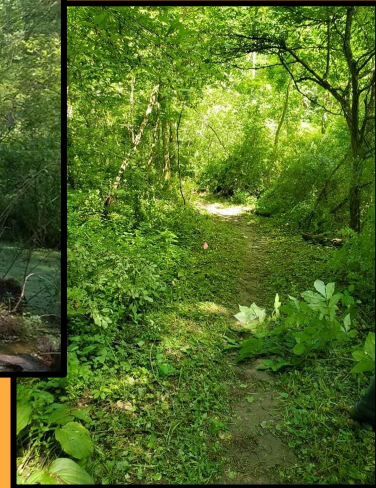




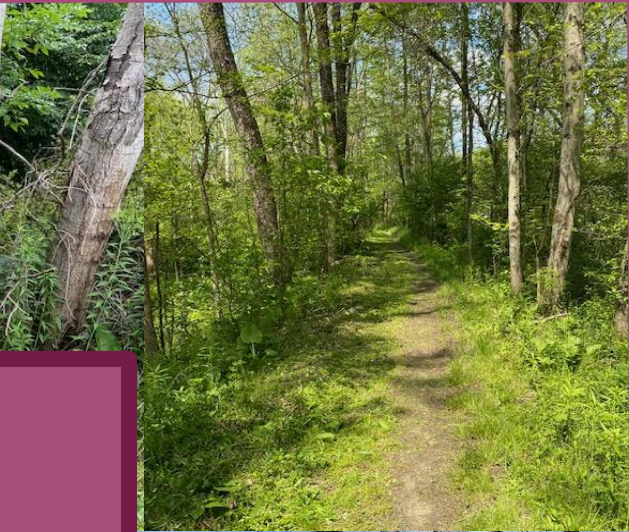
# Directions: Complete one or more of the following activities

1. Hike the Kidds Mill Loop (1 mile)
2. Hike Kidds Mill to New Hamburg (4 miles)
3. Hike New Hamburg to Big Bend (4 miles)

**Note:** You'll need someone to give you a ride if you're walking from one trailhead to another - or you can make it a longer hike and go back to where you started.







# R Resources





**Directions: Pick a Shenango River Watchers event and attend or volunteer.**

**Link: *Shenango River Watchers.org***



**Use the above QR code to visit the Shenango River Watchers website and event schedule.**

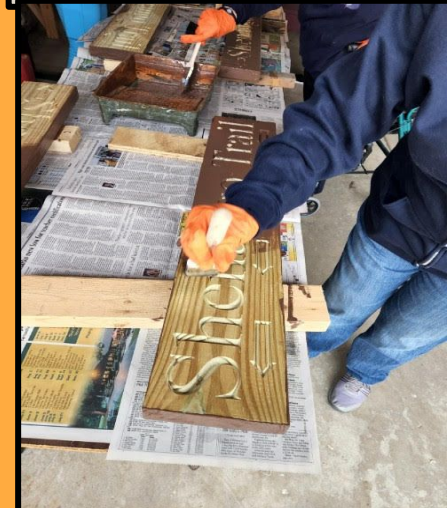




**R**  
**Service**







**Use the above QR code to visit the  
Shenango River Watchers website and  
click the volunteer tab.  
Or type the following link  
[Shenango River Watchers.org](http://ShenangoRiverWatchers.org)**





# Answer Keys





# Trail Safety Answer Key

1. Yes - phone or text a responsible person your hiking plans
2. Yes - being aware of potential hazards and dangerous conditions on the trail is a safety priority
3. Yes - you don't want to be caught in a severe weather situation
4. Yes- again all about safety
5. No - this could increase the likelihood of getting lost
6. No - always be in eye sight of your group
7. No - Cell service is NOT available at all spots on the trail
8. Poison Ivy - this is on every on the trail - learn to identify it
9. A whistle is useful in drawing attention in an emergency situation
10. Answers may vary- It can be heard from up to a mile away, and you should blow your whistle 3 times. Have your group blow their whistles 3 times.
11. Yes - you want to keep your group together at all times - safety again
12. Bright colors - easier to spot if you are lost in the woods.
13. It's important to make sure your group stays on the same trail and isn't split up
14. Teach your group about STOP. S-stop (stop where you are at and stay put) T- think (blow whistle 3 times and pause) O- observe (look around for familiar objects) P- plan (make a shelter of leaves to sit on, find trees to lean up against, and use sticks or rocks to build walls)
15. Yes - it's important to carry some basics with you in case of emergency

# Answer Key - WildFlowers

Use the *Peterson First Guide to Wildflowers* to locate information on the flowers on the previous side. The book organizes flowers by color to make for easy identification (these books can be borrowed from the Shenango River Watchers).

Example A - Canada Violet (leaves are basal/alternate)

Example B - Tall Bellflower (leaves alternate)

Example C - Whorled Loosestrife (leaves are whorled)

Example D - Red Trillium (leaves are basal)



# Answer Key for Animal Slide

1. Raccoon
2. Squirrel
3. Bear
4. Coyote
5. Snake
6. Deer
7. Dog
8. Fox
9. Lizard
10. Chipmunk



# Answer Key for Map Slide

1. Hermitage
2. Sharon
3. Sharpsville
4. Transfer
5. Clark
6. Jefferson
7. South Pymatuning

- 8. Shenango Dam**
- 9. Shenango River Reservoir**
- 10. Chestnut Run Swim Beach**
- 11. Shenango Trail Big Bend Trail End**

12. Ohio
13. Pennsylvania



# Acknowledgements

Thank you to Monica, Brandi, Kathy, my sisters, Mom, Joe, and everyone else who helped me with this project. I am super appreciative for all of the help I received. I could not have done this project without all of you. I hope you all enjoy my program and maybe even try it out for yourself. Thank You for everything!

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Shenango River Watcher's Facebook pages was used for images of the trail and volunteers.

Images of the trail signs, patch, and some of the volunteers taken by Joy Reda