**To the Group Leaders:**

Thank you for coming to visit the Outdoor Classroom and Activity Center. We are delighted that you can use this area to help bring awareness and appreciation of nature to a new generation.

Since we currently do not have the staffing to coordinate the backpacks, we are counting on your help. Please check that the activities and supplies are indeed present both before AND after your visit. If not, please leave a note with the secretary.

Much care was taken to assure that the Boardwalk’s construction was conducted with minimum impact to the environment. Please emphasize with your group the importance of staying ON the boardwalk while in the swamp. The forested area prior to the Boardwalk is a nice place for group activities and many backpack activities are slated with that area in mind.

Pencils and loose paper can blow away or easily fall through the boardwalk cracks. We have assembled the items in the backpacks to minimize this, but inevitably, there will be losses. In order to minimize damage to the environment, we ask that fallen items be left in place. We will collect everything at lower impact times of the year. Thank you for respecting the integrity of the swamp environment.

These backpacks were a collaboration between AFHY (Advocates For Healthy Youth), Antioch University New England, and community volunteers.

In order to assess the value of the program, we kindly ask that you complete the attached evaluation when you return the packs and leave with the secretary. Missing or damaged items can be noted on this form as well.

Thank you –

OCAC Coordinators

**SWAMP ECOLOGY BACKPACK**

LIST of ACTIVITIES and SUPPLIES

**ACTIVITIES**

* Tenant Swamp Detectives (3)
* Swamp Quest tic-tac-toe (6)
* Find the Food Camouflage Game (1)
* Can you Survive? (8)
* Boardwalk Trail Guides (2)
* Set of suggestions for advanced activities (1)

**SUPPLIES**

Check that the quantities of the above activities and the accompanying materials are present both before AND after your visit.

Please be aware that pencils and loose paper can blow away or easily fall through the boardwalk cracks. In order to minimize damage to the environment, we ask that as much as possible fallen items be left in place. We will collect everything at lower impact times of the year.

**MATERIALS:**

* 3 sets of Swamp Detectives cards
* 6 Swamp Quest tic-tac-toe boards on clipboards
* 6 retractable dry erase markers
* 6 Magnifying glasses on lanyards
* 6 Ladles
* 6 Thermometers
* 6 rulers – 6”
* 6 packages of yarn
* 8 Survival activity packets
* 12 mini clipboards with notepads and pencils
* 1 pencil sharpener
* 2 Boardwalk Trail Guides
* 1 set of instructions for each activity

**TREES OF TENANT SWAMP BACKPACK**

LIST of ACTIVITIES and SUPPLIES

**ACTIVITIES**

* Powered by the Sun - Introductory
* Bark Bingo
* Meet a Tree
* Tree & Shrub Identification (not yet)
* Acrostic Poetry
* Nature Writing

**SUPPLIES**

Please check that the quantities of the above activities and the accompanying materials are present both before AND after your visit.

Please be aware that pencils and loose paper can blow away or easily fall through the boardwalk cracks. In order to minimize damage to the environment, we ask that as much as possible fallen items be left in place. We will collect everything at lower impact times of the year.

**MATERIALS:**

* 10 Bingo cards on clipboards, each with a retractable dry erase marker –large bag
* 24 mini clipboards, notepads & attached pencils – large bag
* 1 pencil sharpener
* 12 Blindfolds
* 4 Tree and Shrub Identification guides
* 1 set of instructions for each activity

**SENSES BACKPACK**

LIST of ACTIVITIES and SUPPLIES

**ACTIVITIES**

* Introduction to the senses (1)
* Sight - Blind Snake – played prior to reaching the Boardwalk (1)
* Sight - Camouflage – played prior to reaching the Boardwalk (1)
* Touch - Meet-A-Tree – best prior to reaching the Boardwalk (1)
* Touch – Feely bags (1 set)
* Sound Symphony Activity (1)
* Shape Match Activity – pairs of participants (12)

**SUPPLIES**

Please check that the quantities of the above activities and the accompanying materials are present both before AND after your visit.

Please be aware that pencils and loose paper can blow away or easily fall through the boardwalk cracks. In order to minimize damage to the environment, we ask that as much as possible fallen items be left in place. We will collect everything at lower impact times of the year.

**MATERIALS:**

* 24 blindfolds in a ditty bag
* 1 set of 8 feely bags
* 12 shape matching activity sheets
* 1 set of instructions for each activity

**OCAC Backpack Evaluation**

1. Which backpack did you use? (circle)

Senses Trees Swamp Ecology

2. How engaged were the students?

not at all somewhat a great deal

3. How much do you feel the students learned from the activities?

not at all somewhat a great deal

4. How easy was it for the group leader to use?

difficult somewhat easy

5. Were the listed supplies available?

no some most all

6. Comments: