

4. Bush Secrets

Opening

Start by standing in a large circle spread out as much as possible. Walk in slowly, singing Hello or another opening song as girls walk. Keep going until the girls are in a tight circle. Explain you have been asked to make a special documentary called 'Bush Secrets.' As a Leader, be ready to notice and compliment good spotting skills and Patrol skills.

Let's go for a walk and look for bush secrets.



What types of things do you notice when in the bush?

Have you ever seen a war being fought or a wedding or a family on a picnic?

If you look carefully at the tiny insects living under your feet in the bush, you can see all of these things happening. They are the special secrets of the bush.

Gently move grass, leaves and dirt with a stick and see what creatures you can find. Use a magnifying glass so you can look closely at your discoveries.

How do Aboriginal hunters track wallabies and kangaroos?

Try yourself

Environmental Bingo

Have you ever really thought about how amazing nature is and how everything has its own special shape, texture and smell. Use the Environmental Bingo sheet to find these special different things in the bush.

ENVIRONMENTAL BINGO

RECORD SHEET

Rough	Pointed	Broken	Smooth
Soft	Old	Shiny	Curved
Chewed	Smelly	Tiny	Dirty

Rubbings Match

Use pencil, charcoal or crayon and a large sheet of paper and do rubbings to show the special patterns in nature to be found in the bush, at your meeting place or at camp. Can you find a pattern to go in each box on the Rubbings Match sheet?

RUBBINGS MATCH

RECORD SHEET

Bumpy	Wood	Brick	Fabric
Leaf	Bark	Words	Concrete
Cracked	Asphalt	Patterned	Metal

Creature Spotting

The best places to look for animal traces is in soft ground. Be as quiet as possible and keep your senses alert – look, listen, watch and wait.

See if you can follow some bird or animal footprints. This is easiest on damp sandy ground. Where have they been? Where are they going? Do they travel in groups or alone? Can you identify the creature?

What creatures leave the following traces?

- ▶ Scratches on eucalypt trees
- ▶ Roadways through scrub or grassland
- ▶ Dug-up termite or ant nests
- ▶ Funnel-shaped holes in the ground
- ▶ Scratch marks on riverside banks
- ▶ Pellets of undigested bones or feathers

Snails

If you can locate a snail colony, try marking each with a number or mark (use nail polish – it won't hurt the snail). You can return each day and locate your snails. Make a map for each snail you find and try to decide something about the lives and habitats of snails.

Emus

Did you know that you can actually attract emus by waving slowly at them, or lying down and waving an arm or leg in the air? (Be careful – emus can be quite ferocious!)

SNAP!

Practise your outdoor photography skills. You don't need an expensive camera or equipment. A good quality mobile phone or I Pad will take a great shot. Of course, if you have a great camera then use it!

- ▶ Experiment with angles. Take photographs from above and below.
- ▶ Experiment with zoom. Take close-ups of unusual or interesting objects.
- ▶ Take photos of the same spot over and over – on a sunny day, in the rain, during a storm or at sunrise and sunset.
- ▶ Explore filters using coloured cellophane to carefully cover the lens.
- ▶ Make a panorama of your outdoor shots. Take a series of photos across a wide area then match up the prints and paste them on large sheets of coloured cardboard or photography mounts. Or use both!
- ▶ Make a collage. Cut up the prints and construct a new picture. Can you tell a story with photos? Could you make a phot search for another Patrol to follow?
- ▶ Why not have an outdoor photography exhibition?
- ▶ Make a natural frame for your print using sticks lashed together.
- ▶ Make a mobile and hang small prints taken in a special place.

Put Your Documentary on show

As a Unit decide how you want to share your knowledge. Did you find an issue that needs addressing? Perhaps you decide to advocate (educate yourself, speak out, take action).

- ▶ If you have some tech-minded girls they may be ready to combine photos, small movies and commentary to make a real documentary.
- ▶ Or you may decide to hold an art show with all your photos.
- ▶ Or each Patrol may become an expert on particular animals and plants and make a presentation to everyone on the secrets they uncovered.

Do you want to open your show to the public? Perhaps you could raise money for a cause such as the Koala Foundation.

Closing

Form a circle. Each girl holds out her right hand and says "I'll do my best." She holds her left hand out and holds the hand of the girl beside her and says "I'll lend a hand." Everyone lifts their hands and says "We'll be prepared to work together!"

Sing Taps and fall out.

