Penn State Extension

Cultivating the Next Generation of Forest Stewards

Sanford S. Smith, Ph.D. ("Sandy") Extension Specialist Natural Resources and Youth Education





An OUTREACH program of the College of Agricultural Sciences

Today's Youth



- Spend the majority of their free time "connected" indoors
- Lack knowledge and understanding about forest and natural resources topics
- Have misconceptions and fears
 about forests



"Nature-Deficit Disorder"

LAST CHILD IN THE WOODS **SAVING OUR** CHILDREN FROM NATURE-DISORDER RICHARD LOUV

For Almost Everyone ...

- A love and appreciation of forests is:
- Planted & cultivated by others
- Instilled early
- Often connected to a specific place



Put Another Way.....

"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder [he or she] 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 (From "The Sense of Wonder")



Cultivating the Next Generation... as PA Forest Steward

- <u>Penn State Youth Protection</u> <u>Guidelines (<18 years old)</u>
 - Youth + parents only
 - Teacher exception
 - Group presentations
 - Include parents and/or teachers in all communications
 - No power equipment
 - No photography without permission



Working with Groups

Groups: Wider impact. parental involvement, find/develop curriculum, mixed age/stage challenges, diversity of views and opportunities, state standards, badge requirements short duration, often one-shot "staged" or prepared experiences



Working with Individuals (Family Members Only)

Side-by-side mentoring, less preparation, intensive ongoing learning experiences, longer duration, regular or work activities, connected to place, family and community heritage





"Fire Starters"

- Plant a tree (s)
- Build a brush pile
- Use a hand lens to explore small things
- Take a thematic hike
- Collect tree seeds
- Stage a campfire
- Collect leaves
- Do bark rubbings



"Fire Starters"

- Unstructured play
- Map a woods
- Build a fort
- "Scouting" walks
- Journal / photography
- Stump sit
- Draw / paint
- Go fishing / hunting



A Sand County A L M A N A C

MALS

AND SKETCHES HERE AND THERE By ALDO LEOPOLD





WHERE THE RED FERN GROWS Wilson Rawls

For the millions who loved *The Incredible Journey* and *Old Yeller*, a heartwarming tale



A Newbery Honor Book

Book covers source: amazon.com

The Junior Forest Steward Program

Interactive publication
Reading, discussion, & activity (4rd-6th grade reading)

Patch recognition





a postic distanzare or tradiger. Preznyjvania youth effens know very linite abuse due (vessand arcsis that occors to max, and day aspect wellings adults to able following learning anise. You do not meed to be as expert abuse formit or formity for this prepart with the and memory and wellingens is learning able along wells yould have been been of Preparation and standards for challenge application (state). The preparation is well preparation and standards for challenge that and the Strend Theorem State of the state of a very faceble. Lies involves your metal and plantaria for the state of the state of a very faceble. Lies involves your material plantaria formation of the state of t

ally of a group, the birth group products, and the processing is a second to proving. The group common high the birth processing and the processing of the hence lives: these of group common high the birth processing and the hence lives: these of group common high the birth processing with indemnetation of the protection by reacting fitting and denotistics, it is that subject the birth of the single common high the processing of the processing of the single common high the processing of the processing of the single common high the processing of the single common high the single common high the processing of the single common high the single common high the processing of the processing of the single common high the single common high

Are saming any particular states of they" topical questions and answer and "himler" questions (values are senter of they" topical questions and answer and "himler" questions (values are senter up to encompe discussion and though. Th topics are to a long, colorfal, for on each page, and a precessors (Φ) procedes each d and the rest or phone oppose.

regardings present the viscal content shout feweri struwthely that youth influences, and a the individual structure of the structure of the structure state of the structure structure of structure structure of the structure of the structure structure of the structure structure structure and the structure structure structure of the structure structure structure structure and the structure structure





The Environment and Ecology Series

- 3rd-4th grade reading level
 State E&E standards Info.
 Web site and lesson plans
 - Ecosystems
 - •Renewable & Non-Renewable Resources
 - •Wetlands & Watersheds
 - •Threatened & Endangered Wildlife





From the Woods Series

- A curriculum resource
- Fifteen, full color flyers
- 6th-8th grade reading level
- Key natural resources and forest product topics
- Available in hard and digital (web) versions, with lesson plans and quizzes



4-H Programs for Natural Resources Education

- Traditional projects in forestry, wildlife, fish, orienteering, and water topics
- all levels
- Used in clubs, schools and afterschool settings







Sharing Nature with Children, I and II By Joseph B. Cornell

SEARCH INSIDE!™

Anniversary Edition

he classic Potents and Teachers Nature Associatess Guidebook

JOSEPH CORNELL



Book covers source: amazon.com

Project Wild & Project Learning Tree ("PLT")

- Environmental education guides for wildlife and forestry
- K-8 activities
- Used widely in schools and nature centers



People Resources

- Service Foresters
- Fellow PAFS
- Extension Educators
- Professional Foresters
- Local Treasures
- Con. District Staff
- Formal Educators
- Non-Formal Educators
- PA State Park EE
 Interpreters
- Scout Leaders
- Family Members



Tie Into Your Interests



An Example of... Teaching Forest Stewardship through a Personal Interest







"Who You Gonna Call?"

Real Life PAFS Requests...

- What do you need to consider in regards to youth protection?
- What are your logistic strengths and constraints?
- What follow-up questions might you need to ask?
- Who or what might be a helpful resource?
- What will you plan to do and what materials will you need?

<u>**Bottom Line: Include Youth***</u> <u>And Follow the Guidelines for Youth Protection!</u>

- In your forest stewardship plans
- In your PAFS work and activities
 - (family, neighbors, schools, youth groups)
 - In adult education programs/events
 - (WOA, Coop. Extension, Bur. Of Forestry, Conservation District)



I'm Here To Help!



Don't Hesitate To Contact Me!

Sanford S. Smith ("Sandy") sssmith@psu.edu 1-800-235-9473

PENNSTATE



Penn State Extension

Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce