



Introduction Session Outline For the Outdoor Skills Program

- I. Welcome students. Introduce instructors. Have instructors name their favorite Nebraska wildlife animal.
- II. Activity: Protect the Nest
- III. Discussion: What is the predator's job? What is the prey's job? Can you name a predator, and how they catch their prey? Does the animal have any special skills?
- IV. Activity: What is Wild. Students will introduce themselves in this activity.
- V. Activity: Fight & Flight Zones
- VI. Discussion: What is the zone of a raccoon? Which wildlife can you get closer to? What does that animal do if you get to close? (ex. Opossum – they play dead or hiss at you)
- vii. Frisbee Moment: Ask the students what they enjoyed most about today's session and what they enjoyed the least.

The Outdoor Skills program is a partnership with Nebraska Games & Parks and the UNL Extension/4-H Youth Development Program to provide hands-on lessons for youth during their afterschool time and school days off. It provides the opportunity to master skills in the areas of hunting, fishing, and exploring the outdoors. This educational program is part of the 20 year plan to recruit, develop and retain hunters, anglers, and outdoor enthusiasts in Nebraska.

Inventory

Session: Introduction

Kit Materials & Equipment

- Rope
- (6) Tennis balls
- (3) Green baskets
- What is Wild Animals
- “Food” laminated sign
- (4) Measuring tape
- Pennies

Session: Introduction

Activity: Protect the Nest

Objectives: Participants will examine the relationships between predator and prey.

Method: Students will play a game of Protect the Nest.

Materials Contained in Tub:

- Tennis Balls
- Rope
- Journal and pencil

Materials Needed to Conduct Activity:

Some larger balls.

Duration: 20 minutes

Group Size: any

Setting: Indoors or outdoors

Key Terms: Predator/Prey

Fair Exhibit: Journal Page

SET Ability: Collaborate

Background Information:

Every animal has a way of avoiding their predator, or a way to keep from being eaten by a predator. Most wildlife is also very protective of their young. In this game, the youth will examine predator/prey relationships. They will discover (on their own through your questions) how predators become smarter such as trying to steal eggs while the nest has fewer guards. The prey also becomes smarter in strategizing how to exchange guarding eggs from predators.

Activity

Before the activity

1. Use the rope, and make a circle in the middle of a wide room. This will be the “nest”.
2. In the circle, place the tennis balls, and if desired, a few larger balls.
3. Hang the “food” sign in a corner of the room. Make sure there are no obstacles between the nest and food.

Procedure

1. Explain that two students will be a Mama bird and a Dada bird. They will stay in the rope to defend their nest.
2. The other ten students are predators that eat birds’ eggs. The predators will prey upon the eggs in the nest.
3. The parent birds are going to defend their nest, however they must eat! So each birds take turns running/flying to the food pile and then has to return to the nest so the other parent bird can go get food.
4. However, the birds have very powerful beaks, and if the bird touches the predator when they are trying to steal the eggs out of the nest, the predator must sit out. (There is no touching a predator while trying to fly to get food).
5. After playing the game ask the following questions: What made the game easy for the predators? Is there anything the predators did to get smarter in how to steal the eggs? Did the parent birds get smarter in guarding the nest?
6. Applying Knowledge: Can you think of any animals that travel in packs to make catching prey easier? What are some other wildlife which are sneaky or smart when preying?