

# Parks Explorer

**Description:** Families explore community, county, and state parks near them, and report back to their clubs.

**Purpose:** To promote park visiting and encourage physical activity.

**Time:** Less than 5 minutes to explain at meetings

**Age/Grade level:** Everyone

**Suggestions:** To have more fun, have 2-3 families go together or make it a club trip. Collect pictures for your club scrapbook and Special Emphasis Report. Keep a record of the parks that were explored by your club members and add it to your Special Emphasis Report.

**Materials:** *Washington County Park and Trail Map* (Included in Binder)  
<http://www.co.washington.wi.us/uploads/docs/parkandtrailmap1.pdf>

## What to Do:

Explain to the group that there are, of course, many outdoor parks in our areas to enjoy. Some common examples are neighborhood parks, city parks, county parks, and even State Parks.

These outdoor places are meant for us to explore, so why don't we?

Encourage families to go with another family to find a new park near them and explore it. At the next meeting, youth should give a report about the park that they found, and what they think of it. To help families find parks in their area, the *Park and Trail Map* has a list of many public spaces in Washington County, including city, village, town, county, and state parks.

## Park Etiquette Tips:

DON'T: remove plants, rocks, or animals; climb trees; touch poisonous or uncertain plants.

DO: pack out your trash; observe pet rules; explore different places, stay on the trails; look for wildlife; have fun!

**Questions to Ask:** (Share with the audience to help them to be prepared for giving a report.)

1. Where did you go?
2. What did you see? Plants? Animals?
3. Did you find anything interesting at that park?
4. Would you recommend it to someone else? Why?

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