



Tracking, trailing, and stalking have been popular with Scouts for many years. The highlight activity and troop meeting practice this month will feature all three skills.

Especially in snow country, it's easy to develop activities related to tracking. Scouts might be asked to follow actual animal tracks for a distance. In the absence of animal tracks, they could follow man-made tracks. In either case, reading the main meaning of the track is required. Where there is no snow or soft earth, the use of tracking irons or wifflepoof will make tracking fun possible. (For a wifflepoof, see page 249, *Boy Scout Handbook*).

Trailing is following man-made trail signs. The signs may be put in position by one patrol and followed by another.

Stalking is perhaps the most fascinating of these three skills since it pits one Scout against another in a duel of training and wits. Stalking is a great imagination-developer because it is a skill related to the hunting of wild game and to survival in the early years of our nation.

In one stalking game, a Scout leaves the general camp area and, when safe to do so, one or more other Scouts attempt to follow him without being seen. Since he knows he is being followed, it isn't fair for him to stop to ambush the other fellows; rather, he should walk at a leisurely pace, pausing now and then to admire the scenery, including that behind him. This will give the following Scouts a chance to take cover. However, if he hears one of the trailing Scouts, it's another story. In this case, he will turn around quickly to see if he can spot who made the noise.

In addition to the tracking, trailing, and stalking aspects of the troop outing this month, feature such outdoor activities as fire building, cooking, and a campfire program.

## SCOUTING OUTCOMES

This month's patrol and troop activities should give your Scouts:

- An appreciation for the wonders of nature and possibly a growing feeling of closeness to God.
- A greater understanding of how pollution affects the natural world and how Scouts can help to stop it.
- A strengthened resolve to do their "duty to country" through good conservation practices.
- Growing self-confidence.

## ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

By the end of the month, all Scouts should have met the majority of their basic nature requirements through First Class. Depending on the outing, they may also complete all or part of the following rank requirements:

### *Tenderfoot*

- Outdoor—Cooking, hiking, camping, nature
- Citizenship—Flag ceremonies
- Patrol/troop participation—Patrol identification
- Personal development—Scout Oath and Law

### *Second Class*

- Outdoor—Cooking, nature, camping, hiking
- Citizenship—Flag ceremonies
- Patrol/troop participation—Patrol identification
- Personal development—Scout Oath and Law

### *First Class*

- Outdoor—Cooking, camping, nature, hiking
- Citizenship—Flag ceremonies