



Signs in the woods – laying and reading a trail

AT A GLANCE



Place

Outdoors: woods or park



Key idea

Learning trail signs and laying a trail for others



Effort

Materials 5 min · Preparation 15 min



90 minutes



8–20 children



8–12 years



2 teams



Materials

- ☐ sticks and stones found on site
- ☐ sheet with the signs (see below)
- ☐ pavement chalk for paths in the park
- ☐ a small reward at the finish



Schedule

0–15'	Learning the signs – Lay out all the signs with sticks together and explain them.
15–45'	Laying the trail – Team A lays a trail with at least 10 signs. Team B waits and plays a circle game.
45–70'	Reading the trail – Team B follows the trail to the finish.
70–80'	Swap or review – If there is time: swap roles.
80–90'	Closing – Thought: God's word is like a trail sign (Psalm 119:105).



Signs in the woods – laying and reading a trail



How it works – simply explained

- 1 **Arrow made of sticks:** This way.
- 2 **Cross (X):** Do not go this way.
- 3 **Arrow with a number of stones:** This many steps in this direction.
- 4 **Circle with a dot in the middle:** You have arrived!
- 5 Lay the signs where they can be seen, but not in the middle of the path where someone will tread on them.

 **Example:** "Here is an arrow pointing right and three stones next to it. So: three steps to the right ... there is the next sign!"



Good to know

There are many different trail signs. What matters is that everyone in your group knows the same ones. Print out the four signs above.



Safety

- Agree on the play area beforehand and show it.
- Never leave teams alone – at least one leader per team.
- Clear away all signs at the end.



Variations

- For older children: invent secret signs.
- With chalk on paths in town.



Something to think about

Who or what shows you the way in life?