



Pathfinder Pathways...

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Three Little Trees

Once upon a mountaintop, three little trees stood and dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up.

The first little tree looked up at the stars and said: "I want to hold treasure. I want to be covered with gold and filled with precious stones. I'll be the most beautiful treasure chest in the world!"

The second little tree looked out at the small stream trickling by on its way to the ocean. "I want to be traveling mighty waters and carrying powerful kings. I'll be the strongest ship in the world!"

The third little tree looked down into the valley below where busy men and women worked in a busy town. "I don't want to leave the mountain top at all. I want to grow so tall that when people stop to look at me, they'll raise their eyes to heaven and think of God. I will be the tallest tree in the world."

Years passed. The rain came, the sun shone, and the little trees grew tall. One day three woodcutters climbed the mountain. The first woodcutter looked at the first tree and said, "This tree is beautiful. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining ax, the first tree fell. "Now I shall be made into a beautiful chest, I shall hold wonderful treasure!" the first tree said.

The second woodcutter looked at the second tree and said, "This tree is strong. It is perfect for me." With a swoop of his shining ax, the second tree fell. "Now I shall sail mighty waters!" thought the second tree. "I shall be a strong ship for might kings!"

The third tree felt her heart sink when the last woodcutter looked her way. She stood straight and tall and pointed bravely to heaven. But the woodcutter never even looked up. "Any kind of tree will do for me." He muttered.

With a swoop of his shining ax, the third tree fell.

The first tree rejoiced when the woodcutter brought her to a carpenter's shop. But the carpenter fashioned the tree into a feedbox for animals. The once beautiful tree was not covered with gold, not with treasure. She was

covered with sawdust and filled with hay for hungry farm animals.

The second tree smiled when the woodcutter took her to a shipyard, but no mighty sailing ship was made that day. Instead the once strong tree was sawed and hammered into a simple fishing boat. She was too small and too weak to sail to an ocean, or even a river; instead she was taken to a little lake.

The third tree was confused when the woodcutter cut her into strong beams and left her in a lumberyard. "What happened?" the once tall tree wondered. "All I ever wanted was to stay on the mountain top and point to God..."

Many, many days and nights passed. The three trees nearly forgot their dreams. But one night, golden starlight poured over the first tree as a young woman placed her newborn baby in the feedbox. "I wish I could make a cradle for him," her husband whispered. The mother squeezed his hand and smiled as the starlight shone on the smooth and sturdy wood. "This manger is beautiful," she said. And suddenly the first tree knew he was holding the greatest treasure in the world.

One evening a tired traveler and his friends crowded into the old fishing boat. The traveler fell asleep as the second tree quietly sailed out into the lake. Soon a thundering and thrashing storm arose. The little tree shuddered. She knew she did not have the strength to carry so many passengers safely through with the wind and the rain.

The tired man awakened. He stood up, stretched out his hand, and said 'Peace'" The storm stopped as quickly as it had begun. Suddenly the second tree knew he was carrying the king of heaven and earth.

One Friday morning, the third tree was startled when her beams were yanked from the forgotten woodpile. She flinched as she was carried through an angry jeering crowd. She shuddered when soldiers nailed a man's hands to her. She felt ugly and harsh and cruel.

But on Sunday morning, when the sun rose and the earth trembled with joy beneath her, the third tree knew that God's love had changed everything. It had made the third tree strong.

And every time people thought of the third tree, they would think of God. That was better than being the tallest tree in the world.

The next time you feel down because you didn't get what you want, sit tight and be happy because God is thinking of something better to give you.

--Author Unknown

Knot this Month

The better bow

Sometimes when teaching Pathfinders how to tie knots we may forget that when we tie our shoelaces that we are tying a knot. Here's a way to teach it with a new twist. If you have problems with your shoelaces coming undone and you don't want to tie a double knot for fear having to untie it later, this knot is for you. It comes loose with a tug but can't jiggle loose. The only difference between this one and your regular shoe-tying knot is that with the better bow, the working end takes two turns around the first loop instead of one. Then the knot finishes as usual with a second loop (your slipped modification) and tightening.

-*Trailside Hints & Tips*

Safety Tip

Never operate your stove inside your tent because carbon monoxide can build up, and there's a chance of fire.

Outreach Activity Ideas



Collect crazy and fun hats for kids receiving chemotherapy treatments. Your Pathfinders might even like to knit some hats using the skills that

they've learned while earning the knitting honor. There are a number of free patterns included in the links in the honor toolbox section.



FAITH IS BELIEVING IN THINGS
WHEN COMMON SENSE TELLS
YOU NOT TO.

Honor Toolbox



Knitting

Once, knitting was viewed as an "old lady's sport," but now people are reconsidering that label. From preschool classrooms to college campuses, younger folks are yearning for yarn, and the time-honored craft is gaining momentum.

I recently heard that knitting and crocheting have become all the rage and at least one of the local academies has been making scarves to give out to the needy. This is a great time to capitalize on this and incorporate teaching the knitting honor. This honor also corresponds with this years Pioneering theme.

But what if no one in your club knows how to knit? This could be an opportunity for some of your church members to help the club but only participate for a short time.

For free patterns, remember to check the stores that sell yarn. They often have free one page instructions for quick projects.

Below are links that either have instructions on how to knit or free patterns that you can use.

[Better Homes and Gardens Knitting Basics](#)

[Family Circle – Learn to Knit](#)

[Bernat Yarns](#) (free membership)

[Vogue knitting](#) (instructions)

[Learn to knit](#) (Craft Yarn Council of America)

[Lion Brand Yarn](#)

Nature Nugget

Trust Walk

Being blindfolded and relying on another person heightens your awareness of your surroundings. Objective: to become aware more aware of your surroundings by relying on senses other than sight, experiencing a symbiotic relationship with another.

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Hike of the Month

'The journey is the destination'

Coker Creek Trail – Cherokee National Forest

This extremely scenic and historic trail is one of the better known areas in the central portion of the southern Cherokee National Forest. The challenge here is in finding the trailhead! Once on the trail it is very easy to follow as one just follows Coker Creek down the mountain from the beautiful Coker Creek Falls to the Hiwassee River. You are not even asked to get your feet wet crossing the creek.

However do not be misled into thinking it is just an easy stroll along a creek bank. It is that for much of the way, but, like its connector trail, the John Muir Trail beside the Hiwassee, it frequently climbs steeply up and over bluffs along the river bank thereby presenting short but very steep sections to add a little interest and challenge.

You also may catch sight of people "panning" for gold. This is the only place that gold was ever discovered in Tennessee. Although the gold has been mined out in the last century, still occasional flakes are found in the creek and searching for them remains a popular local pastime.

Near the falls is a very large rock house that is quite interesting. This type of formation is somewhat unusual in the Cherokee, although quite common across the valley on the Cumberland escarpment.

The Coker Creek Falls is really a series of waterfalls, which extends a tenth of a mile or more along the trail. There are four major ledge falls with falls varying from 5 feet to 40 feet in height and 75 feet or so across.

To find this trail from Chattanooga, take US64 east through the Ocoee River Gorge to Ducktown. At Ducktown take TN68 north toward Tellico Plains. (You may also reach this trail by heading south on SR68 from Tellico Plains) You will cross the Hiwassee River on SR68 and cross into Monroe County. Just past a bridge over Coker Creek itself (unmarked!) turn left onto Bailey Road (also unmarked). This road takes you steeply uphill to FS22 (Ducket Ridge Ford) where you will turn left. Shortly thereafter the pavement ends. In about 3 miles you will see a sign on the left for Coker Creek Falls. FS2138 turns left and goes steeply downhill for one mile to trailhead parking lot. You may want to walk this mile if it has been raining and you do not have 4-wheel drive! If you miss the turn off SR68 (highly likely) and find yourself in Ironsburg, turn left just before the Ironsburg United Methodist Church on FS22. At .9 mile take a left fork at a sign reading Coker Creek Falls. This is at a hilltop with a small cemetery which will be to your left. In another mile or so, you will come to the intersection with Bailey Road where you will bear right on FS22. This trail is approximately 2 hours from Chattanooga.

Trust Walk

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Background	An old-wives tale says that if you lose one sense, your other senses increase. Although this is not necessarily true, you do learn how to rely more on your other senses. This activity not only helps heighten other senses, it helps instill a sense of trust in others.
Skills	Enough maturity to be responsible for another person
Age	Grades 5 – adult
Materials	Scarf or light weight material for a blindfold
Preparation	Discuss how some creatures in nature rely on others for food or shelter. (This is a good way to introduce symbiotic relationships. Ostriches and gazelles feed near each other, watch for predators, and warn each other. The flea feeds on the mouse's blood, which could kill the mouse. Silver fish live and hunt with army ants. Both share the prey but do not help nor hinder each other.) Then discuss how some animals have some stronger senses and other weaker senses. This often helps them to find food or escape from predators.
Activity	Pair the children, with one child being blindfolded and the other acting as the guide. In complete silence, the guide should lead the blindfolded person through an outdoor area. The guide should stop periodically and direct (silently) the blindfolded person to touch an object or smell or listen. After a set period of time, usually five to ten minutes, the participants change roles.
Discussion	First discuss the feelings that the participants had when they were blindfolded. Were they afraid? How long did it take for them to "trust" their guide? Then, discuss what they felt, heard, or smelled. Were they able to recognize anything? Did they feel that they could hear or smell better because they could not see? Ask how each felt as the guide. How did they feel about being responsible for another person? How easy/hard was it to create an interesting experience for the person who was blindfolded. Conclude by drawing an analogy between their experience and how animals survive. What are some of our responsibilities as stewards of this planet? Should this be our responsibility?

Camping



Fire Starters

- Use pine cones covered with wax. **
- Pack charcoal in paper egg cartons and tie shut. When ready to use, just light the carton.
- Put a piece of charcoal in each section of a paper egg carton. Cover with melted wax. ** Tear apart and use as needed. You can also use sawdust, dryer lint or Pistachio shells instead of the charcoal.
- Take 100% cotton balls and thoroughly rub Vaseline into them. Keep in a Ziploc bag.
- Newspaper cut into strips (3"-4" wide). Roll up and tie with string. Cover with melted wax. **
- Use lint from your dryer as a fire starter.
- Bundle about 10-12 Diamond brand "strike-anywhere" wooden kitchen matches together with waxed dental floss. The heads of the matches should all be pointing in the same direction. Generously soak the bundle of matches (except heads) in melted paraffin wax** to waterproof and to provide a long burn time. Dip heads lightly only to waterproof them. Simply strike on flat rock to ignite.
- Soak a piece of charcoal in lighter fluid. Coat with wax. **
- Use small condiment or "sample-size" cups. Add a long wick to each cup and fill with melted wax. ** You can also fill them with sawdust.
- Waterproof your matches by dipping them in wax** or coating them with clear nail polish
- Use cotton string about 3-4" long, put in wax paper bathroom cup with about an inch hanging over the edge. Fill cup nearly to the top with saw dust and pour melted wax into the cup. The saw dust will compact and become waterproof. The extra string length is

a wick to start burning the starter, but can also be tied to another starter string through a pack loop to carry outside your pack.

***Never use liquid igniters on your campfire.
Example: lighter fluid, gasoline etc.**

**** When melting wax, only use a double boiler set up. Melted wax can easily ignite. Have a fire extinguisher handy in case of emergency.**

Camp Cooking



Dutch Apple Crisp

<http://papadutch.home.comcast.net/dutch-oven-recipe-applecrisp.htm>

Filling

10 cups granny smith apple slices

2 Tbs. lemon juice

3/4 cup sugar

1/2 cup brown sugar

1/3 cup flour

2 tsp. ground cinnamon

3/4 tsp. grated nutmeg

1/4 tsp. ground cloves

3/4 tsp. salt

Topping

2 cups brown sugar

2 cups flour

1 cup oatmeal

1/2 cup chopped walnuts (optional)

1 cup butter; melted

Prepare Filling: In a 12" Dutch oven add apples and lemon juice; stir to coat apples. In a separate dish combine remaining filling ingredients and stir to mix. Pour dry ingredients over apples and stir until apples are well coated.

Prepare Topping: In a separate bowl combine brown sugar, flour, oatmeal, and walnuts; stir to mix. Using a fork, mix in butter. Spread topping evenly over apples.

Bake: Cover Dutch oven and bake using 12-14 briquettes bottom and 16-18 briquettes top for 60 minutes.

Serve topped with whipped cream.

Serves: 12-14

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