



Pathfinder Pathways...

A Publication of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Pathfinders

February 2006

A Faithful Giver

Due to lack of sufficient income to cover church expenses, a local grain elevator owner volunteered to take his church's treasurer position if for one year the church would require no report from him. The Board was puzzled, but knowing him to be an honest man who processed most of their grain, they granted it.

At the end of the year, the new treasurer gave a glowing report: The church's indebtedness on the building had been paid, there were no outstanding bills, salaries were increased and there was a balance of \$7,000! They asked him for an explanation of their new prosperity. "Most of you bring your grain to me," he replied "and when I paid you, I simply withheld 10% and gave it to the church in your name. You never missed it! See now what we could do for the Lord if we each were only willing to give 10% back!"



Outreach Activity Ideas



Paint hearts, flowers, diamonds, zigzags, suns, moons, stars, comets, ladybugs, snakes or other fun and simple shapes on kids' faces at a festival or fund-raiser.

Use water-based cosmetic paints (such as Kryolan, Mehron or Snazroo) purchased from a clown supplier. Apply the paint with cotton swabs or paint brushes (sable works best). Be sure to bring a mirror so the kids can admire your handiwork!

Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.

- Mother Teresa

Honor Toolbox

Origami



Why is origami so good for you?

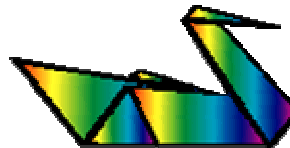
What are some reasons you might want to learn and then teach Origami to your Pathfinders? For one they get to complete an honor! But it is also a way to exercise a child's brain; to stretch them out in directions that could use a little flexibility so they build an awareness of alternative ways of thinking, and to strengthen them in areas that will serve them in regular academic tasks. Origami does all that in an enjoyable way.

Kids really like learning origami. They don't say it is easy, but they do say they like it! One reason they do like it...it does take concentration and care, it does take many steps, it makes you feel like you have conquered something when you are done. Best of all, you end up with a very cool model. This magic of turning a flat piece of paper into a three dimensional sculpture is, perhaps, the most enchanting feature of origami.

Kids feel "empowered"! After all, if you can transform scrap paper into a jumping frog, you have POWER! The ability to visualize, to actually "see" in your head, a shape you want to fold is a talent that can be strengthened with simple practice.

Have you ever heard the old story of the sculptor who was asked how he knew what to carve? His answer was, "It's easy! I just see the sculpture and take away what shouldn't be there..."

This talent is obviously useful to visual artists, but it is also of the greatest use to our creative scientists and engineers. And, if you are looking at this page on your computer monitor you know



how important graphics and visual methods for presenting information are becoming. In fact, when analyzing huge amounts of data a graphic interpretation is often the only way a person can really take in the meaning, the pattern, quickly (or at all).

Origami is a relatively painless way to have kids realize the importance of sequencing. Teachers spend a ton of time with some kids because the child doesn't understand that some things have to be done in a certain order of steps to be successful. Writing stories where there is a beginning, middle and end may seem a simple concept...but it isn't to lots of young people. The concept of "first things first" has to be learned. If a child hasn't imprinted on the pattern of a well built story, then they simply don't see the importance of following a sequence of steps. Arithmetic relies on the first things first stuff, too. The cool thing about origami is that you do not have to tell a student that it their model isn't "right"; they can see that they didn't get where they wanted to go (when your swan looks more like a spit ball that isn't hard!)...and they back up and try the sequence of steps with more respect and care on their own.

If you have kids you know that their ability to estimate the relative size of things develops during grade school years. In math they have to work on getting a feel for fractions. Half a pizza, a fourth of the team, a third of our Pathfinder club and so forth are concepts that need to become quickly and accurately understood. Origami is built of paper folded to those fractions. "Exactly one half" has a more real feel to it after a child sees what happens when you don't have it! (...the small "half" of a candy bar holds the same lesson.) Basic geometry concepts are painlessly learned (we very commonly have to bisect the corner of a true square to form the two identical right triangles....and having to cope with the knowledge that a "sort of" square doesn't do this, or, even more basically, a square behaves very differently than a rectangle, is tough on kids. By fifth grade many kids who have had no personal reason for filing these facts away are still clueless. True learning only occurs when kids feel that the subject has importance to them in a direct and personal way. And origami is a way to help them learn.

Here are several websites that might help you find cool patterns.

- Origami - <http://www.origami.com/>
- Paperfolding - <http://www.paperfolding.com/>
- Origami, USA - <http://www.origami-usa.org/>
- [Beaded Holiday Ornament](#)
- [Tammy Yee's Origami Page](#)
- [The Swan](#)

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**Genius begins great works;  
labor alone finishes them.**

- Joseph Joubert

## Kids Quips



*I had been teaching my three-year-old daughter Caitlin, the Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime she repeated it after me. One night she said that she was ready to solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word, right up to the end of the prayer. "Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some e-mail. Amen."*

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Hike of the Month

'The journey is the destination'
Foster Falls



Foster Falls is located about 40 minutes northwest of Chattanooga, Tennessee. It is named for the 60 foot waterfall formed where Little Gizzard Creek pours over the western edge of the Cumberland Plateau. The gorge cut by the creek has exposed a band of sandstone cliffs along the north rim.

The best time to visit is in the early spring. Things aren't as busy then. A new access trail has been constructed and it features a neat suspension bridge over the creek below the waterfalls. Another trail will take you to an overlook. Beyond the overlook is a steel bridge crossing the creek above the waterfalls.

From Chattanooga, head west on I-24. Exit I-24 at Jasper (exit 155), after the highway goes into and out of Georgia, and crosses the Tennessee River at Nickajack Lake. Turn right onto Highway 28. After a few miles on highway 28, exit onto Highway 41/64/72, go left into Jasper, then right at the second light onto 150/41 out of town (toward Tracy City). Bear to the left onto US 41 and go up the mountain. The large rock outcropping high up to your right is Castle Rock.

Wind on up the road. Foster Falls Scenic Area is found 3 miles beyond the Mountain Mart store on the left. The park is easy to miss at night; the sign is dark in color. The gates close at 10 p.m. If you get in late, park on the left by the gate - it's a short walk to the campground. Select a site; you can pay in the morning. You might consider spending the night at the Raccoon Mt. Campground.

Camp Cooking

Mashed Potato Pancakes



Serve this for dinner or a spicy breakfast. Applesauce makes a fine accompaniment.

At home, combine in a zipper-lock

bag:

- 1 ½ ounces instant mashed potatoes
- 1 ½ tablespoons whole wheat flour
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne powder
- ½ teaspoon onion powder
- 1 ¼ teaspoons garlic powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt, or to taste
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper (optional)

Pack these items individually

- 2 ½ ounces instant hash browns
- 2 ounces Cheddar cheese, grated

On trail, cover hash browns with boiling water and let stand 10 minutes. Whisk into mashed potatoes mixture:

- 1 cup boiling water

Gently fold in hash browns and cheese. Spoon onto greased skillet and flatten. Cook like a pancake.

Nature Nugget

Follow that footprint, paw print, hoof print...

Have you ever tracked someone's footprints in the sand or snow? It can be kind of a mystery figuring out where someone was going and what they were doing. By looking carefully at animal tracks you can learn more about their comings and goings too.

Many Pathfinders may have read mysteries or watched a show such as CSI or Unsolved Mysteries. These have a fascination that can be used to solve the mystery of the animal tracks.

Winter is the perfect time to put on your detective hat and follow some animal tracks. You can do this in your yard, at a local city park, or for a real adventure, head out to a state park or forest. Pick a day right after a snowfall and see how many different types of tracks you can find.

Here are some hints to get you started.



Think about what kind of animals live in the area. This will help you narrow the field of identification. It's a pretty good bet that if you're looking in your backyard you'll find squirrel, bird, and maybe rabbit tracks.



Four toes on each of the front and hind feet means you're looking at a track from the dog family (fox, wolf, coyote, neighborhood dog), the cat family (bobcat, lynx, neighborhood cat) or the

rabbit family (cottontail or snowshoe hare). Does the paw print have small triangular marks in front of it? If yes, those are claw marks. Raccoons, skunks, coyotes, foxes, and dogs will often leave claw marks. Cats, on the other hand, retract their claws when they walk or run. So, you won't usually find claw marks with bobcats, lynx, or house cats.



Four toes on the front foot and five toes on the hind foot means it's a rodent (mice, voles, chipmunks, squirrels, woodchucks).



If the track has five toes each on the front and back feet it's from the raccoon and weasel families (weasel, badger, mink, skunk, otter, bear, beaver, muskrat, porcupine, opossum).



If you find a two-toe track, it's probably a deer. Moose and elk also leave two-toe tracks, but those animals are uncommon in Tennessee or Georgia.



Is the track made by a "hopper?" Squirrels leave interesting tracks. As they bound along, their larger hind feet land ahead of their smaller front feet. It looks like the front feet are side by side. Rabbit tracks look a little different. The hind feet still land ahead of the front feet, but the front feet are not found right next to each other.



What direction is your animal going? How can you tell? If your animal has claws it's pretty easy...claw marks point in the direction the animal was going. If there aren't any claw marks, see if you can see where the snow is pushed back by the animal's feet. The pushed back areas show the direction the animal came from.

Another thing you can do while solving the mystery of whose track it is is to make casts of animal tracks. All you need is a tin can with both ends cut out and some plaster of paris.

First locate a track with clean features. Look in damp or sandy areas where the soil is soft. Being careful not to alter the track imprint, remove any debris or loose soil from the track. Then place the open tin can over the track and press it lightly into the soil to seal it. Use a can that surrounds the entire track.

Next, mix 1/4 to 1/2 cup plaster of paris with water until the consistency is similar to pancake batter. Pour the plaster into the can, covering the track and filling the can to a depth of about 1". Let the plaster dry at for least 1 hour before moving the can. After the plaster dries for 24 hours, you can remove it from the can. Coating the can with oil makes removal of the cast easier.

Knot this Month

The Dragonfly Knot

This is a Chinese ornamental knot. It is elegant in its form representing this ancient creature of the order odonata. These can be tied these in a variety of materials from dental floss (quite small) to quarter inch sisal (what a wing span). This may not meet requirements for the knot tying honor but it could be fun for the Pathfinders.

This version is simply tied with square knotting as in macramé. It is referred to as flat knotting in Chinese ornamental knotting. The tricky part is working out the wing loops and of course getting the tension right to hold the form. This comes with practice. A more elaborate version is found in the book Chinese Knotting by Lydia Chen.

It can be an interesting camp craft for idle time to keep young hands busy. The exact amount of material required depends of course on the material used but you can start with about 2 feet if you are using common twine. Rule of thumb is more length for larger material and less for smaller material. Too much is always better than too little in this case.

Here is a website that also has instructions:

[Decorative Knots](#)

1. Double the cord to provide two equal length "legs".

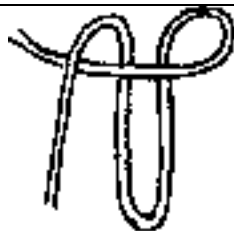


2. Let the ends fall as shown leaving the center bight to the length of the dragon fly that you are making. This will be the length of the body.

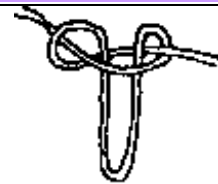


You may choose to add beads at the top of the "M" to form eyes for your creation.

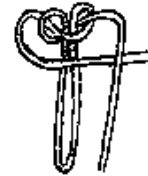
3. Bring right leg over and under as shown.



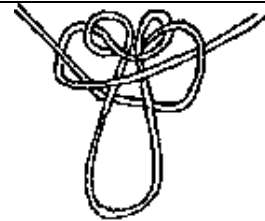
4. Bring left leg behind the body bight and through the loop as shown.



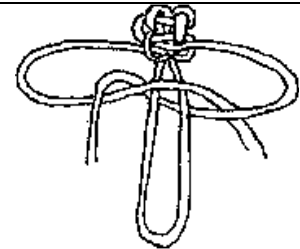
5. This repeats step 3 in the reverse direction



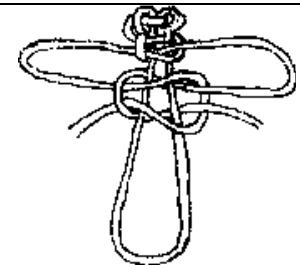
6. This repeats step 4 in the reverse direction. A complete square knot is formed. You may chose to do one or two complete square knots to form the head of the dragonfly.



7. The first wing pair is formed as in step three. Allow enough length to produce a proper wing to body proportion.

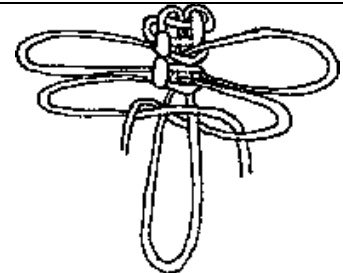


8. Complete the square knot as in step 4. Take care in tightening the knot to allow the wing lengths to stay equal. Tighten carefully and slide the knot up the body loop to the desired position.



9. Add a second wing set as in step 7 and step 8.

Tighten the second wing set and move to position. The body is then completed by square knotting as in steps 3 through 6 above down the length of the body loop.



Tighten carefully as you go. Ending can be completed by trimming loose ends and applying a dot of glue to secure.

Camping



Camping Tips: Advice for Low Impact Campers

Every year avid fans of backpacking and camping take to the wilderness for the pure pleasure of connecting with the environment. What we do while on the trails makes a permanent impression on the wilderness areas we love. If we do not follow the steps of low impact camping our beloved wilderness areas will become no more than a roadside campground full of litter and leftovers from unconcerned campers.

Low Impact Camping is just that; low impact.

Low Impact is camping with the least amount of negative impact to the environment. By practicing these methods of low impact camping we can all be assured that our beloved wilderness areas will be there for future generations to enjoy just as we have.

First, keep your group small.

The smaller the better because this means that your campsite will not be trampled down or over used. After you have selected the place your group will camp, be sure to keep the campsite at least one hundred feet from the trail. Try also to use an area that is screened by natural flora and trees because this way you will be inconspicuous to others who will be moving along the same trail you have used.

Keep your improvements at your newly found campsite to a minimum. Do not dig trenches around the camping area. These trenches will lead to erosion over time.

Use a "Hard" Campsite.

A hard campsite is an area where solid terrain is found. Avoid any area that is less than two hundred feet from a water source. This ground is soft and cannot take the wear and tear of repeated use for camping. Also avoid meadows and dense forest areas. By using areas that include dense flora this causes the flora and mosses to become trampled and they can and will erode and die if overused. Be sure to set up camp in a stable area where the ground is stable such as on a granite slab or very firm and dry dirt.

Be sure to pack out all your refuse.

Never leave your trash in any wilderness area. By leaving trash, not only is it unsightly to the next hiker, backpacker, or camper but it is dangerous to area wildlife. Keep in mind that even a twist tie from a bread bag can turn into a lethal substance for any animal to ingest.

Never litter any wilderness area, and if litter is present, pick it up and pack it out even if you did not leave it. We

all must be responsible even if the last person to visit the area was not so responsible.

Large campfires are out.

The big campfire became very passé once environmentalists began to see the effects of such fires. In most areas wood is being used faster than it can reproduce which leads to depletion of the area timber. By gathering kindling you are making an impact on the environment because fallen kindling rots away leaving mulch for seedlings to sprout in. Your best bet is to use a propane stove for cooking and heating in your camping area. By doing this you are not only saving wood, but also saving a forest fire from happening.

Protect the waterways.

This is a very important step in environmentally sound camping. Never dig your latrine closer than two hundred feet to any waterway, even a small stream that appears to be mostly underground. Do all washing from the same distance. Avoid getting soap into the waterway system because not only is it a pollutant but animals drink from the same waterways that you are bathing in. This can cause much harm to wildlife since they have not been exposed to such chemicals like our own family pets have been. These wilderness animals possess a much more delicate system than the animals we have contact with on a daily basis.

When hiking back if your group should hike through a meadow or heavily laden flora area be sure to spread out. Do not play follow the leader in these areas. In theory we know that we should stay on the trail if at all possible but in a large meadow or field this creates erosion in one particular area which can lead to much bigger problems. This area could later recede further and also a large rut could develop which again causes the area to erode and kill delicate flora and unseen wildlife. Spread out and never follow the leader in these large areas.

Any time we visit the wilderness we should carefully follow these steps to ensure that these pristine areas will be with us for generations. Not only are we responsible for our generation but we must take care to undo damage from previous generations to ensure the future of wilderness areas for all.

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