

HIKING STICK MAKING

LESSON PLAN



WOLF RIDGESM
ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER

Hiking Stick Making



CLASS DESCRIPTION: A traditional crafts and skills class

Students in a wilderness trip program will design and create their own hiking stick to use on their backpacking trip. The students will select their own stick, identifying the wood if possible, carve the stick to the desired aesthetic, sand, wood burn designs, and oil their stick. As part of this process, students will learn woodworking skills, become self-confident as they make a useful object, and connect with the history of hiking and backpacking.

Total time: 3 hours

Audience: 6-12 students, 9th grade through adult

Activity level: moderate

Travel: 1 1/2 mile

Total uphill travel: 350 feet

PURPOSE

To create a hand crafted, functional hiking stick for use on backpacking trips.

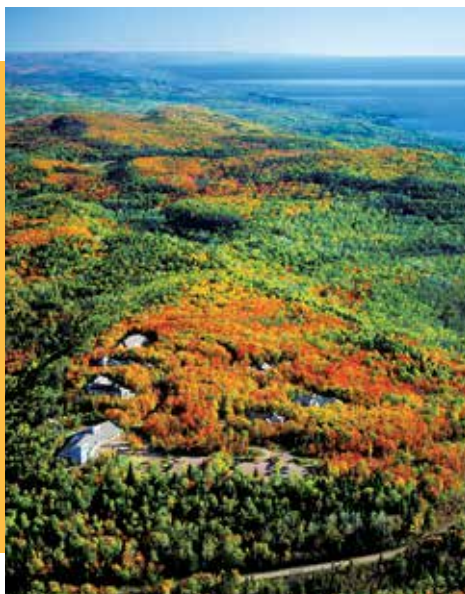
CONCEPTS

- Many hikers use hiking sticks for balance and stability while hiking.
- A hiking stick can be as simple as a stick picked up off the ground, or as complex as a hand carved, designed, and oiled stick used for many trips.
- We are all capable of creativity and are drawn to using objects we craft and create ourselves.

OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the Hiking Stick Making class students will be able to:

1. Select a hiking stick from the woods using stewardship principles.
2. Demonstrate knife safety techniques while carving a hiking stick.
3. Understand and explain the process of making a wooden hiking stick from selection to completion.



Our mission is to develop a citizenry that has the knowledge, skills, motivation and commitment to act together for a quality environment.

6282 Cranberry Road | Finland, MN 55603-9700 | www.wolf-ridge.org

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Equipment

Classroom Equipment

- 12 carving knives and sheaths
- 12 no-cut gloves borrowed from the Wolf Ridge Farm (return after every class)
- Sandpaper of varying grits
- Linseed oil
- Bits of wool from spinning class for spreading oil
- Two wood burners
- Example hiking stick

To be gathered on hike to FEB

- 1 or 2 sticks of sizable length and width for carving

Equipment to carry with instructor:

- Small hand saw

Appendices

- Glossary
- References
- Sources
- Planning Outline

Set-up (15 min.)

- Classroom/class prep description
- Safety Management

I. Introduction (15 min.)

- Greeting/Grabber
- Assess Learner Level

II. Hike to Forest Ecology Building (30 min.)

III. Carving and Sanding (60 min.)

- A. Knife Safety
- B. Open Carving Time
- C. Sanding

IV. Decorating and Oiling (30 min.)

- A. Wood Burner Safety
- B. Additional Decoration and Oiling

IV. Conclusion (20 min.)

- A. Sharing results
- B. Stewardship Actions

IV. Return to Wolf Ridge (30 min.)

Clean-up (15 min.)