

SELF-DIRECTED NATURE DISCOVERY HIKE —*TEAR & DOG-EAR* LIST

by Chuck Kleymeyer (last revised, October 2020)

In this kind of nature hike, rather than be guided and informed by a certified leader, the ‘seekers’ direct themselves, using all five senses to notice and identify, but *not* collect, varied aspects of the natural world. These include ones that cannot be directly observed, but only surmised (see: ‘snowflake’). So, slow down, breathe deep, and heighten your awareness of your surroundings. No need for a pencil; just make a small tear along the solid line, and dog-ear what you’ve discovered. Note: this hike can be done as an individual activity...or with one other person...or in teams...or in one big group. Enjoy!

_____ POISON IVY (on the ground or as a tree vine)

MAMMAL (non-human one)_____

_____ FERN (is there water or a spring nearby?)

TURTLE, TOAD, OR FROG_____

_____ MUSHROOM (or fungus on a tree)

SPIDER WEB (any dew on it? colors?)_____

_____ BLUE, YELLOW, OR WHITE WILDFLOWERS

BUTTERFLY (shadows count!)_____

_____ SOUND OF LEAVES OR TRICKLING WATER

BEE (shadows count! bzzz also counts)_____

_____ GNAT IN FLIGHT

A SWEET SMELL OR A YUCKY SMELL_____

_____ ANIMAL SCAT (A.K.A. POOP)

A NURSE LOG (a decomposing, fallen tree with plants/saplings growing on it)_____

_____ BIRD ON THE GROUND (why...?)

PIECE OF QUARTZ (is ½ piece “pints”?)_____

_____ BIRD SONG, OR BIRD IN A BUSH OR TREE

MELTED SNOWFLAKE_____ (hmm...think about this one)

_____ BIRD IN FLIGHT (shadows count!)

CATERPILLAR_____

_____ THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT
(just checking to see if you fudged and made a tear next to them all! ☺)

INCH WORM (foot worm is OK!)_____

_____ TOTAL SILENCE...

MILLIPEDE (careful; they can bite...)_____

_____ SNAKE (OR MOLTED SNAKESKIN)

GROUND OR TREE MOSS_____

_____ PINE CONE...OR PINE NEEDLES

ANIMAL TRACKS (includes slug slime)_____

_____ MOLE HILL (really a tunnel)

FALLING LEAF_____

_____ BEETLE (or any other crawling bug)

LOBED LEAF AND SERRATED LEAF_____

_____ AN *UN*-NATURAL SOUND

YOUR CHOICE OF ANYTHING ELSE!_____