



SCOUT TIPS

SIGNALING FOR HELP



If you ever find yourself in the middle of a backcountry emergency – as a lost or injured hiker, for example – the first step is to stay calm and not panic.

Once you've gotten that down, you have several options. Depending on the situation, one of the most helpful might be signaling for help.

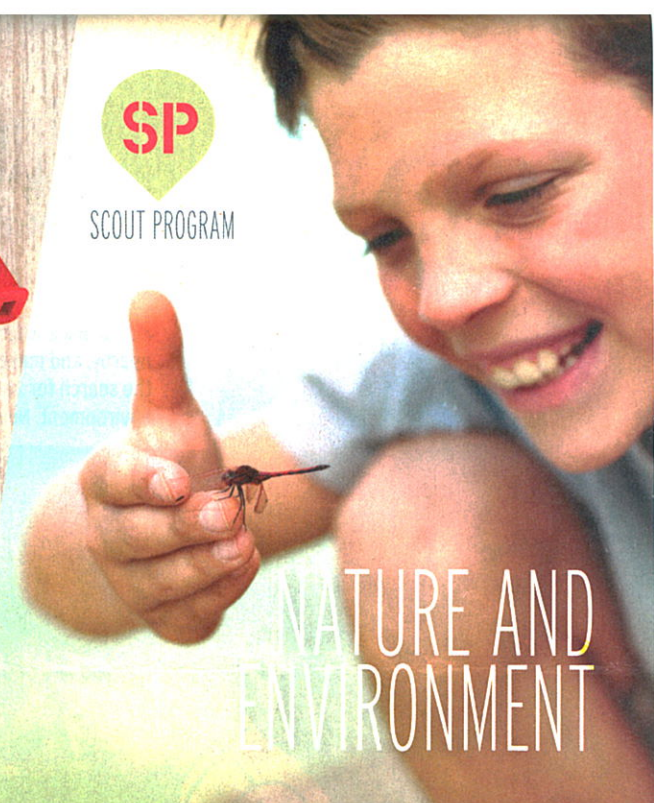
There are lots of ways to do this. Noise, mirrors, fire and smoke are just a few.

If you're carrying a whistle, three blasts every minute or two is a recognized signal of distress. If you're carrying a mirror, a flash of reflected sunlight can be seen for many miles.

A fire might already be part of your strategy, just to stay warm. Light from it can attract attention at night, and smoke can be seen from miles around during the day. -A.D.



SCOUT PROGRAM



NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT

RESPECTING THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Whether it's hiking, camping, boating or anything else, very few young people spend more time outdoors than Boy Scouts and Venturers. All of that outdoors time gives you more chances to learn about birds, animals, plants and all other living things you might encounter.

Some of what you learn is nothing new. The earliest humans learned very quickly which plants were good to eat and which ones made them sick. They learned about the behavior of the animals they hunted for food, and they learned to avoid the animals that preyed upon humans.

Some of what you learn has come to light only recently: Experts now know more than ever about how plants and animals interact with one another and how they depend on the materials found in their environment to survive.

Anything that disturbs the environment – such as pollution and irresponsible hunting and forestry practices – affects all the living things found there. Indeed, humans are just one small part of the natural order of things, and we all must work to protect all living things for future generations. -A.D.

Find complete program details in *Program Features for Troops, Teams, and Crews: A Guide to Program Planning - Volume 3* (BSA Supply Item No. 616353, 800-323-0736, go.boyslife.org/scoutstuff). Scouts whose troops choose the Nature and Environment program theme can learn more in the merit badge pamphlets *Bird Study* (Item 35865), *Insect Study* (Item 618659) and *Mammal Study* (Item 620002).

THE WILLIAM T. HORNADAY AWARDS ARE LIKE OLYMPIC MEDALS BESTOWED BY THE EARTH. LEARN MORE AT go.boyslife.org/hornaday



FOR MORE ON WHAT TO DO IF YOU GET LOST, GO TO go.boyslife.org/signals

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