

WILDLIFE JOURNAL



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The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation is the state agency responsible for managing Oklahoma's fish and wildlife. The wildlife journal is designed as an interactive learning tool to promote wildlife conservation through hands-on activities. It is hoped this wildlife journal will provide an opportunity for children to appreciate and participate in managing Oklahoma's natural resources.



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Mentor Contract

I _____, am committed to
(Mentor's Name)

mentoring _____ in outdoor activities
(Student's Name)

such as hunting and fishing. I will share my knowledge of nature and outdoor ethics. Wildlife conservation in Oklahoma is funded primarily by hunters and anglers like myself and I am going to ensure that I will pass my outdoor heritage on to a new generation. Safety is a key component to ensuring a fun and successful outing. We will read and follow all regulations that pertain to our outdoor adventures.

Mentor Signature

Student Signature

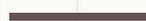
Date

Date

Map It Out!

It is easy for an unprepared hunter to become lost while hunting. It is important that every hunter knows how to use a compass and map. A good topographic map shows all details of terrain like roads, rivers, hills, elevation, and even trees and bushes.

Legend

	Water
	Creek or Stream
	Walking Trail
	Road
	Camp

To Download a Wildlife Management Area Map, Go to...



wildlifedepartment.com

Draw a map of the area you are hunting. Refer to the Legend for symbols to use on your map.





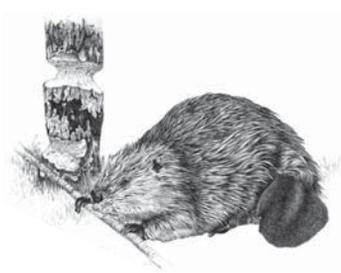
T R A C K S I N O K L A H O M A



AMERICAN BLACK BEAR
Ursus americanus
*Track Size: Fore: 4.5" long
Hind:



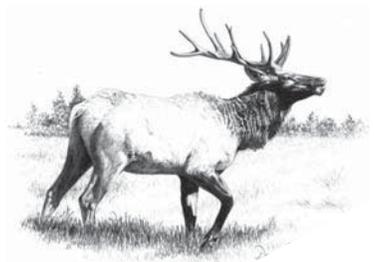
WILD TURKEY
Meleagris gallopavo
*Track Size: 5" wide



AMERICAN BEAVER
Castor canadensis
*Track Size: Hind: 5.25" Wide



WHITETAIL DEER
Odocoileus virginianus
*Track Size: 2.4-3.25" long



AMERICAN ELK
Cervus elaphus
*Track Size: 4-4.75" long



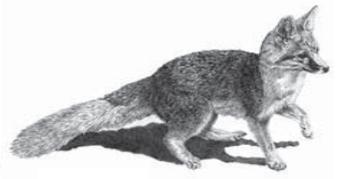
RIVER OTTER
Lutra canadensis
*Track Size: Fore: 2.125-3.25" long
Hind: 2.125-4" wide



COYOTE
Canis latrans
*Track Size: Fore: 2.5" long
Hind:



BOBCAT
Lynx rufus
*Track Size: approximately 2.25" long



GRAY FOX
Urocyon cinereoargenteus
*Track Size: 1.6" long



STRIPED SKUNK
Mephitis mephitis
*Track Size: Fore: 1.625-2" long
Hind: 1.3-2" long



EASTERN COTTONTAIL
Sylvilagus floridanus
*Track Size: Fore: 2" long



VIRGINIA OPPOSSUM
Didelphis virginiana
*Track Size: 2" wide



FOX SQUIREL
Sciurus niger
*Track Size: Fore: 1.25" long
Hind: 1.5" long



NINE-BANDED ARMADILLO
Dasypus novemcinctus
*Track Size: Fore: 1.5-2" long
Hind: 2-3.25" long



RACCOON
Procyon lotor
*Track Size: Fore: 3" long
Hind: 3.75"

WHAT TRACKS HAVE YOU SEEN?



When?: _____

Where?: _____





Look for the Signs

Every good hunter scouts, or observes, the area they are going to hunt. This helps them be more prepared on the day of their hunt. Fill in the blanks with the terms below.

Today I went scouting for deer.

There was a lot of good sign in the area so I knew there were deer. I knew there needed to be good

_____ like acorns and wheat for deer to eat. There was a pond with a lot of deer _____ so I knew deer walked to this pond to drink.

I spotted a trail and saw more deer tracks. I noticed the tree's bark had been rubbed off. That told me there must be bucks in the area because they _____ their antlers

on tree trunks to help shed their velvet. I know this will be a good spot to bag a deer.

Terms: food sources, rub, tracks

On Your Scouting Trip, Did You See any of the Following?

Buck with doe

Buck alone

Doe alone

Group of does



List some signs you saw:



PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!

Like in any sport, practice is very important. Shooting practice helps you improve your accuracy and gives you an opportunity to become familiar with your means of take. Place a blank piece of paper over the target face below and trace yourself some practice targets. Work with a mentor and practice shooting. You should work on placing all of your shots within this eight-inch ring. Ethical hunters strive for a one shot harvest. Once you are hitting the target consistently, tape or glue the proof back on this page.



HOT SHOT

Shot placement is an extremely important aspect of hunting. Good shot placement results in a quick harvest and avoids the chance that the animal may suffer. If a hunter doesn't strive for good shot placement, they risk wounding the animal they are pursuing.



DON'T FORGET

Checklist

- ___ Hunter orange vest and hat
- ___ Hunting shoes
- ___ Ammunition
- ___ Gun
- ___ Food and Water
- ___ Safety kit
- ___ Hunting License
- ___ Binoculars
- ___ Coat or Jacket
- ___ Gloves
- ___ Socks
- ___ Hunting bag or backpack
- ___ Camera (to take a picture of your harvest!)
- ___ Sharp knife
- ___ Rubber gloves

Before the Hunt:

- ___ Get hunter education certified
- ___ Know the bag limits
- ___ Get a map of the area you are hunting
- ___ Know the season dates
- ___ Know the regulations

For more information about hunter education classes, season dates, and regulations, go to...



wildlifedepartment.com

BE SAFE

ALWAYS BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND WHAT LIES BEYOND IT!

NEVER POINT YOUR MUZZLE AT SOMETHING YOU DON'T INTEND TO SHOOT!

NEVER USE A SCOPE AS BINOCULARS!

ASSUME EVERY GUN IS LOADED AND TREAT EVERY FIREARM AS IF IT WERE LOADED, EVEN IF YOU JUST UNLOADED IT!

KEEP YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO FIRE!

THE HUNT

Circle the information that describes your hunt

Season:

Deer
Squirrel
Rabbit
Quail
Turkey
Pheasant
Dove

Equipment:

Bow
Rifle
Crossbow
Shotgun
Muzzleloader

Time of Day:

Morning
Afternoon
Evening
All Day!

What Did You See
and at What Time?:

Deer _____
Turkey _____
Rabbits _____
Squirrel _____
Hawk _____
Song bird _____
Snake _____
Coyote _____
Other hunters _____

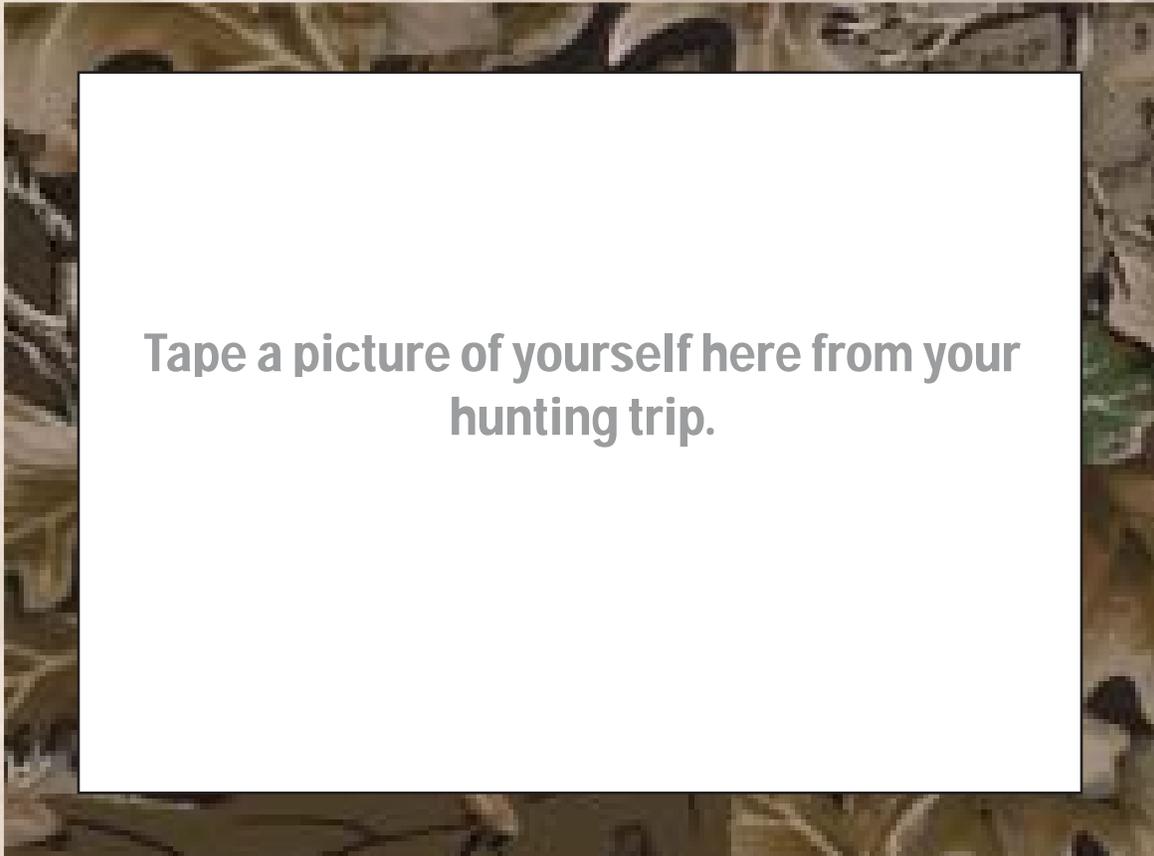
Wind Direction

North
North East
North West
South
South East
South West
East
West

Area or Habitat:

Mixed Grass
Crosstimbers
Short Grass
Tall Grass
Pine Forest
Hardwood Forest

THE HUNT



Tape a picture of yourself here from your hunting trip.

What was your most memorable moment of the hunt?

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