

# Snake in the Grass

## Supplies:

- Scissors
- Paper plate
- Glue
- Markers or googly eyes

**Location:** Rec Center Park

## Directions:

- Find a VERY large leaf - they can be found by the bridge past the volleyball court - they fall off the Sycamore Tree - the one with the splotchy bark!
- Cut in spiral with scissors as shown
- Add eyes with googly eyes or markers
- Then glue to plate
- Then add grass to plate to put your snake in the grass!



#beekmanreccamptivities

# Town of Beekman Recreation and Parks Park Lover Activity Book Summer Edition 2020 Camptivities Volume 2



If you missed Volume 1, just give the office a call at 845-227-5783, and arrange to pick one up!

Camptivities are activities normally planned for camp and adapted for families to enjoy together. We selected activities needing minimal supplies, and have listed possible substitutions you might have in your home! Camptivities can be enjoyed in our Beekman parks:

- Rec Center Park
- Town Center Park
- Doherty Park

## Share your camptivity fun with us on social media:

#beekmanreccamptivities  
#ilovesummer

<https://www.facebook.com/BeekmanRec/>

[www.beekmanrec.com](http://www.beekmanrec.com)



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# Tree Hunt

*How many different trees can you find?*

## Supplies:

- Old crayons with no paper on them
- White paper,
- Large books for pressing leaves flat (do you have any phone books, encyclopedias?)



**Location:** Doherty Nature Trail

## Directions:

- Be sure you know what poison ivy looks like and avoid it. See Vol. 1 for more information
- Walk the nature trail and see how many different kinds of tree leaves you can find
  - Collect one leaf from each tree
  - Do a “bark rubbing” of the tree on the lower half of a sheet of paper
  - Tape the leaf to the top half of the paper
- Upon returning home, put each page with a leaf between the pages of a large book

## Enrichment:

- If you would like to identify and label your collection you will find some helpful resources here:
  - Guide using various characteristics: [https://www.nycgovparks.org/pagefiles/144/Street-Tree-ID-Guide-2019\\_5dbb0cf5d6925.pdf](https://www.nycgovparks.org/pagefiles/144/Street-Tree-ID-Guide-2019_5dbb0cf5d6925.pdf)
  - Dichotomous Keys (like a choose your own adventure with two choices at each stop to bring you to the correct choice!)
    - [https://www.classzone.com/books/ml\\_science\\_share/vis\\_sim/lotm05\\_pg56\\_dichotomous/Treekey/lotm05\\_pg56\\_dichotomous.html#:~:text=A%20dichotomous%20key%20is%20one,correct%20name%20of%20an%20item.](https://www.classzone.com/books/ml_science_share/vis_sim/lotm05_pg56_dichotomous/Treekey/lotm05_pg56_dichotomous.html#:~:text=A%20dichotomous%20key%20is%20one,correct%20name%20of%20an%20item.)
    - <https://www.eekwi.org/explore/identification/dichotomous-tree-key>
- Bring the finished product to the Rec Office and share it with the staff!

# Finger Print Trees

## Supplies:

- White paper
- Green and Brown construction paper, or paint or markers
- Markers
- Paint or ink pads

**Location:** picnic table in any Beekman Park

## Option 1 Directions:

- Cut out a green strip and put on bottom of paper
- Trace hand and part of arm on brown paper and cut out and paste above grass
- Use green for summer or multi-colored paints for fall to make leaves with finger prints



## Option 2 Directions:

- Use a black or brown marker to draw tree trunk and branches
- Use green for summer or multi-colored paints for fall to make leaves with finger prints





# Paper Bag Skit

**Supplies:** Put a selection of household items in 2 paper bags. The bags should not contain the same items. Ideas include: sunglasses, party hats, string, paper, envelopes/mail, tape, tennis ball, stuffed animals, kitchen utensils, magazines, pens, pads, a bar of soap, napkins, paper towels, scissors, etc. You can choose to select items around a theme such as nautical, tropical, artic, carnival, etc.

**Location:** Small flat area in any Beekman park

## Directions:

Divide your family into 2 groups and give each group a paper bag  
Each group to develop a skit, TV show, or commercial with the items in their bag  
When ready, each group should perform for the other

## Modification:

If your family is too small to divide, create one skit and share it with another family! (keeping good social distance of course!)



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# Un-Nature Scavenger Hunt

**Supplies:** Markers or pencils

**Directions:** In Volume 1 you went on a Nature Scavenger Hunt, now you are challenged to find what is NOT nature! That is, look for clues in the park for things that humans have done. Humans alter nature all the time to make things more safe and to create amusements. See how many things you can find! The list is started below. You can add to it, or take pictures of what you find and post on Facebook!

**Location:** Rec Center Park - the list is started below

**Enrichment:** do this activity on the Doherty Park Nature Trail

## Recreation Center Park List

Not so obvious	Obvious	Very Obvious
Large rocks placed along the creek to hold up the side of the banks	Sand on the beach - it is natural, but to Long Island! We had it trucked here!	Black topped parking lot
Dam in the creek that is partially taken apart	Wood chips under playgrounds - they are natural, but we purchase them and put them there	Buildings

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# Animal Camouflage

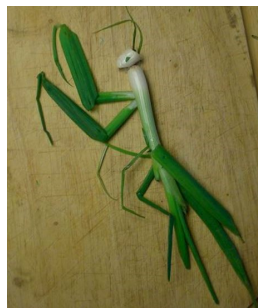
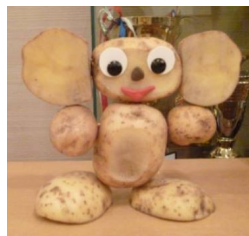
## Supplies:

- Two buckets of supplies that should include
  - Several of ONE type of the following vegetables (so for example 5 potatoes and no other vegetable):
    - Potatoes
    - Carrots
    - Green beans or scallions
  - Lots of optional items like:
    - Play dough
    - Toothpicks
    - Floral tape or masking tape
    - Popsicle sticks or sticks from the ground
    - Cotton balls
    - Anything else you think is useful to the directions below!

**Location:** Rec Center Park

## Directions:

- Explain that animals are often the color of their environment so that predators cannot see them so easily.
- Split your family into 2 groups.
- Each group should “invent” an animal using one of the types of vegetables and any of the other items in the bucket or that they can find in the park.
- THEN each group should find an area of the park that they can HIDE their animal where it will be camouflaged, for the other group to SEEK
- Give “hot and cold” hints to get the seekers close to the environment where the animal is hidden, then let them search!



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# Silent Intro

**Supplies:** Just your family!

**Location:** Recreation Park Playground Sign Language Play Panel

**Background:** Sign language is somewhat like charades, but for some things the word needs to be spelled out.

## Directions:

- For this activity we will pretend that you do not know each other!
- Each family member must plan a way to introduce themselves to the family without speaking.
- Plan on spelling your name using the sign language letters on the play panel.
- Also plan to use motions with your hands and expressions on your face to let your family members know 3 things you like and 3 things you do not like.



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# Strike a Pose

**Supplies:** none

**Location:** Flat, grassy area free of rocks and roots in any Beekman park

**Directions:**

- Have your family stand in a circle with their back to the circle
- Ask each person to think of a pose and practice it (model a few and indicate that they cannot use yours)
- Then have them resume normal standing and turn around facing the inside of the circle, and fix their eyes on another family member in the circle
- Once their eyes are fixed, have them strike THEIR own pose that they previously thought of and practiced
- Then ask them to copy the person they chose to watch, if that person changes what they are doing, they should too
- Watch how the poses change!

**Enrichment:**

- Continue more rounds, but give themes to the poses. Here’s some ideas or make up your own:
  - Happy
  - Sad
  - Angry
  - Cold
  - Tired
  - Energetic



# Reptile True False Game

**Supplies:** Just the list below!

**Location:** A defined flat space in any of our parks

**Directions:** Start with the family in the middle of a defined area and tell them you are going to read a statement. If they thin it’s true they are to run to one side (show them which side). If they think it’s false they are to run to the other side. Once they have taken sides, you can read them the text in black and bring them to the center.

*Adapted from the YMCA*

- **Reptiles are scary and creepy.** There is no right or wrong for this one; you are just gauging the family members points of view. (ask it again at the end and see if anyone’s view changed).
- **All turtles are slow.** FALSE. Many turtles are slow. Some are slow and walk 1/8 of a mile per hour compared to people who walk 3MPH. A few turtles however, can move really fast: the green sea turtle can swim 20MPH.
- **Lizards and snakes are slimy.** FALSE. Like all reptiles, snakes and lizards have dry skin. But many amphibians - salamanders and some frogs - are slimy. Their skin contains glands that produce mucus, which helps to keep the animals from drying out.
- **Most snakes are poisonous to people.** FALSE. Less that 10% of all snakes have venom that is capable of harming people. More people die each year from bee stings than snake bites.
- **Some turtles can live for more than 100 years.** TRUE: the oldest known turtls was thought to be at least 152 years old when it died - and the tortoise did not even die of old age! It took a fatal fall!
- **Farmers should rid their barns of all snakes.** There is no right or wrong for this one, but snakes and people can work together. Many farmers are glad when certain kinds of non-poisonous snakes live on their farms because they eat the mice that would gobble up the grain the farmers have stored.
- **Reptiles are easy to care for.** FALSE. Many turtles are slow. Most reptiles available for sale in the US are wild-caught and imported from other countries. 90% of those sold here, die within their first year of captivity because most purchasers do not know how to care for them properly.
- **It is easy to tell a venomous snake from a nonvenomous snake.** FALSE. There are quite a few nonvenomous snakes that look exactly like a venomous snake. There are very small differences that can be hard to notice at first glance.
- **Snakes do not have bones.** FALSE. All reptiles are vertebrates. Large boas, for example, may have 300-400 pairs of floating ribs!
- **Only a few reptiles and amphibians are endangered or threatened.** FALSE. The US Fish & Wildlife Service lists over 100!



## Mirrors

**Supplies:** Just your imaginations - no actual mirror!

**Location:** Small, flat grassy area in any park

### Directions:

- Have each person in the family have a partner/buddy
- Explain that one partner will be a “Doer” and the other will be the “Mirror”.
- They should face each other about a yard apart. The “Doer” should move slowly and the mirror must move with them.
- After they have done this a few minutes they should switch roles

### Variations:

- Reverse mirrors ... the mirror should move the opposite way of the “doer”
- Increase the size of the mirror group to include the whole family



## Five Changes

**Supplies:** Just yourselves

**Location:** Small, flat, grassy area in any Beekman park

### Directions:

- Have each person in the family have a partner/buddy
- Partners should look at each other and be sure to make a good observation of their buddy to be sure they really observe them well – give them some time to do this
- Once the observation is complete, they should turn their backs to each other
- With their backs turned, they should change FIVE things about themselves while NOT looking at their partner (ex. roll sock down, move hair ties differently, untie shoe laces, take off sweatshirt)
- Once all family members have made their changes have them turn and face each other
- Each must now point out the 5 things about their partner that changed

