

winter wildlife tracking

your mission

For this month's Junior Ranger assignment, you will be exploring the exciting world of winter wildlife tracking! You will be heading out to your favourite walking trail or park and using your detective skills to discover what kinds of animals live there. While the woods may seem quiet in the middle of winter, you might be surprised by the story told in the snow. Chances are, there are squirrels, deer and maybe even coyotes sharing the park with you and your human neighbours!

ranger tip!

The best time to go looking for wildlife tracks is the day after a fresh snowfall. Avoid going out right after a BIG snowfall though (tracking is tricky in deep, fluffy snow).

your mission is to find two different sets of wildlife tracks and identify them using your wildlife detective skills. for each set of tracks, you will:

1. Draw a close-up of a single track. You may want to include measurements like the length and width of the track.
2. Draw the track pattern. This means a birds eye view of 4 or more tracks. For example, a deer's track pattern often looks like this:

3. Try and identify the animal that made these tracks. Use the Junior Ranger Wildlife Tracking Identification Guide.
4. Follow the track and record your observations. What do you think the animal was doing? Was the animal moving in a straight line or zig-zagging all over the place? Why? Did the tracks end at a tree or some other hiding place? Why?

what you will need

- Clipboard or something hard to write on
- An adventure partner • Pencil • Ruler or measuring tape
- Printed copy of this Activity Guide & the Junior Ranger Wildlife Tracking ID Guide

optional

- Binoculars
- Field Guide
- Camera

Safety first! Be sure to bring a trusted adventure partner with you (parents are great for this!) and use caution while following animal tracks. Never follow animal tracks onto ice or into thick forest and always pay attention to your surroundings.



attractant action challenge

Junior Ranger Name: _____

Home Town: _____ Date: _____

animal #1

1. Close-up drawing of a single track:	2. Drawing of track pattern:

3. Identify the animal that made these tracks.

4. What do you think the animal was doing? Follow the tracks and record your observations.

animal #2

1. Close up drawing of a single track:	2. Drawing of track pattern:

3. Can you identify the animal that made these tracks?

4. What do you think the animal was doing? Follow the tracks and record your observations.
