

Michigan Trails Outdoor Program Department has created a new Brownie Girl Scout Council Try-It, **Wonderful Winter**. (Scouts must complete four of the six activities to earn the Try-It.) (Order SKU# 7152)



Try It!

WONDERFUL WINTER

WONDERFUL WINTER

Traveling Across the Snow

How many different ways can you think of to travel across the snow? How many of them do you move yourself on foot? Look through books about people that live in cold climates or those areas that have long winters. Two methods of travel are cross-country skiing or snowshoeing. Try one of these methods of travel with your troop.

Living Creatures

Go exploring with your troop; look for signs of animals and plants that continue to live here during the winter. During warm days in January and February go out on a walk with your troop. Check out the base of a tree; it will look like someone has sprinkled black pepper on the snow. These are really snow fleas, ancient members of the flea family that live in cold climates with annual snowfall. When you are out and about, see how many other creatures are still around when it gets cold and snowy.

Snow Structures

In some cultures, snow is used to construct homes or shelters. As a troop, try making a shelter that can protect you from wind and snow. Check out the World Wide Web and discover which cultures still create shelter from snow.

Celebrate Winter

In St. Paul, Minnesota, they celebrate winter for ten days in January. The community holds sled dog races, long blade skating parties, dances, and even crowns a king of the Winter Carnival. His name is King Boreas Rex, and he and his court guard the Ice Castle from the raiding Vulcans.

Here at Michigan Trails we celebrate winter with a Winter Fun Day at Camp Anna Behrens. Attend a winter celebration given by your neighborhood, association or the council.

Dress for the Weather

Before you go outside in the winter, it is important to know what the weather is going to be like. As a troop, watch a weather report from one of the National Weather Service stations; decide as a group what you will wear and for how long will it be safe for your group to be out in the elements. Remember that you lose at least 60% of your body heat if you are not wearing a hat. It's also warmer if you wear mittens instead of gloves.

Snack Time

Don't forget to bring along a snack high in carbohydrates. This will give you energy and help keep you warm. Discover what foods make a good high energy snack during the winter.