



Level 4 Challenges

- Each worth 100 points
- Estimated challenge time: 2+ hour

<p>1. Track Time! <i>You might have studied up on tracking skills and common tracks during the online scavenger hunt. Now it's time to head out and get tracking! Find a safe place in your area that you are allowed to go and you think might be good for tracking (exposed soil that is soft/moist is best, like the bank of a stream or lake). Enjoy the adventure of looking for tracks. If you spot some, try to follow them. Look for clues that might tell you what the creature was up to - how many sets of tracks are there? Where do they lead? Is there any other evidence of the creature besides the tracks, like feathers, scat or digging in the ground? Record your observations and questions in a journal or loose paper. <u>Submission:</u> a photo of a team member out tracking, next to a track if possible.</i></p>	<p>2. The Highs and Lows <i>Use google and online maps to locate the highest or lowest elevations in your town, city, county or general area. Often, these locations are accessible to the public. If so, in this challenge you can plan an adventure to either (or both) the highest or lowest elevations in your area. The lowest elevation is usually within a body of water - water travels downhill with gravity - so perhaps you'll be visiting a river or lake. The highest elevation might mean going hiking, or allow you to catch a beautiful sunrise or sunset over your home area. Pack a picnic or snacks and enjoy an adventure close to home. <u>Submission:</u> a photo of your team at their chosen location, enjoying a picnic or snack.</i></p>	<p>3. Camp-In! <i>Build a fort in the living room, pitch a tent in the backyard, transfer the couch cushions onto the porch...camping in can look like whatever you want it to, wherever you are. If it's allowed in your area, camping at an actual camping facility counts too! The only requirement is that at least one team member spends the night in the camping location. Have fun with it - watch a movie, look at the stars, listen to the sounds of the night, read a book aloud. <u>Submission:</u> a photo of your team members just before turning out the lights at your camp-in, and a photo of your team members just after waking up at your camp-in.</i></p>
<p>4. Paint A Nature Wall <i>Do you need something new to look at in your home? After all, you've likely been spending a lot of time there. Transform an interior wall of</i></p>	<p>5. Nature/Living Room Olympics <i>Create a fun competition for your team to compete against one another! Your olympics must have a minimum of 3</i></p>	<p>6. Plant A Garden <i>This one's a little bit more involved than the "Plant the Future" challenge. For this one, plant out an extended space - a garden. This could</i></p>

<p><i>your house or garage into a nature wall. Maybe it's a bunch of animals, maybe it's a forest, maybe it's the ocean - that part is up to you! Try sketching out your painting on paper and then in pencil on the wall before filling in with paint. <u>Submission:</u> before and after photos of your wall.</i></p>	<p><i>different events to compete in. At least two team members should compete in each event. Here are some ideas: Dung Beetle Roll - Place a ball on the ground at a starting line. Time how long it takes each competitor to move the ball to a finish line using only their head/face to push the ball. Salamander Tails - two competitors enter a ring. Each has a bandana hanging from their pants on the backside. The goal is to "detach" the other salamander's tail first by removing their bandana (no pushing!). <u>Submission:</u> a photo of one of your events in action</i></p>	<p><i>be a raised bed, a patch of yard, or several potted containers on the porch. You could plant vegetable seeds/transplants, wildflowers or seed, or anything else that's interesting to you. <u>Submission:</u> show us a photo of your new garden.</i></p>
<p>7. Happy Trails <i>Find a new hike in your area that your team has never been on. Length is up to you. Go on it, if you feel that it is safe to do so at this time. Bring some snacks or a picnic meal. <u>Submission:</u> a short video taken during your hike describing where you are.</i></p>	<p>8. Top 40 Hits! <i>Create an original song about the nature around where you live. Use musical instruments, or even items from nature that you find. Rocks, logs and water can all make very interesting sounds and beats. Sing it, rap it, shout it...whatever works for you! <u>Submission:</u> a video of your team performing their nature song. If you send the video file to Caleb (caleb@gsmiit.org) by Saturday night, we might feature your song and performance at the campfire celebration!</i></p>	<p>9. Where We're From <i>This one should be toward the end of the camp-in. Maybe Sunday morning. Write a "Where We're From" poem - Using this poem as a general guide, think about the people, places, and special events that are important to your family or household. Think about what you've discovered about where your from this weekend during the camp-in. Use your best words. Here are more instructions if they're helpful. <u>Submission:</u> in written format (photo of your writing) or dramatic reading video.</i></p>
<p>10. Bring Home A Biome <i>Designate one room of your</i></p>	<p>11. Leaf it to Me! <i>A great way to get to know the trees of your home area</i></p>	<p>12. Create a Nature Journal <i>One of the best ways to keep</i></p>

<p>house and transform it into a biome that you'd like to visit, like a desert, grassland, forest or underwater reef. Get creative using art, sounds, costumes, and anything else you can think of to bring your biome home. Spend some time having fun in your biome once your done, of course! Perhaps put on a play that features the wildlife of your biome! <u>Submission</u>: a short video or a photo that shows off your biome at home.</p>	<p>is to talk a walk and see how many different leaves you can find and collect. Collect from the ground, unless you have permission to pick one leaf from a tree. Focus on the different patterns and shapes of the leaves to make sure they are different from any you've collected. Bring the leaves home and use a resource to try and identify their parents trees. <u>Try out leaf rubbing</u> to create a permanent record of your leaves! <u>Submission</u>: a photo of your leaf rubbings.</p>	<p>track of your adventures is a nature journal. This tool can help you to focus your curiosity, creativity and exploration of the world around you. We have a lot of resources to help you get started on posts, but first you need to create and decorate your nature journal. You could purchase a blank journal, or simply staple some folded paper together - doesn't need to be fancy. You can add some personal style but sketching and coloring on the cover, gluing small nature objects to the cover, or creating a journal skin. <u>Submission</u>: a photo or video of your nature journal and first post - start with heading outside or looking out a window and focusing on: I NOTICE, I WONDER, and IT REMINDS ME OF.</p>
<p>13. Go National <i>Many of our national public lands are open for visits right now, but some do remain closed. Check out this map of national wildlife refuges, many are even in cities! The same goes for national parks! National forests too! Plan a day trip to visit to one of your nearby national public lands. Maybe plan to complete some other challenges during the trip. <u>Submission</u>: take a photo of your team in front of a sign for the public land unit you are visiting.</i></p>	<p>14. A Personal Placemat <i>Create your very own placemat for mealtimes that will remind you of the camp-in and the wondrous nature that exists all around you, wherever you are. Here's a great guide to creating placemats, but you'll first need to spend some time collecting items from the outdoors to include in your placemat. Remember, they need to be very thin items! <u>Submission</u>: a photo of your finished placemats.</i></p>	<p>15. Create Your Own Ecosystem <i>Regardless of where we are, it's nice to have some nature around us when we're stuck indoors. Creating a terrarium basically means creating an entirely self-contained ecosystem that can sit on your dresser or bed stand. It's a little slice of nature that you can observe every day, first thing in the morning or just before bed. Feeling stressed or overwhelmed. Take 10 minutes to sit quietly and enjoy your personal ecosystem. Trust us, it'll help! <u>Submission</u>: a photo of your finished terrarium.</i></p>

