



KOZ Monthly Outdoor Training ©
May 2021: Edible Wild - The Root, Plant and Bug Survival Training.

7:30 Leader Meeting and Prayer time. This time is imperative and gives the leadership time to prepare their hearts for the meeting and time with the kids. Do not take this time lightly. Be on-time, meet with God first.

Leader Prayer: Lord lead us today in all areas. Prepare our hearts Holy Spirit, prepare the hearts of the boys we will mentor today. [Galatians 6:9](#) - And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

8:30 Kids begin to arrive. Meet parents or guardian (make sure your releases are in place).

BEGINNING YOUR MEETING WITH KOZ STRUCTURE

8:45 Begin Meeting.

All together say your country's pledge.

KOZ Prayer: Lord, Thank you for making us strong and fierce warriors for you. We hunt, we fish and we share our faith with others. God Bless our Country. -Amen

KOZ Pledge: "No KOZ Left Behind" I solemnly pledge under oath that I will never leave my KOZ brothers behind. I will always be kind to them, help them when they look like they have too much, run to them when they yell for help, give them the best seat and first chance at everything. They are my brother's; we fight trouble together.

Work to get the boys to memorize the KOZ Prayer and use it as a tool for kids who have little experience in praying or are afraid to pray. (Before meals, before an adventure or other times as a reminder of who they are and what they represent).

LEADING INTO YOUR OUTDOORS SKILLS TRAINING

Leader's first questions/discussion. Outdoor Training

- What do we do when we are lost and hungry in the woods.
- How do we know safe plants to eat or bugs to avoid?



- If you were to look around right now, where you are sitting, what could you eat? (assuming your outside)
- What bugs would you eat, what bugs would you absolutely not eat, ever? (ever, even if it was life or death?)

LEADING INTO YOUR HEART TRAINING

Scripture Training: Leader's first questions/discussion

Heads Up HTL's:

This year we are teaching the boys the mantra "Do Hard Things." We want them to have in their minds that at the end of the day they are capable of doing things they never thought they could. When they learn they can hit a target, catch a fish, hike 3 miles or change the tire on a tractor they move closer to their design, the embrace a piece of their masculinity. From their they have confidence in school and in life situations they may not have had in the past. Each month you should as also challenge them to **memorize the scripture** for that month. Have them write it, repeat it and learn it! There is also a "DHT Challenge at the end of the day for them to take away.

Scripture: Matthew 7:16, You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles?

Leaders first questions/discussion, bible training:

What the heck does it mean "You will recognize them by their fruit?" Is it their underwear (Fruit-of-the-loom). Do they have a basket on their head full of banana's? It means that the way you act, the way you dress, the things you do, the things you say matter. It says who you are. Kids can dress funny but have a huge heart for the Lord. They can't smoke pot and be a bully and be an example for others.

What does it mean "Are grapes gathered from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles?" Is he asking where to get grapes and figs? He means if you are putting yourself in a bad place (wrong crowd, drugs, porn/misbehaving) or if you are stuck in a bad situation (family, school) it is hard to be walking well with Christ.

- Do you have guys in your life you should not hang out with?
- Think about things today you do or wear or say that hurt others or you that you know you need to stop.
- What is one thing you like about yourself?



NOTE: Let them talk – leave time between when you say something and they can speak – let it be silent for a while if you have to – they grow close in times of quiet – allow Him to come.

STOP & BEGIN OUTDOOR SKILLS TRAINING & ADVENTURE

BEGIN OUTDOOR SKILLS TRAINING: IDEA TRAIL

How often do you look at the plants around you? It can be super important if you are hunting, hiking or just outdoors. When you learn about a few of the trees and plants in your yard or hunting/camping area it can tell you a lot about what is around you or what you can expect. It can also mean life or death!

Things to do this month:

- Invite in an entomologist (plant specialist).
- Ask your local County Ag Agent to come show you plants.
- Teach all the poisonous plants to be avoided. Poison Ivy, Sumac, Oak, etc.
- Teach how to treat stings, scrapes, rashes in the outdoors.
- What are survival items you would/should carry with you to help (knife, gloves?)
- Show them where to find bugs you can eat, ones that can hurt them, ones that are just weird.

A few ideas can include:

- Give each boys an empty small vegetable can. Boil water add carrots, small potatoes, onion or other safe plant materials, small pieces of meat. Lunch.
- Sample syrups, honey - natural foods from plants.
- Prepare a small safety kit with bug bite, sting, burn materials for their backpacks.
- Dispel any "old wives tales" on what to do and how to do it in case of emergency.
- Use green pine needles for tea - use whole coffee beans, broken, to make coffee.
- Create a list with pictures of plants and bugs and have a search for them.

**The take away should be provision, preparedness, safety, caution.*

FIELD NOTES: Other CRITICAL TEACHING should include:

Poisonous: Give the boys info with pictures on spiders, plants (poison ivy, poison oak etc.) that are dangerous in your area.

Safety numbers: Hand out a card that has local first responder and emergency numbers.

Leave no Trace: Always teach the boys to leave land, property better than they found it. No damaged plants, soil or trash should ever be visible.



Other places for good information and literature.

- <http://adventure.howstuffworks.com/universal-edibility-test1.htm>
- <http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/boyscouts/advancementandawards/meritbadges/mb-wild.aspx>
- <http://adventure.howstuffworks.com/survival/wilderness/edible-bug.htm>

GOING OFF THE TRAIL THIS MONTH?

IMPORTANT: Use the opening/use the close, prayer/ sit spots and prayer cards.

All groups should use the foundational structure of KOZ each month. The starting, the prayer, sit spots etc. as a common element to every meeting. Everything from sledding to swimming, hiking to fly fishing. The key to going off the trail is to keep the structure in place.

Get them outside move their bodies, adventure and exploration. Keep it exciting, keep it real, be intentional about bringing them into a relationship with Christ.

"It's a sin to bore a kid with the gospel," Jim Rayburn, founder of Young Life.

Outdoor Training Conclusion

ASK POINTED QUESTIONS ON THE OUTDOOR SKILLS THEY LEARNED TODAY

Drive home a point, hand out literature or take home materials, brochure from parks dept. or other.... A gallon plastic Ziplock bag with their name on it works great each month to collect their take home materials.

- What are some of the tools you used today?
- Name three poisonous plants or bug/spiders in this area. Describe them.
- Can you eat any plants in this area? Which ones do you avoid?
- What do you do in case of an emergency?
- Do you know your GPS coordinates in case of an emergency?
- Comment on each kid and something they *did well*.
- Give them handouts or gifts, tools, printouts on "how too" things you did today.



Scripture Training and Heart Takeaway

Scripture: Matthew 7:16, You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles?

KOZ: Knowing which plants you can eat, use for medicine, get you really sick is important. How do people know we are Christians. Can they look at you and see it? Do you wear a cross around your neck or do you carry your bible. If a friend needs your help with something in their life do you know what to say? Do you use scripture from the bible, things you have heard from your pastor, youth leader or a parent? If people make a decision about who you are by what you do and say, what would they say? How do you bear fruit? What fruit are you going to try and produce this month? (Helping more around the house, being kind to your mother, not causing problems in school?)

TRAIL MAP #2:

Drive home the points:

- This lesson is teaching them that who they are outside of KOZ and church matters, who they say they are needs to be the same everywhere and always. They also have to keep from being in places that lead them into being that person they know in their hearts they should not be –
- God has made you perfect. You don't have to do anything for Him to love you. If you pray for Jesus in your heart, Romans 10:9, He will be there for you and no matter the shoes you wear, how you cut your hair, whether you like ducks or bears - He will be there (funny rhymes I know).
- Tell them, They are an amazing person, what keeps you from letting God love you? Your heavenly Father's love cannot be taken away. ***“Stand Firm,” Ephesians 6:11-13***

The Sit Spot and God

SIT SPOT Purpose:

- Pass out a blank index card and pen. Have them write one thing they learned today and something they need prayer for. Let them know the KOZ leaders will be carrying their cards and praying every day.

Let them know *It is a private prayer between your leaders and them, they don't have to put their name on the card.*

TO PONDER: Give the boys something to ponder, use the questions above, and ask them to go to a sit spot - let them stay while you prepare lunch (quietly without distracting the quiet moment) - (15-30 min.)



- **SEND LEADERS TO SIT SPOTS!** If a leader is not assigned a task have them also find a sit spot. It is good for the boys to see the adult leaders doing the same as they are asked to do. **QUIET TIME IS ESSENTIAL.**

LUNCH & KOZ LEADERSHIP TAG TRAINING

CALL BACK FOR LUNCH - While they are eating lunch – Review topics of the day. Chat with the boys. Enjoy time, food, fellowship.

This month your “Do Hard Things Challenge” is: Say, “Yes Mam and Yes Sir” to every adult. Look them in the eye and say it. Respect is earned from showing respect to others. This may be something you already do, great. Learn to shake an adult man’s hand as well. Full hand in hand, firm grip, look them in the eyes.

WORK ON KOZ DOG TAGS Ask boys if they are working toward KOZ TAGS. Greenhorn, Coyote, etc. This is a good time to teach this material. Ask if any of the boys are new – **give them their KOZ Nation dog tag** (the first one)

GIVE A BOY HIS NAME IN KOZ We have found that giving boys a nickname is a huge tool for them. Giving a boy a “New Name” has been a game changer for many. A strong, fierce name is important. Jesus and His Father both gave new names. Ask prayerfully what name a boy should have. The leaders decide **NOT** the boys. It is an honor bestowed, even if funny.

As you wait for the parents to arrive:

- Tell the boys you love them. That they are important. That if they have not prayed to ask Christ into their hearts to come talk to a KOZ HTL (**ROMANS 10:9**).
- If a kid wants to be baptized, have them talk to you about it - you can do it somewhere really cool!

Perform a service project on site. Teach the boys to ALWAYS leave your area BETTER than it was when you got there.

Parents arrive. Greet them and tell them how good their kid did. – Tell the boys to invite a friend!

Hand out literature or take home materials.... A gallon plastic Zip lock bag with their name on it works great each month to collect their take home materials.

Stay, Read the Sit Spot Cards. Pray over the cards together. Divide them among the HTL’s for the month.