

Create a Scavenger Hunt



WHAT IS A SCAVENGER HUNT?

A Scavenger hunt is a game where an organizer creates a specific list of items and participants need to find all the items on that list to complete the challenge.

Scavenger hunts are a fun way to bring together your community, gain native and invasive plant knowledge and explore your local environment.

HOW CAN YOU CREATE ONE?

Step 1: Scout Your Spot

Brainstorm public areas in your neighbourhood that would be suitable for a scavenger hunt, such as parks, schools and public pathways.

!!Be sure to get permission to enter private property!!

Step 2: Identify Species

Walk the areas you have identified as possible scavenger hunt spots. Look for unique plants and their shapes and colors. Bring a plant ID book or download an app, like iNaturalist, to help you identify plants.

iNaturalist is a free online community that allows you to share your nature observations and discuss, identify and create research-quality citizen science data. Join the iNaturalist project 'I Spy and Identify' to help identify species across Canada and help protect our beautiful wild spaces.

Once you have identified your local plants, make a list of species you want to include in the scavenger hunt.

Step 3: Pick Your Audience

Now that you have a list of plants to use, determine your target audience. Scavenger hunts are great tools because you can design them for different ages and difficulty levels. A difficult hunt can include looking for a particular species, while an easier level hunt may ask participants to look for a specific leaf shape. For example, when searching for the invasive plant Oxeye daisy you can instruct participants to look for a white flower.

Step 4: Choose A Format

Choose a format for your scavenger hunt. Here are some suggestions:

- » Photo Hunt: participants take photos of the plants they find
- » Map Hunt: participants mark off on a map where they found the plants
- » Bingo Hunt: Plants listed in a bingo sheet format. Allows for varying difficulty depending on how much of the sheet you want filled. 1 line, 2 lines, full card, etc.

Step 5: Put It Together

Now that you have thought out and gathered all the components of your scavenger hunt it is time to put it all together. This step will look different depending on the format you chose. All scavenger hunts should include a list of items to find, instructions and

any additional details that will be required to complete your scavenger hunt.

Step 6: Test It Out

Once you have everything laid out, it is time for a test run. Gather some friends or family members and have them complete the scavenger hunt. Once they are done, ask for feedback to improve your final plan.

Step 7: Get The Word Out!

Now that you have created your scavenger hunt, it is time to share it with your community. How can you get the word out? Here are a few ideas for ways you can share it:

- » Post on a community board or an online group board
- » Word of mouth
- » Send it to a community group or school

TIP! Keep in mind that outdoor spaces will look different depending on the time of year. Design a seasonal scavenger hunt or recommend the best season to complete your scavenger hunt.

Step 8: Looking Back

You did it! Talk to participants and revisit your scavenger hunt to make updates as needed.