**INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM SYNOPSIS**

**Title: THE LITTLE THINGS THAT MATTER.**

**Topic: Plant/Tree Identification**

**Theme: Small structural differences in nature can help in identification.**

**Target Audience: Adult Teen Child Family**

**Type of Program: Nature Historical/Cultural**

**Outdoor Skills Entertainment**

**Program Category: Educational**

**Publicity: Pamphlet in office**

**Resources Needed: Staff:** 1

**Funding:** $0- use office supplies and BCLSP identification books to create the booklets and brochures

**Materials/Equipment:** First aid kit and radio if able to hike, booklets for identification

**Reference Material:** Common Native Shrubs and Woody vines of Virginia, Common Native Trees of Virginia, Ferns, Trees, Wildflowers

**Location of Program: Acorn Shelter then walk to Channel Cat Loop and begin from the lower sites and end at Channel Cat Loop and Running Cedar Trail junction**

**Program Length: 30 minutes to 1 hour**

**Ideal Time: 45 minutes**

**Ideal Program Attendance: 10-15**

**Free Program**

**INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM OUTLINE**

**Title: THE LITTLE THINGS THAT MATTER.**

**Topic: Plant/Tree Identification**

**Theme: Small structural difference in nature can help in identification.**

**Staging Period:**

* A month ahead of anticipated event date, have the program included in the weekly/monthly program pamphlet for the main office.
* A week before the program, walk the trail and decide the key plants and trees you want to include in your program and create booklets using plant and tree identification books from BCLSP with all the plants/trees you chose to include in your program. Create a brochure with important information for identifying the plants and trees you chose.
* One week before program, have a sign-up sheet in the office to get a count on participants.
* On day of program: Make sure weather is good. If weather is acceptable, hike the length of the trail dedicated to the program to make sure path is clear of fallen trees and/or any debris.
* Arrive at the Acorn Shelter to welcome guests and participants and to handout identification pamphlet.

**Introduction:**

* Welcome to Bear Creek Lake State Park and thank you all for coming out to participate in this hike! My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and I am the Park \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ here. Today, we will learn about the little things that will help you in identifying different types of trees and plants.

**Body of Program:**

* Stop 1- Talk about why plants and trees are important to us. Ask why the participants think trees and plants are important and how we can use them for our benefit.
* Ask what they think are some important things to consider when identifying a plant or tree. Talk about why somethings that they may not have considered are important to identifying.
* Stop 2- show examples of important things to consider and explain differences amongst species using these examples. Start walking and let the participants take in and contemplate the information they just received.
* Stop 3- this time allow participants to try and identify the species. Have them explain to you what things they considered that helped them in identifying the plant/tree, discuss what other things could have helped.
* Stop 4- Have an area that is very species diverse. Explain to participants the significance of each species role. Have participants take another shot at trying to identify species. Continue walking and have participants look closely at the world around them.
* Stop 5- At this point you should notice the environment and the plants in it seem to change. Take this opportunity to explain the differences and significance in changes between climates.
* Stop 6- Give it one last go at Identifying some newly seen plants/trees along the trail.

**Conclusion/Questions:**

* Collect all identification booklets and thank all the guest for coming out again.
* Highlight the key points of the program
* Inform participants of upcoming programs being offered at the park and hand out comment count cards to participants.
* Record proper numbers in log book and write down any comments about the program.

**Approved Not Approved (See comments below.)**

Certification Requirements:

* Basic knowledge of plant/tree identification
* Basic knowledge of Virginia plants/trees species and ecology

Recommended Reading List:

* Common Native Shrubs and Woody Vines of Virginia. Virginia Department of Forestry. 2014. Book. 116 pages.
* Common Native Trees of Virginia. Virginia Department of Forestry. 2007. Book. 120 pages.
* Ferns. Broughton Cobb. 1963. Book. 281 pages.
* Trees. George A. Petrides. 1993. Book. 128 pages.
* Wildflowers. Roger Tory Peterson. 1968. Book. 126 pages.

Outline Prepared By: Morgan A. Karnes Date: 10 October 2018

Outline Approved By Chief Ranger VE:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Outline Approved By Park Manager:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_