

BOISE WATERSHED

Weekly Challenge - Tracks and Scat

Welcome to the WaterShed Weekly Challenge. Every week during the summer the Boise WaterShed will release one challenge for people at home to complete. These challenges will focus on a STEM topic and each completed challenge will give you one raffle ticket for a chance to win a family membership to the Discovery Center of Idaho. The raffle will take place at the end of the summer! The more challenges you complete, the better your chances of winning are. Every participant in this program through the spring and summer will receive a packet of goodies from the Boise WaterShed. You can complete these challenges at any point throughout the summer. See below for how to submit a completed challenge. We would love to share your experiences with these challenges. If you take any pictures or videos of completing or working on these challenges, send them to us and we will feature them every Friday on a special Facebook shout-out message. You can also tag us on Facebook, @BoiseWS.

WEEK 9: TRACKS AND SCAT

As Idahoans, we get to live close to many different species of animals. In the foothills around Boise we can find squirrels, deer, elk, mountain lions, owls, coyotes, and more! We can't always see these animals walking around because many of them have evolved to hide during the day and to stay away from people. However, we can look for tracks and scat that these animals leave behind. Tracks are prints from paws or marks from slithering snakes or other indicators that an animal has been to an area. Scat is mostly poop! Using tracks and scat might sound gross, but it can give us a lot of valuable information, such as what types of animals where in the area and what they might have been eating.

CHALLENGE:

This week, we are going to challenge you to get outside and find some tracks and scat. There are a lot of good places to look. You can go to the foothills around Boise, or a park, or even your own backyard to search. When looking for scat and tracks it is important to remember that you shouldn't ever touch. Scat can have bacteria and germs in it that can make people sick. The best way to identify tracks and scat is to take a picture so that you can use an online track and [scat guide like this one](#). Or, if you have your own track and scat guide, you can take it into the field with you. Once you have found a track and/or scat that you want to identify, answer the questions below and send the answers to bw@cityofboise.org along with a name and an address so that you can be entered to win a family membership to the Discovery Center of Idaho.

QUESTIONS:

1. Where did you find the track or scat?
2. What type of animal left the track or the scat?
3. How did you know?