

Nature Journaling at Newport State Park:  
Badger Hole

1. Make sure all participants have a non-lined pad of paper and multiple pencils. Extra sharpeners are needed when out on the trails.
2. After introductions, begin by drawing what you see when you get to where you intend to explore/start. Some people find it easier to identify something from each of the 5 senses.
  - Close your eyes, what do you HEAR?
  - What do you SEE around you? What do the clouds look like?
  - What do you SMELL?
  - Stick your tongue out...can you TASTE the air?
  - Where are you? Are you sitting? Standing? Reach down and TOUCH the ground. What does it feel like?
3. Now put the date, time, temperature, and physical location (address if known) of your location.
4. Meet at the Nature Center.
5. Have participants make a list of everything they know about badgers. This might be interesting in identifying who is from Wisconsin and who is not.
6. Show a picture of Bucky Badger....explain history of why Wisconsin is the Badger State. --miners when they came to Wisconsin dug holes in the sides of hill in search of lead and they also lived in them during the winter.
7. Show a picture of a badger. Bring the badger pelt for participants to feel and see.
8. Using tape measures, have participants guess how big the badger hole will be. Explain that badger holes are also called settes.
9. Explain:
  - Becheur is French for digger

- Male is a boar, female is a sow and babies are cubs
  - Very clean animals: bathroom outside, no food in sett
  - badgers can dig faster than any animal, even human with shovel
  - Dach is German for badger and a dachshund (yes the weiner dog) was/is raised to chase badgers
10. Most badger holes are over 6 inches wide. What would the circumference be? The diameter? The radius?
  11. Follow the Monarch Trail to the badger hole.