



## Week 6: Activity



## Week 6 Contents

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## Journaling

- When was the last time you took a nature hike? What do you remember about that experience?
- What are your thoughts about the increased use of technology and the decrease in visitations to nature parks that we are seeing? What can you do in your own personal life to create a balance between the use of technology and experiencing nature?
- Plan an outdoor activity that involves nature. Where would you like to go? Who would you like to go with? What will you need to bring?



## Exercise as a Part of Your Day

Here are some suggestions to make movement a regular part of your day. See where you can start and add additional movement whenever you can. When it comes to exercise, remember, every small step really does count!

- Put on some music and do some strength training exercise for the length of 3 songs. If you go past three songs, great! Try to commit to 3 songs at least.
- When you are cooking dinner, put on some music and dance!
- Make it habit to do some sort of strength training exercise before you shower (Ex. push-ups, sit ups, squats, calf raises).
- Get off of the bus a couple stops early and make this your new stop.
- Park further away at work or at the store. Make this your normal parking spot.
- Try to take the stairs as much as possible. If you need to go up 14 flights, take the elevator for half and walk the rest.
- Do as many errands as possible while walking. Walk to the bank on your lunch break, or walk to the store to pick up groceries.
- Sign up for a dance, yoga or Pilates class.
- Find a walking buddy and take a 15 minute walk on your lunch break.
- Make music a part of your workout!
- When watching a television show, commit to do strength training exercises during the commercial breaks (leave the dumbbells by the television for a reminder).
- When on a business call, if you can, stand up and do calf raises.
- If you have a desk job, set a specific time of day when you take 5 minutes (more if you are able) to do some stretching, take a brisk walk, or do a burst of some sort of strength training activity. Set it as an appointment with yourself.
- Take a lesson in a physical activity that you always wanted to try.

Check out this great resource that shows you the amount of calories burned from a variety of daily tasks and physical activities.

<http://www.primusweb.com/fitnesspartner>



## Hiking and Camping Safety Suggestions

- If you have any medical conditions, discuss your plans with your health care provider and get approval before departing. Also, pack and medicines that you'll need on the trip.
- Review the equipment, supplies, and skills that you'll need. Consider what emergencies could arise and how you would deal with those situations. What if you got lost, or were unexpectedly confronted by an animal? What if someone became ill or injured? What kind of weather might you encounter?
- Make sure you have the skills you need for your camping or hiking adventure. You may need to know how to read a compass, or topographic map, erect a temporary shelter or give first aid. Practice your skills in advance.
- If your trip will be strenuous, get into good physical condition before departing. If you plan to climb, or travel to high altitudes, make plans for proper acclimatization to the altitude.
  - Be aware that the air is thinner and breathing will be more taxing. Also, be aware of the sun and protect yourself from sunburn.
- It's safest to hike or camp with at least one companion. If you are going to be hiking by yourself, make sure to tell someone where you are going and what time to expect you back.
  - If you'll be entering a remote area, your group should have a minimum of four people; this way, if one is hurt, another can stay with the victim while two go for help. If you'll be going into an area that is unfamiliar to you, take along someone who knows the area or at least speak with those who do before you set out.
- Some areas require you to have reservations or certain permits. If an area is closed, do not go there. Find out in advance about any regulations--there may be rules about campfires or guidelines about wildlife.
  - Take advantage of asking all of your questions to the park ranger. They may describe to you flowers that are in bloom and conditions to expect. In addition, they can let you know about wildlife you may see and how to protect yourself when needed.
- Pack emergency signaling devices, and know ahead of time the location of the nearest telephone or ranger station in case an emergency does occur on your trip.
- Leave a copy of your itinerary with a responsible person. Include such details as the make, year, and license plate of your car, the equipment you're bringing, the weather you've anticipated and when you plan to return.



## What to Bring: A Hiking Checklist

What you take will depend on where you are going and how long you plan to be away. Here are some suggestions of things you might want to consider taking:

- Candle and matches
- Cell phone
- Clothing (always bring something warm, extra socks and rain gear)
- Compass
- First aid kit
- Food (bring extra if possible)
- Flashlight (make sure to test it before you pack it)
- Foil (to use as a cup or signaling device)
- Hat
- Handkerchief
- Hiking poles
- Insect repellent
- Map
- Pocket knife
- Pocket mirror (to use as a signaling device)
- Prescription glasses (an extra pair)
- Prescription medications for ongoing medical conditions
- Radio with batteries
- Rope or solid string
- Shoelaces (extra)
- Sunglasses
- Space blanket or a piece of plastic (to use for warmth or shelter)
- Socks (extra)



- Sunscreen or sun protection type of clothing
- Trash bag
- Water (bring extra if possible)
- Waterproof matches or matches in a waterproof tin
- Water purification tablets
- Whistle (to scare off animals or to use as a signaling device)

Always prepare for bad weather and for the possibility that you may be forced to spend a night outdoors unexpectedly.