

Event Coordinator: Kyle Allison, Email: kyleallison@tamu.edu, Phone: 940-395-5661

Survey Coordinator: Ryan Taylor, Email: taylor22@tamu.edu, Phone: 361-425-9903

Mammal Team Leaders:

- Annaliese Scoggin SCB-TAMU & TWS-TAMU (229-3659, akemper@neo.tamu.edu)
- Angela Dedrickson TAMU-TWS & TMN (angela-7@tamu.edu)

KIDBLITZ ACTIVITIES- MAMMAL TEAM DRAFT 3/27/09

TRACK CASTS

GOAL: Learn to recognize and name tracks of the most common mammal species along park trails

MATERIALS:

- Paw casts to make prints
- Sandbox
- Plaster of paris & water
- Sharpie to label casts
- Pictures or specimens of animals

RESOURCE PEOPLE:

Jane Packard

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Ask kids what makes mammals different from other groups of animals.
2. Explain how biodiversity includes the number of different groups of animals and plants as well as the different species within each group, such as mammals.
3. Ask kids to
 - a. pick a track cast and match it up with the photo or specimen of the animal
 - b. make a print in the sandbox (or make a crayon rubbing)
 - c. prepare the plaster (2 parts powder to 1 part water) like pancake batter consistency
 - d. make a plaster cast of the print in the sandbox (wait 2 min)
 - e. describe the shape of the mammals foot, e.g. how many toes
 - f. guess why the mammals foot is shaped the way it is (e.g. hoofs run, claws catch)
 - g. talk about habitat for each mammal species: food, shelter, water, space
 - h. after 20 minutes, extract casts and label with a sharpie
4. Take cast (or rubbing) to the mammal booth and get a passport stamp