

Trail Signs

“Trailing” is the art of leaving trail signs so others can follow you. Trailing is also the art of following a trail that someone else has left.

Many peoples and cultures have used trail signs. The trail signs in this booklet were mostly drawn by Dan Beard, who collected trail signs from Native Americans, Boy Scouts, hobos, and many other people.

These trail signs can be used in a variety of different environments —grasslands, woods, beaches and deserts, and cities and suburbs.

Trail Signs Using Grass




GRASS MARKING
TRAIL.



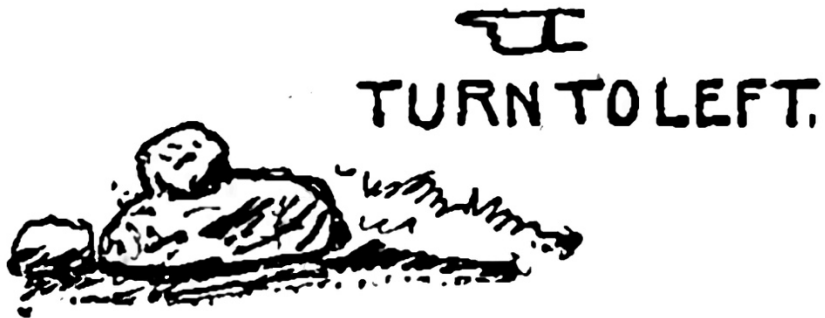

TURN TO RIGHT.




TURN TO LEFT.

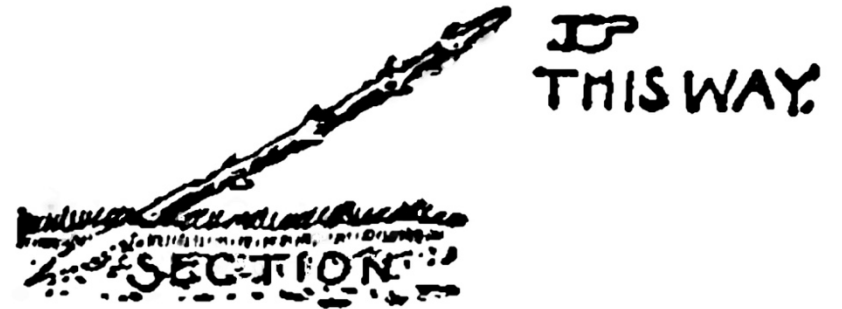
According to Dan Beard, these signs were adapted from trail signs used by the Sioux people of the Great Plains of North America.

Trail Signs Using Rocks



British Boy Scout signs.

Trail Signs Using Sticks

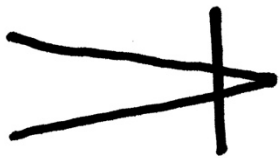


According to Dan Beard, these signs were adapted from trail signs used by the Abenaki people of New England.

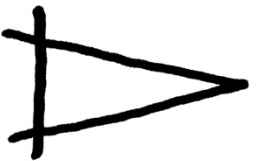
Trail Signs Using Chalk



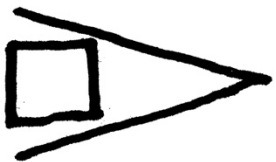
THIS WAY.



SHORT DISTANCE
THIS WAY.



LONG DISTANCE
THIS WAY.



CONCEALED MESSAGE
3 PACES THIS WAY.

Trail Signs—Miscellaneous



(STICKS) THIS WAY.



(PEBBLES) THIS WAY.



(BRANCH) THIS WAY.