Lesson Plans are designed to accompany the related Helps documents for each Step. Please refer to the resources in the appropriate Helps document found in the Leader Pages while you prepare your lesson.

The six “F”s are presented in a suggested order, but you are not required to complete them in that order. You may rearrange them as fits your troop’s particular needs.

Necessary Resources

- Mirrors (Like from a rescue kit)
- Print Out the Cipher Wheel on the web address listed in the Fingers section
- Morse Code Sheets in the Fingers section
FUN

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Telephone
Play a game of telephone. One person starts and whispers a phrase into the next person’s ear. Then, he whispers into the next person’s ear, and on until you reach the last person. That boy says what he thinks he heard. See how sometimes it is different from what it started out as? This game is a form of communication (but not a very good one!).
FOCUS

Emergency Communication
Turn to the person next to you and communicate something. That was pretty easy, wasn’t it? Talking is a form of communication. Can anyone name another form of communication?

If you are ever lost out in the woods, there are some things you can do to help people find you. Learn about some ways to alert people of where you are:

- Whistle
- Mirror
- Smoke

Encryption
Learn about and be able to recognize some communication devices. There is a list of a few in the Helps document.

Encryption is converting your communication method into a code to communicate. Create a code in the Fingers section.

Morse Code
What are some weird communication methods? Communication sometimes has to take different forms so that information can stay safe, or so it can be communicated more easily.

Learn about telegraphs and Morse Code. Morse code was invented so that people could transmit messages quickly from one city to another. Sequences of dots and dashes replace letters in the English alphabet so you can translate it right away if you know the code.
FINGERS

MIRRORS

Bring a couple small mirrors to the meeting. Have some boys hide somewhere, then try to signal the other boy’s attention with the mirrors. The other boys try to find the lost boys using the mirrors.

SCIENCE OF ENCRYPTION

A code is a system of symbols, letters, words, or signals that are used instead of ordinary words and numbers to send messages or store information. A code is used to keep the message short or to keep it secret.

Use the Cipher Wheel to create a code: (Print out the wheel for the Trailmen)
http://www.topspysecrets.com/secret-codes-for-kids.html

Encrypted messages require a sender and a receiver – you have to work as a team just to send a message.

MESSAGES

Print out the Morse Code translation sheet from this website:
https://www.mydigitalchalkboard.org/cogniti/content/file/resources/documents/7f/7f23f505/7f23f5056ca34bccd7adda5b8936e93aebeb24d0/downloadedfile_24771_patterns_actsheet.pdf. Have the boys write down a simple message that they want to tell another boy. Pair them up and have one boy encode his message and tap it. The other one tries to decipher it, one letter at a time. When they finish, switch places.
FAITH (TRAIL GUIDE THOUGHTS)

Never Alone
Read Deuteronomy 31:8. Even when you are lost, God will never leave you.

Pray with the Trailmen.

Anger
Read James 1:19. Sometimes, when we are angry, we say things that we would not have said otherwise because they would hurt someone. Even when you are angry, you need to control your communication.

Pray with the Trailmen.

Praise
Read Colossians 4:6. Instead of making fun of people and telling them what they did wrong, try to look for good in people and to encourage them. This is a helpful, kind way to use communication.

Pray with the Trailmen.
**FAMILY**

Communication Plan
Talk with your family about communication methods. What is your family’s plan for if you ever get separated from them? Make a plan for how they would communicate with you.

Communication
Talk about more communication methods. Tell your family what you already learned and teach them something new about communication.
FOREST BADGE

By actively participating in this meeting, each Trailman earned the Communication Step on the Outdoor Skills Branch.

*Note: It is up to the Trail Guide to determine whether or not a Trailman was an active in the meeting. Even if he attended the meeting, you are not required to award him the Step if he did not participate.