

The Michigan Wildlife Conservancy



The MWC is a non-profit organization. It has helped restore fish and wildlife populations and their habitats since 1982.





The MWC developed the *Becoming Outdoors Smart in Summer* (BOSS) guidebook in 2014 to address a state and national problem.

- Kids are growing up without a broad knowledge of the outdoors.

- Where will the next generation of conservationists come from?



- You become “outdoors smart” by developing observation skills - learning how to “read” the landscape like some people read a book.
- These skills are above and beyond what’s being taught in most schools.





The BOSS program eliminates most of the reasons parents cite for not involving their kids in a summer outdoor education program:

- Can't afford it
- Family schedule
- Summers are hectic
- Want to keep family together

Becoming Outdoors Smart in Summer

The BOSS Guidebook is...

- Unique
- Family-oriented
- Schedule friendly
- Community funded
- Fun-filled education



Quick Facts About the BOSS Guidebook



- Targets kids in 2nd-6th grades
- Is free, subject to availability of local sponsorships
- No rigid schedule to follow
- Can be completed in 20-30 hours over the entire summer
- No work to turn in
- Can be accomplished close to home, little travel required
- Self-taught with help from parents, grandparents, or friends
- Can be used as a scout troop project or part of other educational programs

The BOSS Guidebook has

Ten Education Units:



MICHIGAN TREES: Tree Surveys in Modern Forestry



WHAT BIRDS TELL US: Song Birds as Indicators of Habitat Quality



FROGS, SNAKES, AND MORE: Monitoring Reptiles and Amphibians



BE AN ANIMAL TRACKER: Documenting Animal Tracks and Other Signs



SOMETHING FISHY: Analyzing Stream Habitat for Fish

... Education Units:



MONARCHS ON THE MOVE: Great Migrations



UNWANTED PLANTS: Understanding the Problem of Invasive Exotic Species



ATTRACTING WILDLIFE: Landscape Analysis and Design for Wildlife



THE BUZZ ABOUT BEES: The Importance of Pollinators to Agriculture and Wild Plants



THE BIG PICTURE: Michigan Landscapes and Agriculture





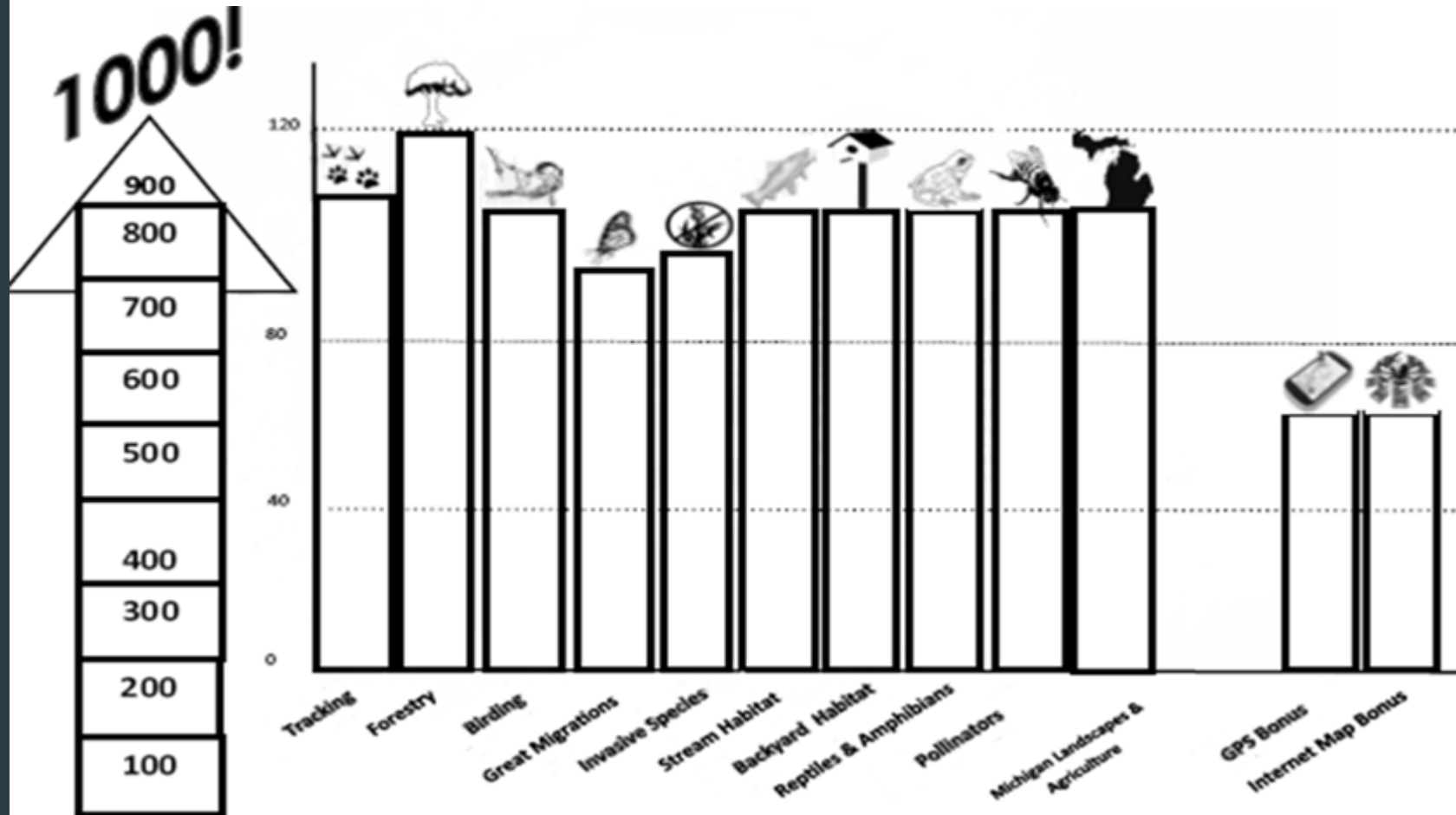






Points Are Earned For Work On Each Unit

Charting Your BOSS Points!





MWC provides continual support to BOSS guidebook users through a secure Facebook group that is closed to others. Available to share progress, ask questions, provide feedback, and chat with other BOSS students and families!



facebook.com/groups/BOSSprogram



Some more photos from the BOSS Facebook page!



Parent Comments From 2014-2016



- “We had FUN, learned a lot and had some great 1:1 quality time... Thanks for letting us be a part of this fantastic program!”
- “I just want to let you know how wonderful I think this program is! The book is fantastic and my kids are motivated by it. Thanks so much-great work!.”
- “My daughter is learning a lot...this is an awesome program...thanks for doing it.”
- “My son loves the bird unit!”
- “We still love the tree unit. We were amazed that the majority were growing near our property.”
- “This program is just what I’ve been trying to find for my kids”

How BOSS is Supported Locally...



- Volunteer Advocates
 - Encourage participation
 - Distribute information
 - Identify local sites where participants can work on the education units
- Public Libraries Post Fliers and/or distribute guidebooks
- Local Newspapers Publish Press Releases

... Local Support

- Community Stakeholders Invest in Our Future!
 - Service Groups
 - Community Foundations
 - Financial Institutions
 - Businesses
 - Conservation Organizations
 - Individuals
- Local Supporters Can Ensure That Kids are BOSS in Their Communities by Offering “Scholarships.”
 - Donations provide children with discounts or even free books.
- MWC has a Program to Recognize Sponsors at Local and State Levels.

For More Information Contact:



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