

With this issue, we introduce a new column—**ready, set, Go Outside!**—featuring fun, hands-on activities for children to enjoy while they discover and explore the great outdoors. These are great learning experiences for school groups, scout troops, and families. Look for them in every issue.



ready, set, Go Outside!

Be a winter naturalist. A snow-covered landscape makes spotting animal tracks easy! So go outside and discover tracks in your backyard, neighborhood, nearby park, or local Mass Audubon wildlife sanctuary.

Track Search

Search for animal tracks in the snow and follow them. Try to figure out what took place. Was the animal alone? Did it go straight from one spot to another? Use a track guide and try to determine what animal made them.

Track Masters

Go to an open area covered with snow. Make your own tracks, creating your own story with your prints. Try running, walking, hopping, and jumping to see how your tracks change with different movements.

Wolf Tracks

With a partner, travel like a pack of wolves in deep snow. Wolves are perfect steppers: each back foot lands in the footprint made with the front foot. Follow each other by stepping in the leader's tracks. It is much easier to travel in deep snow this way, which is exactly why wolves and other animals do.

Snow Shelters

Look for animal homes in the snow. Can you find holes, tunnels, or other ways animals are getting into their snow-covered homes? Follow passageways and paths you find. What animals might be using them?

Check our **Exploring the Nature of Massachusetts** on page 7 for more winter tracking ideas.