

Directional Trail Signs

Adapted from information provide by:

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The type, size, and location of trail markers are dependent on each individual situation.

Materials and Design

Some potential materials and designs for directions signs to include at school forests include:

- Wide (8-10") slab wood cut 4-5' tall, hand-routed and painted. They blend well with the surrounding environment and add a rustic look. Slab wood can be found at a local sawmill and will have a minimal (if any) cost.
- Small, wooden signs in the shape of arrows (or any shape you want) with a routed and painted logo that represent each trail. These can easily be made by students.
- High-pressure laminate plastic (similar to a counter top). The material is weather and vandal resistant, can be fabricated in several different widths (1/8"-1" thick), can be cut in different shapes, and can include high-resolution words and graphics. These can also be used in conjunction with rustic wood for a professional and natural look. Several companies produce this type of material, including iZone, Folia, and Fossil www.interpnet.com/greenpages/signage.htm#laminates.
- Thin, colored pieces of plastic are an inexpensive alternative to high-pressure laminate. This doesn't have a real quality look, but is an alternative to some of the more pricey options.

Placement

Most sites are no longer attaching trail markers to trees, but rather to posts in the ground. This is to reduce the potential injury to the tree and to avoid the wood growing around the marker.

