

Interpretative Trail Walk

Program Model

Tilden's Principles of Interpretation

Freeman Tilden's Six Principles

- 1. Appeal to visitors first interest
 - Relate to event at hand
 - Relate to visitors personal experiences
- 2. Information is not interpretation.
Interpretation is revelation based on information
- 3. Interpretation is an art . . . the story's the thing
- 4. Chief aim is not instruction but provocation
 - understanding - appreciation -protection

Tilden's Principles

From *Interpreting Our Heritage* (1957)

- 5. Present the whole not a part and must address itself to the whole person rather than any phase
- 6. Interpretation addressed to children should be a fundamentally different approach -not watered down adult presentation

“Allow beauty to speak for itself”

We have too much of a disposition not to allow people freely to enjoy the parks for what they can get out of them for the refreshment of their spirits and the good of their souls. Our guides insist on describing the beauties and the wonders of nature in trite and uninspired words. Nothing makes me want to commit murder so much as to have someone break in on a reverential contemplation of nature . . . by giving me a lot of statistical or descriptive information relating to what I am looking at.

Designing the Interpretive Walk

- Select a theme
- Inventory the area and plan your stops
- The START
 - Be early and chat with visitors
 - Start on time/ schedule first stop visible from gathering
 - Give overview of walk: time/ terrain/ comfort
 - Design a grabber

Designing the Interpretive Walk

- The STOP (S)
 - Suitable sized area/ good fit for subject/ good visibility/ comfort of sun/ warmth/ bugs
 - Park the front of the group and move to the middle
 - 5-7 minutes / bigger groups reduce stops and stay
- Do not talk and walk at the same time
- Maintain a reasonable walk pace
- Use teachable moments (now!)
- Use all the senses
- Use effective communication style

Designing the Interpretive Walk

- The END
 - ▶ When you promised
 - ▶ Clear and concise closure
 - Concluding summary statement
 - Gracious thank you and affirmation
 - ▶ Available for questions
 - ▶ Follow-up on promises

Designing the Interpretive Walk

- Safety management
 - ▶ First aid kit and water supply
 - ▶ Emergency contact system
 - ▶ Keep a head count with special note of children
 - ▶ Safety briefing
 - ▶ Use parents for children supervision

Tools and Props for Walks

Teachable Moments Readiness

- Bug box/ Ziplock bag/ Clear plastic vials
- Magnifying glass
- Plastic bag (for trash)
- Pocket knife
- Pocket track book
- Spray bottle with water
- Small first aid kit

Practice session

- Grabbers - relevant links to people or the place