BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
Troop 146
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Tenderfoot Requirement 5d

"Explain why it is important to hike on trails or other durable surfaces, and give examples of durable surfaces you saw on your outing."

Kyle Gonzalez
Name

1. What is a "durable surface?" Check either "yes" or "no":

YES	NO	
✓		a. An established dirt hiking trail, especially one marked by blazes painted on trees or rocks.
✓		b. A trail over gravel where it's pretty clear that it's the route you're expected to take.
✓		c. A trail over snow that's been packed down by other hikers who came before you.
✓		d. A trail over dry grass that's been packed down by other hikers who came before you.
✓		e. What looks like a good shortcut where you'll have to bushwhack through the woods and brush in order to get to your destination.

2. One area that is NOT considered durable is called "riparian." That's where there's soft dirt and fragile vegetation on the bank of a river or pond or lake. Check either "yes" or "no":

YES	NO	
	✓	a. Let's take a break from our hike and refill our water bottles from this creek. Squat on the dirt bank instead of squatting on a rock.
	✓	b. Let's camp and set up our tents here near this creek so we have plenty of water for cooking and cleaning. We can squat on the dirt bank instead of squatting on a rock.

3. One area that is NOT considered durable is called "pristine." That's where things look pretty much the same as they did 100 years ago, since no people came through to mess things up. For this question, assume that you MUST cross the pristine area -- there's no alternate route to take.

Some hikers have been here before us. We can see how they all walked through this pristine area single file and packed down a single trail through it.
(choose 1)

X

___ a. The previous hikers did it wrong, but the damage is done. Let's follow their footsteps so we don't damage other parts of the pristine area.

___ b. The previous hikers did it wrong, but let's **not** follow their example. If we follow their footsteps, we'll make things even worse. Let's all spread out and do it right, because we know the correct way to do things.

✓ 4. Your turn: Give an example of anything you spotted when hiking or camping that could be considered a "durable surface" to hike over or to camp on.

A path of rocks marked with blazes or signs