CAMPFIRE COLLECTIVE
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Apps for the Outdoors
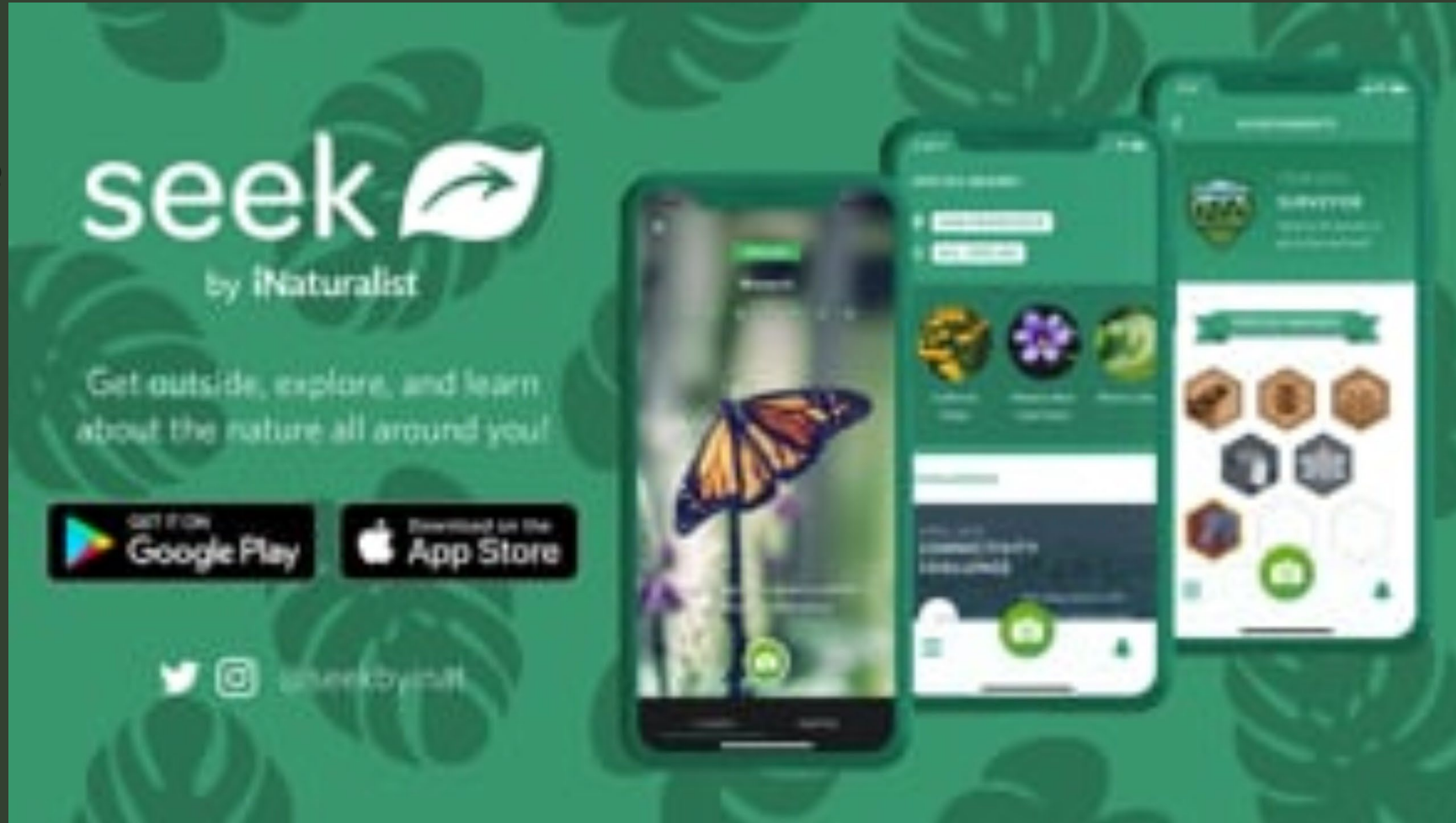## (and a couple websites too)

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Programs in a Box

Seek by iNaturalist

SEEK by iNaturalist

- Gamified version of iNaturalist designed for younger people
- Includes challenges and scavenger hunts to find specific things
- Simpler user interface focused entirely on making observations of the natural world
- Best used in a program led by a naturalist to supplement the education and interpretation, but also able to stand on its own
- Can be cross-posted to iNaturalist to be used in citizen science data-sets and for AI training

Geocaching

- Strong culture of puzzles and cryptography

- Likely dozens of geocaches nearby your facility, or anywhere visited by off-site programs

- Can be done through the app or entirely phone-free
  - App is very limited without subscription
  - Website plus a handheld GPS is more robust without subscription

- Badges for Scouting American and Girl Scouts of the USA

- Lots of free lesson plans available online

Naturalist Tools

Flora & Fauna 1 (Presenter's Favs)

iNaturalist
- Uses phone camera and AI to help identify flora and fauna
- Also shares observations for user review to help solidify IDs and train AI
- Powerful citizen science tool
  - Create or join specific data-gathering projects
  - Huge amount of observations available to researchers
- Free

Merlin Bird ID (and eBird)
- Identify birds by song, photo, or through a guidebook style workflow
- Extensive information on local birds anywhere in US
- Can be paired with eBird to track your own checklist and contribute to scientific tracking and research
- Free

FLORA & FAUNA 2 (OTHER POPULAR APPS)

Picture This
- Uses phone camera for powerful AI driven plant identification,
- Includes a large amount of domestic plants, including garden and houseplants
- Includes tools for caring for garden and house plants
  - Light meter
  - Photo based glossary of plant health issues for some species
- Full version requires subscription

Pl@ntNet
- AI Driven plant ID, with a strong history of citizen science
- Allows for creation of groups to pool several individuals contributions in an area together into one map and dataset
- Shares observations for user validation
- Free

Night Sky

SkyView

- Augmented reality app for identifying stars, constellations, and other celestial bodies
- Simple, intuitive user interface
- Works offline
- One time purchase

Stellarium

- App for learning about the night sky
- Huge catalog of stars and deep sky objects with detailed information on each
- No augmented reality function
- Free, subscription, and one time purchase options

Other Topics

Rockd

- App from University of Wisconsin-Madison with information on geology throughout most of the US
- Citizen Science - Users can report rock outcroppings with photos and identifications to help build a better map of geologic layers throughout US
- Free

Next Vision LTD Identify Kit

- Five separate apps for insects, birds, fungi, fish, and rocks
- Books, articles, and more available in app
- Super polished user interface
- Free or subscription options

Maps & Navigation

THE BIG ONES

All Trails

- Moderate detail proprietary topo maps, 3D terrain maps, and more
- Simple user interface
- Good offline functionality
- Live tracking feature
- Simple & effective tools for making downloadable and printable routes & maps (website)
- Less Expensive

Gaia GPS

- Highly detailed proprietary topo maps, USGS maps, and more
- More complicated but more robust user interface
- Excellent offline functionality
- Powerful tools for making downloadable routes & maps, printed maps have less detail (website)
- More Expensive

Niche Uses

Topo Maps +
- Extremely detailed topo maps, including USGS, Natural Atlas, Thunderforest, USFS, and more
- Smaller library of hiking routes & trails
- Best for individuals with already solid navigation skills
- Variety of subscription tiers with different features

Far Out
- Regularly updated guidebook style narrative guides and maps
- Limited locations available, always adding more
- No free option, but one time purchase for each guide

Worth Mentioning

Hiking Project

- Crowdsourced routes and trail conditions, including guidebook style narrative instructions
- Small but typically experienced and passionate userbase
- Fewer trails and locations
- Free

Goat Maps

- Mapping and navigation tool currently in beta testing
- Extremely detailed, robust, and customizable maps and navigation both on and offline
- Will require a subscription for most features

Apple Maps

- Apple Maps has begun to add trail maps and hiking navigation.
- Currently has very detailed trail maps in National Parks, but very limited mapping anywhere else
- Too soon to tell if it will become robust enough to challenge The Big Ones for usefulness
- Free, but only available on Apple devices

And so many more...

Weather

Lightning

My Lightning Tracker Pro

- Lightning tracking map with customizable alerts
- Requires data or wifi connection
- Reliably and quickly alerts user of nearby lightning strikes in real time
- Simple user interface
- One time purchase

lightningmaps.org (web based)

- Lightning monitoring website including thunder mapping
- Uses several data sources; extremely accurate in North America and Europe
- Detailed archives of past strikes

Trip & Travel

Drive Weather

- Weather forecasts along a travel route
- Automatically takes drive-times into forecast
- Includes road condition forecasts
- Subscription for most features

mountain-forecast.com (app or web based)

- Weather forecast specific to mountains and ranges
- Includes weather at several elevations
- Extremely detailed forecasts
- All features available for free on website
- Limited features on free app, full features are subscription based

Other/Utility

Some Favorites

- Don't Forget The Spoon - Gear inventory, packing lists, etc.

- Any List - Sharable shopping lists, recipes, packing lists, or any other checklist for multiple users

- Grog Knots - Excellent animated knots, iOS only

- Knots 3D - Also good, available on Android & iOS

- Peak Finder - Augmented reality app for identifying surrounding features

- rigrite - Simple to use calculator for forces on anchors for ropes courses, slacklines, and climbing

- Pokemon Go - I'm a nerd like that, okay

- Fitness Trackers - I just use whatever comes on my phone

Thank you

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