

Forest Lantern Trail

HOST ONLY - preparation and story

Includes answers. Keep these pages with an adult.

The birthday team has arrived, but one important part of the celebration is missing. Find the lantern route to the birthday clearing. Collect five named badge digits, then use the final sheet to finish your mission. All the clues you need are printed here. Work together and ask for a hint whenever you want.

1. Print one player pack and two prop sheets per team. Keep all host and hint pages with an adult.
2. Put clue pages 1-5 at the table. Place the final sheet face down until the five badges are collected.
3. Share pencils and choose a reader, recorder and path finder. Swap jobs after each clue.

Players: 4; teams: 1. Print one player and prop set per team. Invitations and certificates: 4 each.

No locks, purchases or cutting required. Keep all clues at a low table. Scissors are optional and for adults only.

Forest Lantern Trail

HOST ONLY - solution guide

1. Lanterns: 6

Add 2 to the final printed number. The allowed rule is stated on the sheet.

2. Trees: 4

Trace the orthogonal path from S; the other exits are separated by walls.

3. Bridge: 3

Reflection pairs column 1 with 4 and column 2 with 3. Add the marked left cell and its reflected right cell.

4. Acorns: 5

Count each circle once; ignore the other shapes.

5. Clearing: 5

Move exactly one orthogonal square per arrow; copy only the value at the endpoint.

6. Final: 56543

route-order: Acorns > Lanterns > Clearing > Trees > Bridge. Keep leading zeroes.

Forest Lantern Trail

HOST ONLY - timeline and paper check

3 minutes: Read the opening story and explain the badges.

5 minutes: Solve Lanterns; offer one hint at a time.

5 minutes: Solve Trees; offer one hint at a time.

5 minutes: Solve Bridge; offer one hint at a time.

5 minutes: Solve Acorns; offer one hint at a time.

5 minutes: Solve Clearing; offer one hint at a time.

5 minutes: Combine the badges on the final sheet.

2 minutes: Read the ending and award certificates.

Paper completion: check each badge against the solution guide, then check the final code. No device is required.

Mission complete! Forest Lantern Trail is ready for its birthday celebration. Thank your team for sharing ideas and helping one another.

Duration and ages are estimates. Adjust pace and offer help for your group.

Forest Lantern Trail

Player clue 1: Lanterns | Team 1

Welcome, birthday explorers! Find the lantern route to the birthday clearing. Find five badge numbers. Use them on the last page. You can help each other and ask me for hints.

The rule is: add 2 each time. What comes next? Write the next number.

RULE: add 2 each time

0

2

4

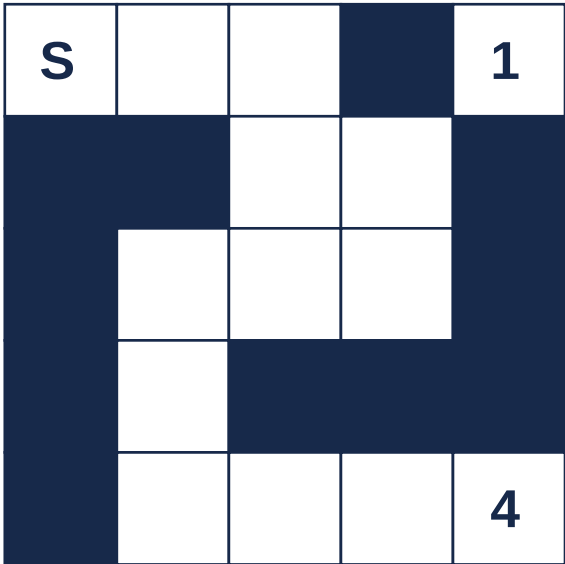
?

Lanterns badge: _____

Forest Lantern Trail

Player clue 2: Trees | Team 1

Start at S. Follow open squares without moving diagonally. Which numbered exit can you reach? Record its label for Trees.



White = open. Dark = wall. No diagonal moves.

Row / column: start at top left; each cell is one step.

Trees badge: _____

Forest Lantern Trail

Player clue 3: Bridge | Team 1

Imagine folding the right half onto the left along the dashed line. At the starred square, add the two numbers that meet. No cutting or folding is needed.

Start after badges: Lanterns.

2	1	2	4
* 2	0	3	1

Fold RIGHT half onto LEFT. * marks the target.

Paper-only alternative: pair 1 with 4 and 2 with 3.

Bridge badge: _____

Forest Lantern Trail

Player clue 4: Acorns | Team 1

Count only the circle shapes. Write that number on your Acorns badge.

Start after badges: Trees.



circle



circle



circle



circle



circle



star



star



star



star

Acorns badge: _____

Forest Lantern Trail

Player clue 5: Clearing | Team 1

Start at S. Follow each arrow by one square in the listed order. Record the number on your final square.

Start after badges: Bridge.

S: 6	7	8	9
0	1	2	3
4	5	6	7

right > right > down > left > down

One arrow = one square. S = start.

Clearing badge: _____

Forest Lantern Trail

Player clue 6: Final | Team 1

Follow the arrows from Start to Finish, visiting every required stop once. Read each stop badge digit in route order.

Start > Stop 1 OR Dead end

Stop 1 (Acorns) > Stop 2

Stop 2 (Lanterns) > Stop 3

Stop 3 (Clearing) > Stop 4

Stop 4 (Trees) > Stop 5

Stop 5 (Bridge) > Finish

Required: Stop 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Dead end has no exit.

Final badge: _____

Need help? Ask your host for one hint at a time.

Forest Lantern Trail

Hint cards - level 1 (spoilers; keep with host)

1. Lanterns

Every step adds 2.

2. Trees

Begin at S, not at an exit.

3. Bridge

The middle dashed line is the fold.

4. Acorns

Look for the word circle.

5. Clearing

Start at the top-left S square.

6. Final

Keep the five badge results visible. Every number has a badge name.

Forest Lantern Trail

Hint cards - level 2 (spoilers; keep with host)

1. Lanterns

Start with the last number, not the first.

2. Trees

Move one square up, down, left or right. Walls cannot be crossed.

3. Bridge

The outside right square meets the outside left square.

4. Acorns

Point to one circle at a time.

5. Clearing

One arrow means one square, even if the next square looks interesting.

6. Final

Use the order, slots, route or matching columns printed on this page.

Forest Lantern Trail

Hint cards - level 3 (spoilers; keep with host)

1. Lanterns

Add once more; do not skip a step.

2. Trees

Follow the open corridor and check each junction. Only one exit connects to S.

3. Bridge

Find the mirror partner of the marked square and add their two printed values.

4. Acorns

Mark the circle shapes as you count, then check again.

5. Clearing

Trace each move with a pencil and mark the final square.

6. Final

Start with the Acorns badge, then follow the printed rule.

Forest Lantern Trail

Team 1 badge record (no cutting needed)

Write a digit beside each badge as you solve its clue.

Lanterns: _____

Trees: _____

Bridge: _____

Acorns: _____

Clearing: _____

Reader: reads the clue. Recorder: writes the digit. Path finder: traces routes. Swap roles every clue.

Forest Lantern Trail

Team 1 paper unlock card

Our five badges are ready. We used the final sheet to find this code:

Host: compare this with your solution guide. When it matches, read the ending and celebrate.

No physical lock or prize is required. You may draw a celebration star on this card.

Forest Lantern Trail

You're invited to a birthday mystery!

Join Birthday Explorer for Forest Lantern Trail.

Find the lantern route to the birthday clearing.

Date: _____

Time: _____

Place: _____

Bring your curiosity. Paper and pencils are provided. Work together, share ideas and solve six clues.

Designed for ages 6-8. Estimated 30-40 minutes.

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Forest Lantern Trail

Birthday Mystery Explorer

Presented to Birthday Explorer

Team member: _____

For completing Forest Lantern Trail with curiosity,
teamwork and kindness.

Mission complete! Forest Lantern Trail is ready for its birthday
celebration. Thank your team for sharing ideas and helping one
another.

Date: _____

Host signature: _____

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