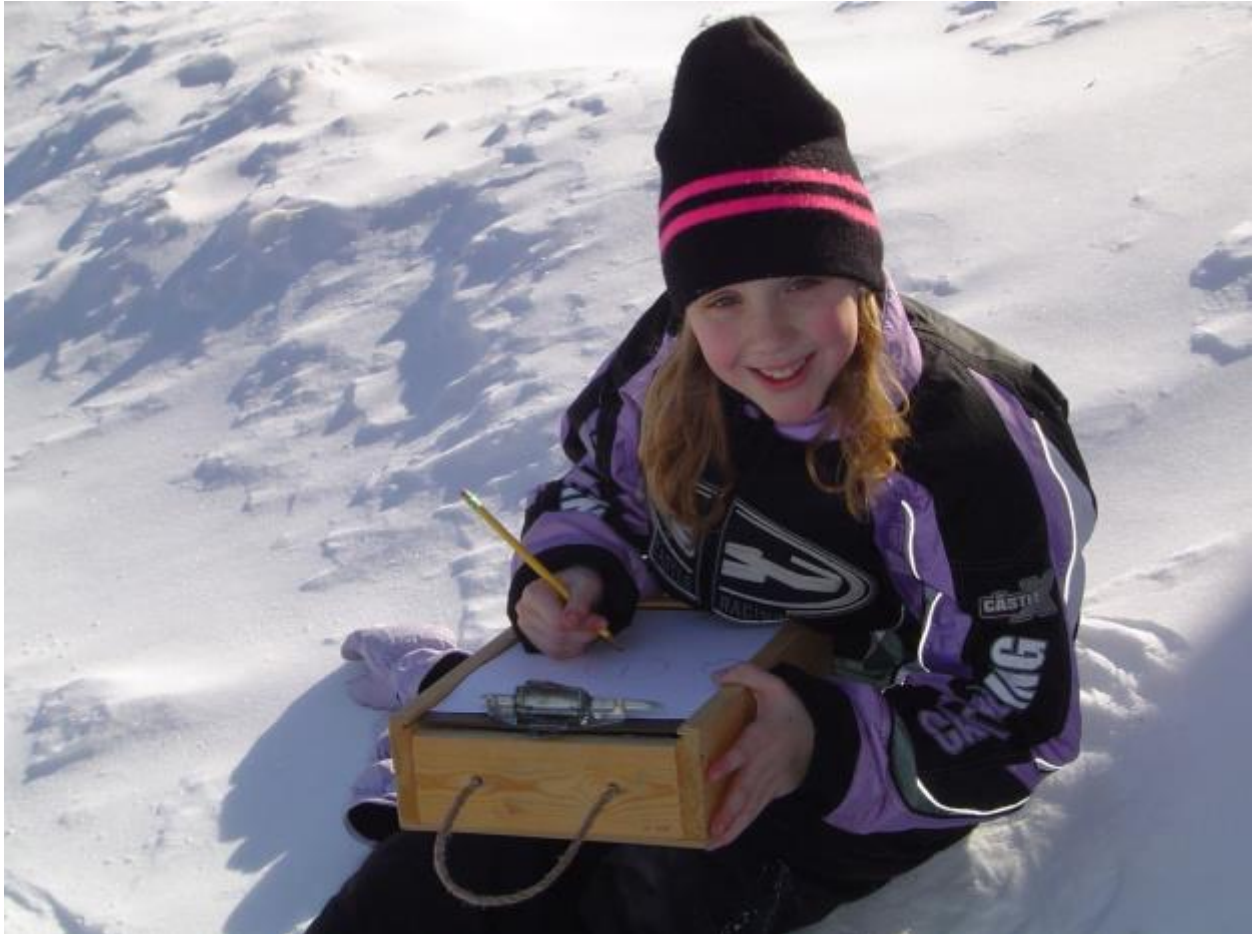


How to Construct Field Desks

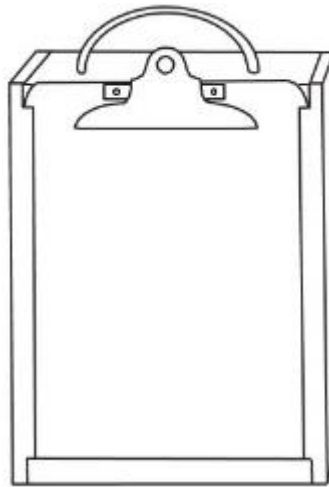


Field desks provide a firm writing area and can be used to carry pencils, paper, field guides, and measuring equipment.

Original design from the School Nature Area Project (SNAP)

Materials List for One

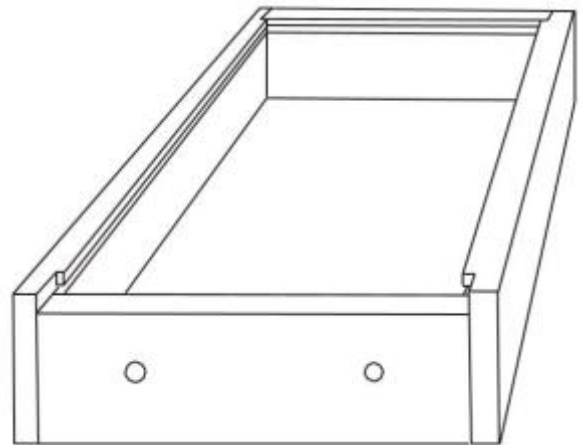
- 1" x 4" x 4' pine lumber
- 9"x12 1/4" plywood underlayment (rough cut)
- 20" of 1/4" rope
- Standard 9"x12" clipboard
- Finishing nails and glue
- Exterior stain, paint or varnish



Materials for 30

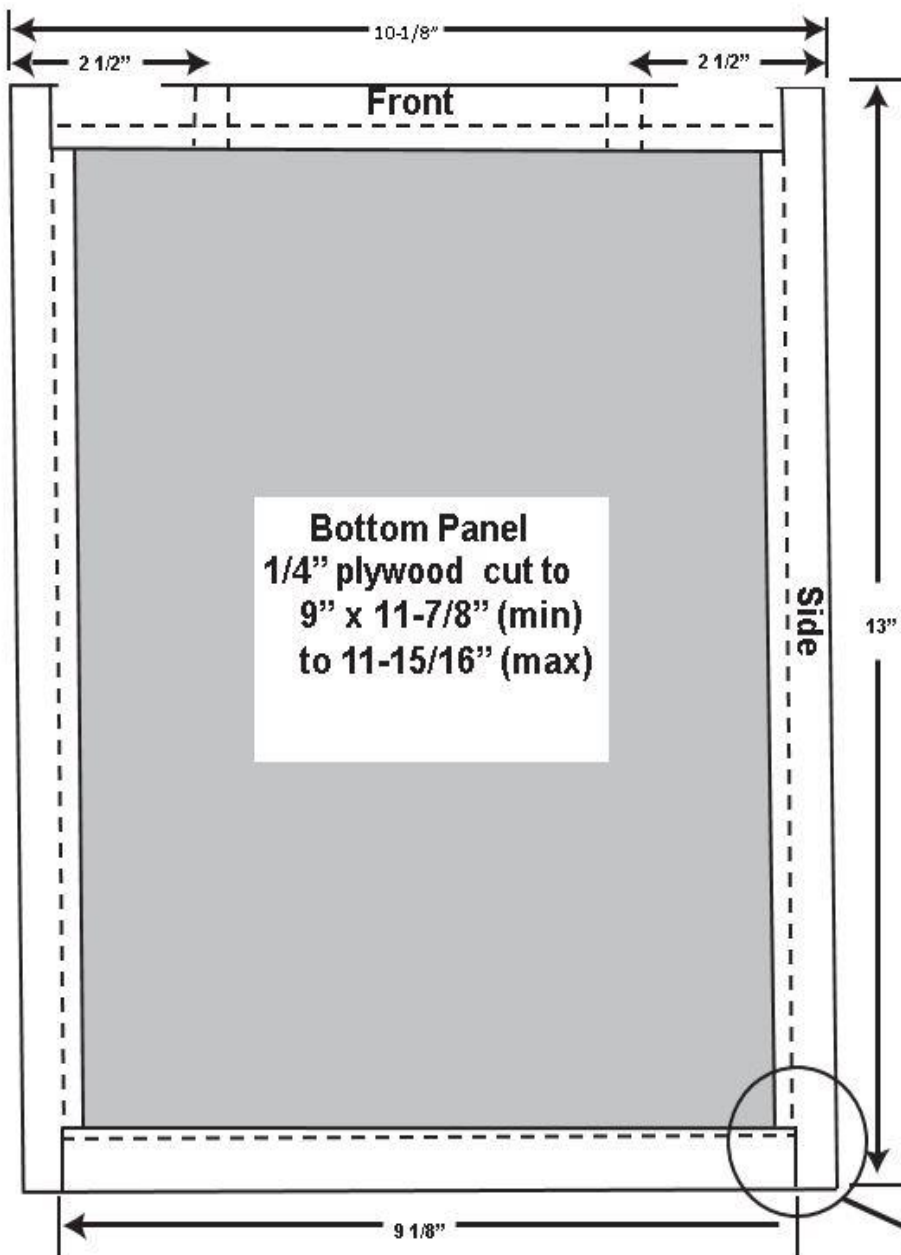
- 1 sheet 4' x 8' 1/4" plywood underlayment
- 15 pieces 1"x4" x 8' pine lumber
- 50 feet of 1/4" rope
- 30 standard 9"x12" clipboards
- Finishing nails and glue
- Exterior stain, paint or varnish

Hint: Ask your local lumber, hardware store, or re-use center to donate materials.



Construction notes

1. Cut front, back and 2 sides to length.
2. Cut 1/4" x 3/4" rabbets on sides.
3. Sand inside surfaces.
4. Cut all pieces to width, removing splinters that may have been created when cutting the rabbet.
5. Cut lower dados on the sides, front, and back. Check width of cut for proper fit. The plywood bottom should fit easily, but without excessive slop.
6. Cut upper dados on side and back pieces. Check for fit. The clipboard should slide easily. If the cut is too narrow, the clipboard may bind.
7. Cut plywood bottom to dimension.
8. Preassemble without glue. Examine for proper fit.
9. Assemble desk with generous glue on rabbet joints. Use finishing nails to secure.
10. After drying, sand all sides flush and smooth.
11. Sand corners to remove sharpness.
12. Drill holes in top. Insert rope through hole and tie a knot inside the desk.
13. Slide clipboard in position. (You may need to lightly plane the edge of the clipboard the fit is too tight.)
14. Finish all the wood with exterior stain, paint or varnish.



Bottom Panel
 1/4" plywood cut to
 9" x 11-7/8" (min)
 to 11-15/16" (max)

