

<b>Your Name:</b>	B. Bockhahn	<b>Park:</b>	NODI
<b>Program title:</b> (fill this in last)	Dung Beetle Dung Race: "Dung Is My Home"		

**Theme Statement:** Dung Beetles are one the most fascinating animals in the world with supreme strength, a strange life cycle and a most unique navigation system.

<b>Audience:</b>	All ages.
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**Goal(s):** (why you are doing the program)

Teach about the unique life cycle and biology of Dung Beetles

**Introduction:** (grabs attention, states theme, explains how program is organized)

The Dung Beetle is the strongest animal in the world; they can pull 1,141 times their body weight. That's like a human pulling six fully loaded double-decker buses. They use this strength in mating battles. To have a family they must find animal dung. They roll their new home to their nest tunnels, sometimes at night navigating by the Milky Way, the only animal to do that. They live most of their live inside and around, DUNG!

**Body:** (your main points or subthemes – 4 or fewer recommended)

Dung Beetle Types: rollers, tunnelers and dwellers  
 Dung Beetle Life Cycle  
 Dung Beetle Dung Race

**Conclusion:** (reinforce the theme and encourage future participation)

The Dung Beetle is one of the most amazing animals in the world. Its supreme strength, odd choice of housing material and unique navigation make it special. Next time you're on a hike, take a moment to watch for some special critters.

**Audiovisuals:** (make sure everyone can see and experience the props)

Dung beetle pictures, worlds strongest chart, life cycle chart, hula hoops and yoga balls.

**Audience Participation:** (think of ways to include audience)

Dung Beetle Race, dung beetle searches

## Dung Beetle Race

- Each participant is going to be a dung beetle, and must roll its very own ball of dung to its tunnel home.
- Divide class up into heats of 4-5 individuals at a time. Participants waiting for their heat will line up along the side of the play area to help keep them in line.
- Use giant yoga balls at the start line, and hula hoops to represent the tunnel 100' away at the finish line, preferably uphill.
- At the starting point participants must walk backwards towards their tunnel rolling their ball of dung with their hands.
- Winners from each heat will line up for the “finals” to find out who is the best dung beetle!

Can you imagine doing this at night using the stars to navigate?

Can you imagine doing this in the woods?  
What hazards would you run into?