

Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”
 (Please be sure to submit this report after the trip that supported by PWS.)

	2015. 10. 05
Affiliation/Position	Wildlife Research Center/D1
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1. Country/location of visit
Sasagamine, Niigata Pre.
2. Research project
Sasagamine Field Science course
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2015. 10. 1 – 2015. 10. 4 (4days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Dr. Shigeru Sugiyama
5. Progress and results of your research/activity (You can attach extra pages if needed)
Please insert one or more pictures (to be publicly released). Below each picture, please provide a brief description.
We conducted “Sasagamine field science course” to learn about survival skill in Sasagamine, Niigata pre for four days. Below is a detail activity result.
<p>1st day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cropped wild berry near lodge. Unfortunately, weather was not perfect but we enjoyed and we could collect many wild berry. I haven’t had such experience before, so it was a good chance to experience and to know which berry we can eat. - Pro. Sugiyama held a lecture about animals, plants, and nature in Sasagamine. It was nice to know that still fox and badger live near the lodge. I have heard that badger don’t have a good eyesight and Pro. Sugiyama’s video showed it clearly. I have to pay more attention in case I find them in wild in order not to be injured. Pro. Sugiyama also explained that during winter season, the 1st floor of lodge will be buried in snow. As a Sasagamine field science course in winter, we will have a chance to learn how to use a ski and snowshoes. I would like to join it too since I don’t have much experience to learn such skill. <p>2nd day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walked near the lodge. Teachers explained us about unique plants, for example, mistletoe and aconite which I have known only by name. Fortunately, we had a chance to encounter Japanese monkey and Japanese four-lined rat snake. After released the snake, it climbed up a tree and moved to other tree by crossing branches. That scene reminds me that I should pay attention to a snake on the top of the tree while I am in a field. - Pro. Yamamoto gave a lecture about how to use a compass, how to read a map, and a precautions for tomorrow’s climbing. I rarely use a compass because the path of mountains in Japan are well organized and it is clear which way to go to reach a summit. Additionally, in my study site, Tanzania, I usually follow ranger because they know well about the terrain of the park more than me. However, I would like to try to apply the contents of this lecture to my daily field work. <p>3rd day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weather was perfect and we could climb up a Mt. Hiuchi as scheduled. When we reached a summit, I didn’t feel so much tiredness maybe because Pro. Yamamoto led our party in an appropriate speed all the way and we had a rest once per every hour. I could enjoy the scene while climbing. On the way to go down the mountain, because rocks are slippery and we are getting tired, sometimes we stumbled. We should not relax our attention until we reach a home as usually people say. <p>4th day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Had a lecture of rope work. We learn several types of knots which can be used in several situations. It was interesting to know that each knot has a different function. - Had a lecture of bivouac. Pro. Koshima showed us very useful equipment which is made from nylon. I didn’t know such a useful thing till that time. Last year, there was eruption incident in Japan and I read a comment from one of

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the survivor. She said that she could survive the cold night because she had a windcheater. Because it is very important to keep body temperature warm in case of emergency, I am thinking to bring that equipment every time when I climb a mountain even if that mountain seems easy to climb in one day. Additionally, I think most of the people don't know such equipment, therefore, I would like to talk and inform about this to family and friend.



Picture 1. Mistletoe



Picture 2. Aconite



Picture 3. Mt. Hiuchi

6. Others

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the PWS program for supporting this trip. I also thank PWS coordinators to lead us during this course.