Free sample from The Trail Camera Scouting Plan & Pattern Log. This is worksheet 4 of 11. Get all 11 worksheets: trailcamsetup.com/kit/trail-camera-scouting-plan-and-pattern-log

Camera Placement & Aim Sheet

Height, facing, distance, width and tilt for every camera you hang

Name _____ **Date** _____

Property _____

Placement is the biggest lever on useful photos, more than any setting. Fill in one row per camera at the tree, before you walk away, so a move later is a decision rather than a guess about where it was.

Placement cards

Camera	Site	Height (ft)	Facing	Distance to target (ft)	Detection angle (deg)	Width at target (ft)	Tilt	Walk test OK

Width at target = 2 x distance x tan(detection angle / 2), the same formula this site's detection zone calculator uses. The detection angle is on the camera's listing or in its manual.

Before you walk away

- [ ] About 3 to 4 ft high for deer and mid-size wildlife; lower for small animals
- [ ] Facing north or south, so a low sunrise or sunset does not wash out photos or trip the sensor
- [ ] Aimed across the trail, not straight down it, so an animal crosses the frame broadside
- [ ] About 15 to 25 ft off an active trail as a starting distance
- [ ] Grass, leaves and small branches cleared from the lens out to the detection zone

- [ ] Mounted to a stable tree or post that does not sway in wind
- [ ] Walk test done: walked the trail at animal height and checked a test photo
- [ ] Date and time on the camera are correct (the pattern sheet depends on the timestamp)

From this site's placement tips guide and mounting chart. Brush that was clear at setup often grows back within a few weeks in growing season, so re-check it on every card pull.

Detection width by distance (this site's formula)

Distance to target	Width at 40 deg	Width at 55 deg
15 ft	10.9 ft	15.6 ft
20 ft	14.6 ft	20.8 ft
25 ft	18.2 ft	26.0 ft
40 ft	29.1 ft	41.6 ft

Mounting height and tilt (where the frame center meets the ground)

Mount height	10 deg down	15 deg down	20 deg down
3 ft	17.0 ft	11.2 ft	8.2 ft
4 ft	22.7 ft	14.9 ft	11.0 ft
7 ft	39.7 ft	26.1 ft	19.2 ft
10 ft	56.7 ft	37.3 ft	27.5 ft

Height divided by the tangent of the tilt, as on this site's mounting height and angle chart. High mounts at 7 to 10 ft, tilted 15 to 20 degrees down, are for theft-prone or bear country sites; a trail camera at 3 to 4 ft usually needs little or no tilt.

Mounts that hold the aim

From this site's own catalog: a mount that lets you set the tilt on a crooked tree, and a stake for sites with no tree.

- **Kuiming adjustable tree mount**: Two tree mounts with swivel tilt ball joints, so a camera can be aimed across a trail on a crooked tree or tilted down from a high mount.
- **Aifiuroo 57 in ground stake mount**: Puts a camera on a field edge or pinch point where no tree stands in the right place.
- **HME economy trail camera holder**: The lowest-cost way to hold a fixed angle on a straight tree.

Current prices and our latest picks for each item: **trailcamsetup.com/kit/trail-camera-scouting-plan-and-pattern-log/gear/**

Researched guidance, not professional advice. Check your state wildlife agency's current rules before placing any camera on land you hunt, on public land or near a property line, and get the landowner's permission on land that is not yours. Estimates in this kit come from this site's own models; real cameras vary.