



SECRET SQUIRRELS

SELF-RELIANCE · COMMUNITY RESILIENCE · LIBERTY

BOOK CLUB

SECRET SQUIRRELS READING LIST — 42 TITLES

INTRODUCTION

SECRET SQUIRRELS BOOK CLUB

42 TITLES · CURATED FOR LIBERTY, PREPAREDNESS, LEADERSHIP & SURVIVAL

The following list includes books that have proven both thought-provoking and practical — titles that challenge assumptions, sharpen perspective, and remain relevant in today's uncertain environment. Each was chosen for its ability to deepen understanding of liberty, preparedness, leadership, survival psychology, and sustainable living.

Members are encouraged to obtain copies through local libraries, independent bookstores, or audiobooks whenever possible. Study each text deeply, discuss key lessons in local nests, and apply principles to planning, leadership, and sustainable living.



HISTORY

*Teaches where we came from and why
patterns repeat*



PHILOSOPHY

*Explains why we act and how to think
under pressure*



SURVIVAL

*Prepares us for when systems fail and
skills matter*



COMMUNITY

*Ensures no Squirrel stands alone in
the dark*

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SURVIVAL &
PREPAREDNESS

6

LIBERTY &
GOVERNANCE

7

HISTORY &
RESISTANCE

6

PHILOSOPHY &
MINDSET

5

STRATEGY &
CONFLICT

5

FOOD, LAND &
NATURE

6

UNDERSTANDING
POWER

STUDY

Read each text deeply. Take notes. Mark passages that apply to your nest, your role, and your region.

DISCUSS

Bring key lessons to local nest meetings. The best insights come from shared interpretation.

APPLY

Connect principles to planning, leadership, and sustainable living. Knowledge unused is knowledge wasted.

"Read deeply. Think critically. Act deliberately. Squirrels adapt, endure, and rebuild."



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◆ SURVIVAL & PREPAREDNESS ◆

SURVIVAL & PREPAREDNESS — Practical skills, crisis psychology, and the mindset of resilience

ESSENTIAL READING

№ 1

PREPPER'S HOME DEFENSE

Jim Cobb

Baseline defensive manual — layered defense from deterrence and early warning to safe rooms and force escalation. Cuts through Hollywood-style prepping.

- *Community first, measured action, sustainable readiness over fear-driven chaos.*

№ 4

EMERGENCY

Neil Strauss

A journalist's journey to full-spectrum preparedness — survival, firearms, evasion, and citizenship abroad. Honest and accessible.

- *Bridges skepticism and action. Transformation begins with humility and self-education.*

№ 9

DEEP SURVIVAL

Laurence Gonzales

Analyzes real disasters to uncover why certain people prevail. The difference lies in mindset, self-awareness, and adaptability.

- *Survival begins in the mind long before the event.*

№ 10

THE UNTHINKABLE

Amanda Ripley

Research into human behavior during crises. Identifies the three stages: denial, deliberation, decisive action.

- *Key for command structure and emergency training within nests.*

№ 12

WHEN ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE

Cody Lundin

Combines humor, anthropology, and hard science. Covers hygiene, food, morale, and long-term survival psychology.

- *Survival is 90% mental, 10% gear. Preparedness is community care, not paranoia.*

№ 17

BUSHCRAFT 101

Dave Canterbury

Self-reliance using tools and materials found in nature — fire, shelter, water, navigation, and foraging. Ancient knowledge, modern application.

- *Learn the land, use your environment, rely on skill — not gear. Quiet capability, not noisy survivalism.*

№ 28

BUSHCRAFT FIRST AID

Dave Canterbury & Jason A. Hunt

Field manual for first response in remote environments: wound care, splints, improvisation, infection control, evacuation.

- *Train members to triage and stabilize. Run regular realistic drills.*

◆ LIBERTY & GOVERNANCE ◆

LIBERTY & GOVERNANCE — The moral and legal foundations of freedom and self-determination

№ 21

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION & THE FEDERALIST PAPERS

Madison, Hamilton & Jay

Foundation of American liberty. Defines how power should be limited, balanced, and accountable to the people.

- *A manual for civic defense. Every citizen should read them — not just quote them.*

№ 2

THE REVOLUTION: A MANIFESTO

Ron Paul

How liberty erodes through complacency. A challenge to think independently and demand accountability from power.

- *A call to reclaim personal responsibility and question authority without abandoning civility.*

№ 8

THE LAW

Frédéric Bastiat

In under 100 pages — the purpose of law: defend life, liberty, and property. When government redistributes, justice becomes corruption.

- *Distills the moral foundation of freedom. Law should restrain power, not expand it.*

№ 15

THE WHISKEY REBELLION

William Hogeland

The 1790s tax revolt — early Americans challenging federal authority over local rights.

- *A case study in why understanding history prevents repeating it.*

№ 16

COMMON SENSE

Thomas Paine

The pamphlet that sparked a revolution. Clear ideas, plainly spoken, broke through apathy and inspired ordinary citizens.

- *Essential for anyone involved in local coordination or civic advocacy.*

№ 32

SEEING LIKE A STATE

James C. Scott

Why large centralized systems fail when imposing 'order' on complex human environments.

- *Informs how nests should be structured: distributed, adaptive, locally governed.*



◆ HISTORY & RESISTANCE ◆

HISTORY & RESISTANCE — What history teaches about courage, sacrifice, and the cost of complacency

№ 13

1776

David McCullough

The Revolutionary War's defining year — Washington's perseverance, ordinary soldiers' resolve, and the fragile unity of a desperate cause.

► *Leadership under strain, faith in mission, and unity in uncertainty.*

№ 22

THE NIGHTINGALE

Kristin Hannah

Two French sisters in WWII — one in the resistance, one surviving occupation. The hidden labor sustaining communities in wartime.

► *Train local leaders. Quiet acts — shelter, supplies, information — sustain community under occupation.*

№ 25

SLAUGHTERHOUSE-FIVE

Kurt Vonnegut

A soldier survives WWII's Dresden bombing. Satire, trauma, and anti-war sentiment — the moral cost of violence.

► *Build empathy. Prioritize mental-health preparedness for members exposed to catastrophe.*

№ 27

THE BOOK THIEF

Markus Zusak

Nazi Germany narrated by Death — small acts of humanity in dark times. Language as a tool of survival.

► *Preserve and circulate crucial knowledge. Storytelling is a tool for cohesion and resilience.*

№ 31

THE FOURTH TURNING

William Strauss & Neil Howe

Generational theory — societies move through recurring cycles of crisis, rebuilding, and decay.

► *A crisis era demands preparation, not panic — and community, not isolation.*

№ 33

THE ANATOMY OF FASCISM

Robert O. Paxton

Fascism as a process — how ordinary societies slide into authoritarianism through fear, myth, and opportunism.

► *Know the pattern before it completes. Recognition is the first line of defense.*

NEW ADDITION

№ 40

THE GULAG ARCHIPELAGO

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

First-hand account of the Soviet forced labor camp system — how totalitarianism crushes dissent and destroys individual identity through bureaucratic terror.

► *The most complete portrait of what unchecked state power looks like from the inside. Read it as a warning and a measure of what resistance costs.*

◆ PHILOSOPHY & MINDSET ◆

PHILOSOPHY & MINDSET — Inner discipline, moral clarity, and the examined life under pressure

№ 3

ATLAS SHRUGGED

Ayn Rand

Innovation collapses under regulation and dependency. Individual excellence as the engine of freedom.

► *Resilience, integrity, and the moral value of productive work. Not selfishness — sovereignty.*

№ 7

BRAVE NEW WORLD

Aldous Huxley

1932 vision of engineered pleasure and social control. Societies willingly surrender freedom for comfort.

► *A philosophical warning: tyranny rarely comes through force — it comes through sedation.*

№ 23

MEDITATIONS

Marcus Aurelius

Personal reflections on duty, virtue, and discipline. Control what you can. Accept what you can't. Act ethically.

► *A manual for emotional resilience. Cultivate daily practices that steady leadership during crises.*

№ 30

THE REPUBLIC

Plato

Foundational dialogue on justice, governance, education, and the nature of leadership via Socratic questioning.

► *A blueprint for civic virtue and institutional design. Spark discussions on leadership selection and ethics.*

№ 37

THE MORAL ANIMAL

Robert Wright

An evolutionary explanation of human behavior, cooperation, and conflict. Why we do what we do.

► *Understand the instincts driving your team. Design structures that reward cooperation over self-interest.*

NEW ADDITION

№ 41

MAN'S SEARCH FOR MEANING

Viktor Frankl

A psychiatrist's account of surviving Nazi concentration camps and the logotherapy framework built from it. Finding purpose as the core of human endurance.

► *The definitive text on resilience under the worst conditions. When systems fail, meaning is what keeps people functional. Required for any nest leader.*



◆ STRATEGY & CONFLICT ◆

STRATEGY & CONFLICT — Tactical thinking, irregular warfare, and the nature of organized resistance

№ 5

PATRIOTS: SURVIVING THE COMING COLLAPSE

James Wesley Rawles

Hybrid fiction and field manual — post-collapse America with lessons in communication, barter, food storage, defense, and leadership.

► *A blueprint for long-term resilience: discipline, moral clarity, and a network that prioritizes cooperation.*

№ 11

THE ART OF WAR

Sun Tzu

2,500-year-old classic on strategy, adaptability, and perception. Victory through preparation and timing — not brute force.

► *Master yourself, know your terrain, plan for every outcome. Every mission echoes Sun Tzu's principles.*

№ 19

GUERRILLA WARFARE

Che Guevara

Tactical manual on irregular warfare and small, mobile units. Decentralization, discipline, and adaptability.

► *Read critically — extract lessons in organization, terrain use, and morale-building. Not ideology.*

№ 20

ON WAR

Carl von Clausewitz

War as an extension of politics. The fog, friction, and chaos that influence outcomes.

► *Every crisis requires strategy, not reaction. Reinforce the importance of adaptable leadership.*

№ 26

CIA KUBARK FILES

CIA Cold War Documents

Declassified interrogation and psychological operations documents. Deception detection, conditioning, and stress behavior.

► *Understand how information can be shaped. Build humane interview protocols. Guard against manipulation.*

◆ FOOD, LAND & NATURE ◆

FOOD, LAND & NATURE — Self-sufficiency, sustainable agriculture, foraging, and ecological stewardship

№ 6

ONE SECOND AFTER

William R. Forstchen

A town loses power after an EMP. The human cost of modern dependency and the speed with which order dissolves.

► *Leadership, community trust, and moral grounding are the real assets in crisis — not gear.*

№ 14

THE BEEKEEPER'S BIBLE

Richard Jones & Susan Bracker

Every step of beekeeping — biology, hive design, honey processing, wax use. Stewardship and sustainable practice.

► *Small, sustainable practices preserve ecosystems and food supplies. Vital for long-term community independence.*

№ 24

BOTANY FOR GARDENERS

Brian Capon

How plants grow, reproduce, and respond to environmental conditions. Plant biology made comprehensible for practical use.

► *Start a small plot, learn seed-saving, map local seasonal plant calendars.*

№ 29

EDIBLE WILD PLANTS

Lee Allen Peterson

Field guide to 200+ edible plants — identification, seasons, preparation, and caution notes for look-alikes.

► *Learn high-yield safe species for your region. Create drying and preserving protocols.*

№ 36

FARMERS OF FORTY CENTURIES

F.H. King

Sustainable agriculture systems that fed civilizations for thousands of years without industrial inputs.

► *Deep knowledge of soil health and long-cycle food production. Essential for any nest planning food autonomy.*



◆ UNDERSTANDING POWER ◆

UNDERSTANDING POWER — *Propaganda, mass movements, authoritarianism, and how control is manufactured*

№ 34

PROPAGANDA

Edward Bernays

The foundational text on mass persuasion, written by the architect of modern public relations. How consent is manufactured at scale.

► *Know how influence works — on you and on others. Inoculation against manipulation starts with understanding it.*

№ 38

THE TRUE BELIEVER

Eric Hoffer

A psychological study of how mass movements form, grow, and radicalize followers — religious, political, or ideological.

► *Understand the mechanics of radicalization. Protect your community from external manipulation and internal drift.*

№ 39

UR-FASCISM

Umberto Eco

A concise essay identifying 14 recurring traits of fascism, drawn from lived experience rather than theory.

► *Fourteen markers. Learn them. The earlier the recognition, the more options remain available.*

NEW ADDITION

№ 42

1984

George Orwell

A totalitarian state uses surveillance, propaganda, and rewritten history to maintain absolute control. Language itself becomes a weapon of oppression.

► *The definitive warning about what unchecked power looks like at scale. Read alongside Propaganda and Ur-Fascism — they form a complete picture of how freedom disappears.*

№ 18

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

Harper Lee

Through a child's eyes — injustice exposed and the quiet strength required to stand against it. Moral courage as leadership.

► *Integrity is the cornerstone of community. No nest can endure without moral backbone.*

№ 35

WHERE THERE IS NO DOCTOR

David Werner

A practical medical manual designed for communities without reliable healthcare access. Field-tested globally.

► *Every nest should have a copy. When professional care is unavailable, this book becomes the standard of care.*

"Our purpose is not fear, but foresight — knowledge as defense, unity as force, liberty as mission."