



## Quick Facts

**Season:** Spring (April-May)  
& Fall (Sept.- Nov.)

**Grades:** 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup>

**Program length:** 4 hours

**Max # of students:** 50

### Standards Connections:

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:

**3.LS.1** Analyze evidence that plants and animals have traits inherited from parents and that variation of these traits exists in a group of similar organisms.

**3.LS.2** Plan and conduct an investigation to determine the basic needs of plants to grow, develop, and reproduce.

**3.LS.3** Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade:

**4.ESS.4** Develop solutions that could be implemented to reduce the impact of humans on the natural environment and the natural environment on humans.

**4.LS.2** Use evidence to support the explanation that a change in the environment may result in a plant or animal will survive and reproduce, move to a new location, or die.

**4.LS.3** Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction in different ecosystems.

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade:

**5.LS.2** Observe and classify common Indiana organisms as producers, consumers, decomposers, or predator and prey based on their relationships and interactions with other organisms in their ecosystem.

## Program Description

This program will encourage participants to learn about local trees including their parts and functions, life cycles, and how they change seasonally, and how trees fit into their ecosystem.

## Program Objectives

Students will:

- Discover there is a great diversity among trees
- Learn that trees are living things and need nutrients, water, air, sunlight, and space to grow
- Learn how to recognize different kinds of trees by carefully observing their characteristics

## Program Outline

1. Hike  
Students will head out on our trails to get a close up view of the characteristics and diversity of trees at Merry Lea. They will participate in age-appropriate scavenger hunts, games, and other hands-on activities.
2. The afternoon will be filled with a variety of age-appropriate activities building on the concepts explored in the hike. Options include:
  - a. Build a Tree: Students will engage and act like various parts of a tree to learn how to work together to help the tree grow and stay protected
  - b. Leaf Rubbings: Students will use crayons, paper, and a variety of leaves to make leaf rubbing art
  - c. An introduction to Northern Water Snakes

## Vocabulary

- Living
- Non-living
- Habitat
- Seeds
- Deciduous
- Evergreen
- Buds