



## Quick Facts

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

**Grades:** K – 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Program length:** 4 hours

**Max # of students:** 50

### Standards Connections:

#### Kindergarten

**K.ESS.4** Communicate solutions that will reduce the impact of humans on the land, water, air, and/or other living things in the local environment.

**K.LS.1** Describe and compare the growth and development of common living plants and animals.

**K.LS.2** Describe and compare the physical features of common living plants and animals.

**K.LS.3** Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> grade:

**1.ESS.4** Develop solutions that could be implemented to reduce the impact of humans on the land, water, air, and/or other living things in the local environment.

**1.LS.1** Develop representations to describe that organisms have unique and diverse life cycles but all have in common birth, growth, reproduction, and death.

**1.LS.3** Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:

**2.LS.2** Compare and contrast details of body plans and structures within the life cycles of plants and animals.

**2.LS.3** Classify living organisms according to variations in specific physical features (i.e. body coverings, appendages) and describe how those features may provide an advantage for survival in different environments.

## 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