



**Merry Lea**

*Environmental Learning Center  
of Goshen College*

# Trees are Terrific!

## K - 2nd

### Program Description

The marvelous world of trees is diverse in function, characteristics and uses. Students explore trees' anatomy and physiology, life cycles, identifications and roles within different ecosystems. Examine leaves, seeds, buds and more as students hike among the trees, compare and contrast living tree examples, and participate in trail-based activities designed to spark curiosity and learning - all about trees!

### Program Objectives

Students will:

- Discover there is 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 head out on our trails to get a close-up view of the characteristics and diversity of trees at Merry Lea. They participate in age-appropriate scavenger hunts, games and other hands-on activities.

#### 2. The afternoon is filled with a variety of age-appropriate activities building on the concepts explored in the hike.

Options include:

- Build a Tree: Students engage and act like various parts of a tree, learning how to work together to help the tree grow and stay protected
- Leaf Rubbings: Students use crayons, paper and a variety of leaves to make leaf rubbing art
- An introduction to Northern watersnakes

### Vocabulary

- Living
- Non-living
- Habitat

### Quick Facts

Season	Fall: September - November Spring: April - May
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Grades	K - 2nd
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Program Length	4 hours
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Maximum # of Students	80 Students
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### Standards Correlations

**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.

**1.LS.2** Develop representations to describe that organisms have unique and diverse life cycles but all have in common birth, growth, reproduction, and death.

**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.

*See Standards Correlations for Trees are Terrific! for more academic connections.*