Autumn Adventures
K - 2nd

Program Description

Discover how animals and plants prepare for winter by observing evidence and using all 5 senses in the forests, meadows and wetlands at Merry Lea. Students think like a woodchuck, scamper like a squirrel, compare seeds' characteristics and more to experience how Indiana's wildlife is adapted to survive winter.

Program Objectives

Students will:

- Be introduced to coping strategies/adaptations that native Indiana organisms use to survive winter
- Spend time exploring outdoors for evidence of organisms preparing for winter

Program Outline

1. Activity Stations

   Students rotate in groups through several stations. At each station, students discover what each specific plant or animal group is doing during the fall to help prepare for winter. There are hands-on activities at each location. Possible stations include:

   - Seeds
   - Spores
   - Trees
   - Mammals
   - Herptiles
   - Insects

2. Hike

   Students head out on our trails to get a close-up view of what plants and animals are doing this time of year. They participate in age-appropriate scavenger hunts, games and other hands-on activities.

Vocabulary

- Adaptation
- Deciduous
- Hibernate
- Migrate
- Cold-blooded
- Metamorphosis

Quick Facts

Season	Fall: September - November
Grades	K - 2nd
Program Length	1.5 - 4 hours
Maximum # of Students	80 Students

Standards Correlations

K.PS.1 Plan and conduct an investigation using all senses to describe and classify different kinds of objects by their composition and physical properties.

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

2.LS.1 Determine patterns and behavior of parents and offspring, which help offspring to survive.

2.LS.3 Classify living organisms according to variations in specific physical features and describe how those features may provide an advantage for survival in different ecosystems.

See Standards Correlations for Autumn Adventures for more academic connections.