



Merry Lea

*Environmental Learning Center
of Goshen College*

Trees are Terrific!

3rd - 5th

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
- Discover how trees interact with other organisms in their habitat.

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 Merry Lea's animal ambassador

Vocabulary

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

Quick Facts

Season Fall: September - November
Spring: April - May

Grades 3rd - 5th

Program Length 4 hours

Maximum # of Students 80 Students

Standards Correlation

LS1.B: Growth and Development of Organisms: Reproduction is essential to the continued existence of every kind of organism. Plants and animals have unique and diverse life cycles. (3-LS1-1)

LS1.A: Structure and Function: Plants and animals have both internal and external structures that serve various functions in growth, survival, behavior, and reproduction. (4-LS1-1)

LS1.C: Organization for Matter and Energy Flow in Organisms: Plants acquire their material for growth chiefly from air and water. (5-LS1-1)

LS2.B: Cycles of Matter and Energy Transfer in Ecosystems: Matter cycles between the air and soil and among plants, animals, and microbes as these organisms live and die. Organisms obtain gasses, and water, from the environment, and release waste matter (gas, liquid, or solid) back into the environment. (5-LS2-1)