



Merry Lea

*Environmental Learning Center
of Goshen College*

Autumn Adventures

1st & 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, 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:

- Plants
- Mammals
- Herptiles
- Bird

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
- Storage
- Hibernate
- Migrate
- Cold-blooded

Quick Facts

Season	Fall: September - November
Grades	1st - 2nd
Program Length	1.5 - 4 hours
Maximum # of Students	80 Students

Standards Correlation

LS1.B: Growth and Development of Organisms: Adult plants and animals can have young. In many kinds of animals, parents and the offspring themselves engage in behaviors that help the offspring to survive. (1-LS1-2)

LS1.A: Structure and Function: All organisms have external parts. Different animals use their body parts in different ways to see, hear, grasp objects, protect themselves, move from place to place, and seek, find, and take in food, water and air. Plants also have different parts (roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits) that help them survive and grow. (1-LS1-1)

ESS1.B: Earth and the Solar System: Seasonal patterns of sunrise and sunset can be observed, described, and predicted. (1-ESS1-2)

LS4.D: Biodiversity and Humans: There are many different kinds of living things in any area, and they exist in different places on land and in water. (2-LS4-1)

LS2.A: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems: Plants depend on animals for pollination or to move their seeds around. (2-LS2-2)

LS2.A: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems: Plants depend on water and light to grow. (2-LS2-1)