



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
- 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

Quick Facts ←

Season Fall: September - November
Spring: April - May

Grades K - 2nd

Program Length 4 hours

Maximum # of Students 80 Students

Standards Correlation

ESS3.A: Natural Resources: Living things need water, air, and resources from the land, and they live in places that have the things they need. Humans use natural resources for everything they do. (K-ESS3-1)

LS1.C: Organization for Matter and Energy Flow in Organisms: All animals need food in order to live and grow. They obtain their food from plants or from other animals. Plants need water and light to live and grow. (K-LS1-1)

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)

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

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