

### **Grab Bag Ideas: Nature**

Cut the activity descriptions into strips, select age appropriate ones and fold into 4ths. Put them in a lunch bag. Participants reach in, grab an activity and do it! If they finish before others, grab another one! Alternate method is to do each activity as a whole group. The sharing/processing time is an important educational element – don't skip it!

Stuff you'll need to have on hand: paper for lists, pencils, baggies or paper bags for "collecting" activities, pennies (or larger coins if younger girls) hangers or sticks, string, scissors glue, 36" piece(s) of string, paper, crayons Micro Story Trail – String about 10 feet long tied to a stick on each end to define the trail. 6 – 8 "loose" sticks to mark the points of interest. Easiest to store if the sticks are not very big around and about 6 inches tall. Hand lens/bug box if possible

### **Sign of the Season Discovery Hike**

Walk around, observe and note all you can about the plants and animals that indicate the season of the year.

### **Treasure Hunt**

Make a list of ten items to be found in this area for a nature treasure hunt.

### **Bugs Eye View**

Find a good spot, stretch out with eyes on the grass level to see how the world looks to a bug. Plan to share your observations.

### **Touch and Feel Hike**

- |                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Find the hairiest leaf  | 2. Find the shortest leaf |
| 3. Find the smoothest rock | 4. Find the roughest rock |
| 5. Find something cool     | 6. Find something warm    |
| 7. Find something bumpy    | 8. Find something dry     |

### **Micro Story Trail**

Use your imagination to tell a story that ties together some interesting things you see. Select an area for your story. Each stake is placed at something of interest along the trail that is part of your story. The string is the trail that joins the story together.

### **Penny Museum**

The object is to see how many items you can find that will fit on the head of a penny.

### **Nature Zoo**

Look for natural items that suggest animals (twigs, rocks etc), combine features (rocks as eyes on a twig snake). See how many "living creatures" you can make.

### **Feel Mobile**

Find at least six items with different textures. Use a hanger or stick to make a mobile.

### **Tree Hunt**

Find a tree: 1) with branches that spread out like a fan, 2) With a tall straight trunk like a flagpole 3) one each: grey bark, black bark, rough bark, smooth bark, peeling bark, white bark, greenish bark 4) one each: whose leaves are pointed, rounded, rough.

### **Stake a Claim**

Select a spot and stake a claim by making a circle around it with your 3 ft piece of string. Study all the different things you can find within your claim.

### **Nature Rubbings**

Select some nature items. Make a crayon rubbing of each item. Think of a picture to create using your rubbings.

### **Sun Dial**

In a sunny location, draw a 6 inch (or larger) circle on the ground and place an upright stick in the center. Use a compass to determine north. Make this 12 o'clock. Mark the other hours. The stick's shadow will tell you the time.

### **Observing Nature**

Stand/sit in one place, find at least 10 colors and 5 sounds in your surroundings. Think about where you see the colors or hear the sounds in relationship to yourself. Write one line that describes one color or sound and tells the location in relation to you. Eg. A few white clouds up in the sky; chirping sound of a bird near me.

### **Poetry**

Find a quiet spot to write a Cinquain poem. Cinquain is 5 lines – 1<sup>st</sup> line one word to name, 2<sup>nd</sup> two words to describe the action, 3<sup>rd</sup> a 3 word phrase, 4<sup>th</sup> a 4 word descriptive phrase, 5<sup>th</sup> one word to summarize Eg:

### **Sound Map**

Draw a figure of yourself (stick is ok) in the middle of the paper. Sit quietly. When a sound is heard, draw a picture or write the word of what made the sound in the direction the sound came from.

### **Hug a Tree**

Pick a tree you like the looks of. Go to it and wrap your arms around it. Look up into the branches, feel and smell the bark, study its leaves. Can you see any seeds? Is anyone living there (birds, insects, other plants? How does it react to the wind?