

# Bellemeade Park Arbor Day

April 25, 2025

## Two ninety-minute field trips for 45 kids

Divide students into four groups to visit 4 stations / Each station is 20 minutes /  
11 or 12 kids at a station at a time / 10 volunteers needed

When children first arrive, they will be divided into four groups to hear a two-minute introduction to Arbor Day from the guest forester, Scott, Bob, and Carolyn. They will also receive an overview of what they will experience.

At the end of the four station rotation, the kids will gather in their groups of 11 or 12 to brainstorm all the ways they are thankful for trees. They will be asked a few debrief questions: what do you want to remember about trees, what did you most enjoy? They will conclude by scattering seeds and walking over them to help plant them.

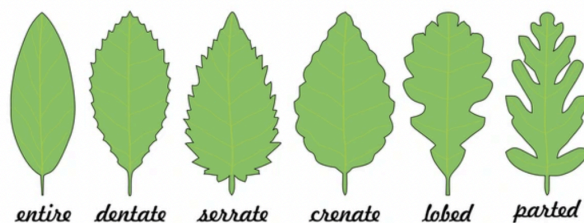
### Station 1 Tree Discovery

**4 volunteers minimum/12 students max**

**Location: In the grove of native trees near the stream**

Divide kids into four groups of three to rotate through four five minute experiences:

**Leaf match:** Each child is given three leaves and invited to notice the leaf margins (edges). Each child is given a laminated copy of the picture below. The children are invited to see which margins match the leaves they are holding. The children are then invited to find the three trees in the native tree grove where their leaves come from. Baskets at the base of six trees will have a picture of the outline of the leaves that come from the tree. Children will place the leaves in the appropriate basket and look up at the growing leaves (5 minutes)



**Seed match:** Each child is given a tray full of rich potting soil. Inside the soil are five seed pods - (acorns, tulip poplar, winged samaras, sweet gum, and sycamore seedballs). Children are invited to dig in the soil to find the five seeds. They then look at a [seed chart](#) to see what kind of tree will grow from the seed. Once they have identified the trees, they will bury the seeds back in the soil. The group will discuss the importance of sun, nutrient rich soil, and rain to help the seed grow. (5 minutes)

### Materials needed:

Bob collects:  
Leaves - Collect 11 full grown leaves from 3 different trees

Baskets for six trees with outline pictures of the shape of the tree's leaves attached to the front

12 trays with potting soil and 5 seeds buried in each - (acorns, tulip poplar, winged samaras, sweet gum, and sycamore seedballs - see picture) Total of 12 seeds needed of each type.

Carolyn provides:  
Laminated cards of leaf margins  
Laminated cards of seeds  
Laminated pictures of adult trees that will grow from seeds



**Bud match** - Lay out 5 pairs of branches with buds from 5 different trees. The kids match the branches from the same tree and then look at the buds with magnifying glass. Discuss how buds will mature and in what ways they help wildlife. (5 minutes)

**Match up with your favorite tree!**

Find a tree you really like and draw a face of how it makes you feel, and if you have time, draw yourself next to the tree! (5 minutes)

Bob supplies 5 pairs of branches with buds from 5 different trees

3 magnifying glasses

**Station 2 Wood Maker Space - Free Play**

**2 volunteers/ 12 students max**

**In the shaded outdoor classroom area next to the garden and near the stream**

Children discuss how humans and animals use wood from trees. They then are invited to create sculptures, habit structures for animals, buildings, bridges, sculptures, or anything else they choose from a large collection of drift wood, wood scraps and uniform building materials.

Sand paper will be available for kids that want to sand.

This station may also include brush pile building to create animal habitat.

Bob supplies 40 pieces of wood scraps, drift wood, and uniform nontoxic lumber and containers to put them in that kids can carry.

Outdoor cabinet to store wood maker space materials

Carolyn loans - wood pieces  
Provides Sand paper  
Pictures and information on brush piles

**Station 3 Make a tree**

**4 volunteers/4 sets of tree materials/ 3 kids per group**

**On the far end of the native tree area neat the stream**

Kids work in groups of three to use frayed rope roots, large bark panels, and branches and twigs of different sizes to

**Bob supplies**

12 Frayed pieces of rope that looks like tree roots

9 large bark panels (three feet by one foot)

<p>assemble trees on the ground. Once complete, the children are given pictures of animals that live in trees to place where they belong - in burrows under the trees, in trunk cavity nests, in the branches in dreys, etc. The kids will also add pictures of people to sit under the tree, climb it, etc. There will be a brief discussion on how people benefit from trees.</p> <p>Students will be shown bowls of fruit and vegetables. Students will sort which of these they believe come from trees and place them on the assembled trees.</p>	<p>Collection of 24 large branches, 24 medium branches and 24 small branches</p> <p>Carolyn supplies: Bowl of banana, apples, oranges, and other fruits and vegetables some of which come from trees and some which don't</p>
<p><b>Station 4 The Story of Decomposing</b> <b>2 volunteers/12 students max</b></p> <p><b>Forest floor area in close proximity to the outdoor classroom where the wood maker space will be</b></p> <p>The kids are asked to think about leaf litter on the ground. How long has it been there? What will happen to it? How does it help the ecosystem?</p> <p>The kids are then invited to rake leaves into a big pile to hide oversized bugs made from repurposed materials. The kids will learn the role leaf litter plays for insects (serves as a vital habitat, food source, and overwintering site)</p> <p>Kids may run through leaves and kick leaves.</p> <p>Each child is given small bowls and children's scissors to cut up leaf litter to make it nature confetti. Students will be shown pictures of microbes, millipedes, worms, and insects that help leaves decompose. Kids can help too by cutting up leaves into confetti! Children Spread the nature confetti around the forest floor after cutting is done to help recycle nutrients.</p>	<p>Bob supplies</p> <p>6 children's rakes and 5 children's brooms</p> <p>12 child size scissors</p> <p>Carolyn supplies</p> <p>Pictures of decomposers Oversize bugs</p>