# NATURE ADVENTURE





Use these cards as inspiration to get out into nature and have some fun with family and friends!

You will find four cards, each with different activity suggestions relating to trees!

### 1 LEAP IN!

A simple adventure you can go on in almost any outdoor location from the park, to your own yard or balcony.

### 3 SPEAK UP!

You and your family (and friends!) can play with words, tell about adventures, or even make up a song!



## 2 PLAY ON!

Bring out the creative side in you!

### 4 GREEN UP!

Stewardship is the theme here, and in this activity, you will help animals or local areas thrive because of what you do!

#### HAVE FUN!

> TREES

### 1 LEAP IN! AGES 7-11

#### "LEAF IT" TO ME

It's not always easy to identify trees, but one great clue is their leaves. Use a tree identification book to help you along. Keep these three things in mind as you figure out your tree:

- SIZE: Compare the size of the leaf to something, even your own hand. You might want to take a picture, too. This is very important
- SHAPE: The shape of the leaf is your best clue for figuring out what it is. How many points does the leaf have? Are the edges smooth or jagged?
- COLOR: Not all leaves are green, so be sure to factor in the color of your leaf. In the fall, leaves turn different colors, too.





#### TREES

#### STICK AROUND

Have you ever noticed how fun it is to play with sticks? If not, pick up a stick and try one of the following fun outdoor stick activities!

- Pretend you're a wizard and use your stick as a magic wand. What would you transform? What powers would you give yourself?
- Find a big walking stick to use as you hike, walk across streams, and so on.
- Find small sticks and drop them off a bridge to the river or stream below. Play with a friend and see whose stick emerges first on the other side.
- Have a stick sword fight with a friend . . . carefully!
- 🛊 Practice writing messages with your stick in the snow or mud.



TREES

### 3 SPEAK UP! AGES 7-11

#### LEAF A NOTE

Paper is made from trees, but have you ever tried writing notes in or on leaves? It is biodegradable, fun, and pretty. Try writing notes about trees on tiny slips of paper, roll them up, and hide them inside leaves or acorn caps if you happen to have them in your area. Try this:

- step ]
- Go for a walk and collect some leaves or acorn caps from a park or in your neighborhood.
- step 2
- Now cut paper into tiny slips—about 1" by 3" 4".
- step 3
- On each slip of paper, write something you like about trees, see in trees, or wonder about trees.
- step 4
- Roll each slip and place it inside its own acorn cap or leaf tied with a little bit of string. Or you can skip the paper and try gently writing on the leaf directly. Try a soft tipped marker or pen.
- step 5
- If you want, you can sprinkle the notes on a table in your house, school, or library.
  Who knows, maybe you'll inspire someone to go outside and celebrate trees!

Children Wature Network

GREEN UP!

AGES 7-11

#### > TREES

#### PLANT A TREE

In addition to their pure beauty, trees make up a critical part of our environment. You can help trees anywhere, even in urban settings! Ask your local nature center or other organization how to help the trees in your community. You can also ask how to get on their volunteer list to help plant trees or care for them in other ways.

In the United States, Arbor Day is celebrated the last Friday in April of each year. This is a day dedicated to public tree-planting in many countries around the world. The Arbor Day Foundation (www.arborday.org) is a wonderful resource to learn about Arbor Day and caring for trees everywhere!

