

## Nature Hike

**Ages:** Grades 5-8

**Time:** 45-60 minutes

**No. of participants:** 9-12 available

**No. of additional adults:** 1 if available

**Required supplies:**

- Recording sheet
- Clipboards
- pencils
- Plant, Tree, and Fern Identification guides

**Objective:** To categorize and identify plants found while hiking the DCC trails.

### **Activity Instructions**

**1. Introduction:**

- a. Today we are going to go hiking along The Creekside trail. As we do, we are going to see how many plants we can identify.

**2. Beginning Instructions:**

- a. Briefly describe each of the 5 categories on the recording sheet and show them the matching identification guides.
- b. Have the campers get into groups of three or four. Choose one person to be the recorder and the others to be the identifiers (each getting one of the identification guides), although be sure to explain that the groups will still need to help each other out and work together.
- c. Recorders, come up and get a paper, clipboard, and pencil.
- d. Identifiers come up and get one of these identification guides.
- e. Once everyone has his/her supplies, set off for the hike.

**3. Main Activity:**

- a. At the trailhead, stop and explain what they will be doing on the hike:
  - i. As we hike you and your group will be looking for different types of plants.
  - ii. Your goal is to identify them using your identification guides (and the help of the adults) and then to determine which category they go into and list them in that section.
  - iii. Please don't disturb the plants - just use your eyes to identify them.
- b. At the end of the trail, or when you are out of time, stop the group and ask each group to share one of their favorite findings of the hike with the group.

*\*As you are hiking, share facts with the campers about things on the trail including sampling some edible plants/berries.*

**4. Conclusion:**

- a. Collect identification guides, clipboards and pencils. Students may keep recording sheet if they'd like.

**Non-flowering plants**

**Wild-flowers**

**Berries**

**Ferns**

**Trees**