

MEET A TREE

Best for ages 4 and up

You don't need a class or an advanced degree to get your kids interested in nature. And the first thing scientists do is observe and think. This activity is a game the whole family can play together. All you need is a group of trees and something to use as a blindfold.

Steps:

1. Find a place with a number of trees you can easily approach.
2. Pair up, with at least one person left over to watch the group so little ones or not-so-little ones don't stumble or fall.
3. One person in each pair puts on a blindfold, and the other does not.
4. The person without the blindfold leads the other to a tree. The blindfolded person feels the tree, hugs the tree, generally gets good and close to the tree.
5. The person without the blindfold then leads the blindfolded person back to a central location. The blindfold comes off, and the person who had been wearing it tries to identify which tree they "met" up close and personal!
6. Then the pairs change roles and go to meet a new tree.

What have we learned?

- What trees feel like (textured, hard, rough, smooth).
How often do we touch a tree, really?
- Your senses and thoughtful reflection can solve problems for you.
- Trusting a partner is important.
- Working together can be fun.

