

EXPLORE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM. LEARN INSIDE OUR STATE.

Becoming a Naturalist: Using Your Senses
Aspen Center for Environmental Studies: Hallam Lake

Background:

A naturalist is an expert or student of natural history who observes animals and plants in their natural environment. A sense of curiosity and keen observation skills, using one's senses (sight, sound, touch and smell) to explore are the most important skills to hone as a naturalist. Other items that are important for naturalists would be equipment such as a notebook, magnifying lens and binoculars.

Hone your skills as a naturalist. Learn about what it takes to become one and understand the tools a naturalists uses by watch the following videos:

- [How to Get Started as Naturalist](#)
- [Naturalist Training Secrets](#)
- [The Tools of a Naturalist](#)
- [On the Job: Being a Naturalist.](#)

Activity: Before heading out to explore Hallam Lake Nature Preserve, explain that you will be exploring the preserve and the wildlife that call it home. Make sure to grab a self-guided tour book, before embarking on the half-mile nature loop. Binoculars are available for you to borrow and a naturalist is always available to join you and answer any questions.

During the hike, kids should complete the 'Nature Journal' chart below to document what they observed today in the found column. Use the questions below to help guide them during their exploration.

Questions to Ask:

- 1) What are your five senses? *Sight, sound, Touch, Smell and Taste*
- 2) What are some rules we should follow on our hike? *Be respectful (leave no trace), ask questions, be quiet, use our senses*
- 3) What kind of sounds do you hear? Who made them?
- 4) Pick one natural thing you see and describe it. (Think about color, size, shape)
- 5) What plant/animal looks soft? What plant/animal looks rough?

Nature Journal

Found (Use words and/or pictures)	Sense Used (Sight, Sounds, Smell, Touch)