

## **Eco Explorers Session 4: Trees**

Instructors: Deneen Cienfuegos and Rachel Ameche

This hands-on ecology course explores the world of trees and the ecosystems they support. Students will learn through outdoor exploration, nature journaling, observation, field investigation, and creative projects. The class builds on prior learning about bees, birds, and flowers by examining how trees connect entire ecosystems.

Students will spend significant time outside learning to observe closely, ask questions, and document discoveries like real field scientists.

Students will:

- Understand basic tree biology and structure
- Recognize different types of trees and how they grow
- Explore how trees function as living organisms
- Investigate how trees support wildlife and ecosystems
- Identify microhabitats and decomposition processes
- Practice nature journaling and scientific observation
- Develop curiosity, stewardship, and respect for the natural world

To participate in this class students must be willing to engage in outdoor exploration, make effort in nature journaling and contribute to group discussions and activities. There are no formal tests. Learning is demonstrated through curiosity, observation, and involvement. Students should come to class with clothing and shoes appropriate for outdoor activities.