

Operation EarthWatch

October 2009: NATURE CARE!

K - 3rd grades: Choose at least 3 activities

4th - 5th grades: Choose at least 3 activities,
plus one "Choose Your Own".

*Please return this sheet to your homeroom teacher
or to the school office by **October 30, 2009**.*

*Attach another sheet, if necessary, when
completing form. Sheets are also available online
at www.operationearthwatch.org.*

Your Name: _____

School: _____

Email (optional): _____

Grade: ____ Teacher's Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Wild Animal Poem or Story



Write and illustrate a poem or story about a wild animal (mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, insect) that lives in Falls Church. For example, you might rhyme about rabbits, rap about foxes, or explain how to help birds. We will post your poem and illustration on the Operation EarthWatch website. Attach your story or poem. What was the animal you wrote about?

Squirrel Helpers


Squirrels depend on oaks, hickories, and other nut trees for their food. They also help in the growing process by "planting" the seeds of the trees. Sit quietly for about 15 minutes and observe squirrels in your yard or at a park. Watch what they eat and what they bury in the ground. What did you observe?

Insect Detective




Whether you live in a house or an apartment, there are plenty of insects that live in your yard or green space. Insects are important because they provide food for birds, mammals, and reptiles, and many of them help create rich soil. Look closely around your yard (in the grass, under rocks, on trees, around flowers, etc.), and count as many different kinds of insects as you can. Ask an adult to help you identify as many insects as possible. Write their names below and/or draw them on another sheet. How many did you find?

Soil Story

-  With the help of an adult, find a good spot in your yard or local green space, and with a small trowel or shovel remove about $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of soil and place in an empty clean jar with a tight fitting lid. Add about 2 cups of water. Shake the jar for about 2 minutes and then leave the jar to sit over night. Look at the jar carefully the next day (without moving the jar). The soil should settle out in layers with the heavier particles (like sand) sinking to the bottom first, followed by lighter material (like silt and clay). Do you see layers in your jar? Did the experiment work? Why or why not?

Activities and Events

- Fall Cleanup:** Join in the fun of working together at the 21st Annual Fall Cleanup and Picnic, Oct 3, 10:30 a.m. Come to the Community Center (223 Little Falls St.) to receive instructions, tools and a litter cleanup assignment. Stay afterwards for a delicious lunch! Bring your family or participate as part of a service group. Call 703-248-5176 in advance. What was the most unusual item you found at the cleanup?

-  **TJ Outdoor Classroom Work Party:** Join us on Sunday, October 18, 1-3 p.m. (rain date October 25, 1-3 p.m.) as we put the outdoor classroom gardens to rest for the winter at TJ Elementary School (601 S. Oak St.). St. James and Mt. Daniel students are welcome to join us and learn about the Native American Garden, Colonial Garden and Pumpkin Trellis! What did you learn at the work party?



Choose Your Own!

- Choose your own activity related to the theme of **Nature Care**. Describe it below or on another sheet of paper and complete the activity.

Operation EarthWatch Coordinators

Mt Daniel: Susan Matchett - sematchett@gmail.com

Thomas Jefferson: Stephanie Johnson - sjohnson@fallschurchva.gov

St. James: Laurel Ruland - lpruland@cox.net

Thanks for volunteering for Operation EarthWatch!

Operation EarthWatch is sponsored by the City of Falls Church and the Falls Church Environmental Services Council.

Students who complete all six activity sheets (October thru March) receive a T-shirt and are eligible to march with other EarthWatchers in the Memorial Day parade!

The City of Falls Church is committed to the letter and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request a reasonable accommodation for any type of disability call 703-248-5176, (TTY 711).

