

Coyote Campfire Fall 2017

Name	Mindy Weck
Organization/program you work with	Hill school/Earth Village Education
Organization/program website	www.thehillsschool.org / www.earthvillageeducation.org
Where are you located?	Middleburg VA United States
What is the name of your activity/skill	Nut Gathering
What age is this skill/activity appropriate for?	preschool (under 5) young kids (5-8) Preteen (9-12) teen adult
Any special materials needed to lead this activity?	Baskets or something in which to carry nuts & a knife or nut cracker
Brief activity overview/description	<p>My current favorite activity to lead with youth in nature is gathering nuts. It's hickory, walnut & chestnut season here in Middleburg, VA. And my children & their peers are really excited about how many of the trees on "their" land (home, school, neighborhood) bare fruit. They've enjoyed trying to figure out what nut goes with what leaf & tree, what familiar nut is encased in their less familiar shells, how do flavors of the different nuts compare... We've decided that the hickory nut is quite "fruity" compared to the walnut, but it is harder to emancipate from its shell. We've had conversations about gathering enough nuts to sell & wondering why no stores seem to be selling those hickory nuts. We've been wondering about the appeal of roasted vs. raw chestnuts. Its hard to believe that just right back there in the woods and along the fence line you can find enough nuts to fill everyone's basket. Who would have thought that we had so much food out there in the suburban wild:)</p>