

Coyote Campfire Fall 2017

Name	Lauren Chavez
Organization/program you work with	Sempervirens Fund
Organization/program website	www.sempervirens.org
Where are you located?	San Francisco CA United States
What is the name of your activity/skill	acorn 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?	nope! but it helps if each person has a basket or bag for collecting, and I like to have multiple acorns from different species and a variety of baskets to support story telling
Brief activity overview/description	<p>Kind of silly writing this. The activity is simply collecting acorns ;) but it is my favorite thing to do with people right now! Little kids like my 5 year old daughter especially. I like to open with the Coast Miwok story of the daughters of father sky sitting up there weaving and looking down through the clouds they see beautiful California, then notice the skinny starving people. And they want to help. Father sky says they could down to provide food, and in turn each sister overturns her basket, puts it on her head like a hat, and floats down to become a different species of oak tree and provide food for the poor, skinny Californians. The eldest sister leaves the sky first, and thus has the fewest tannins in her acorns. With her long elegant face and tight tidy basket, she becomes the Valley Oak. The youngest sister immediately wants to go to, and she becomes the small Coast Live Oak. Then the lazy middle sister, whose basket is not nearly complete decides to go too. The pointy spines from her basket become her pointy acorn cap as Tan Oak - not really an oak, but still good for acorn meal ;) Then the next middle sister, who has been weaving this whole while finishes her tall basket, overturns it on her head, and it is so tall, it almost covers her whole face. Though she doesn't really want to leave the Sky World, she descends to join her sisters and becomes the Black Oak. Because she was in the skyworld the longest, her acorns have the most tannins, but also offer the sweetest and oiliest meal. Thanks to Ane Carla Rovetta for sharing this awesome story with me many years ago!</p>
Are there any video or audio links to this activity	Verified