

September 2015

Leaf Collection Project
4th Grade students and parents

As part of our 4th grade science curriculum, I would like the students to make a leaf collection. It will be a great opportunity for them to get out, study, and enjoy God's awesome creation. God has created a wonderful world for us to enjoy. As they are studying God's creation, we should not forget to give Him praise for all the many different varieties of trees he has created. We will be going to Heritage Village in Sioux Center on Friday, Sept. 11, where they will have an opportunity to collect about 2 - 5 leaves.

Thing to know:

1. You need to collect leaves from at least 10 different species of trees. These leaves must be neatly mounted and labeled (labels are attached to this sheet). You must have examples of *both* simple leaves and compound leaves. Please make a cover for your collection including your name.
2. If you are collecting leaves from your neighborhood, please **ask** each homeowner for permission to collect leaves from their trees. *Respect* other people's property. Be polite and courteous. Remember we represent Christ and Rock Valley Christian School.
3. Good places to collect leaves are parks such as Newton Hills State Park, Oak Grove State Park, Heritage Village in Sioux Center, etc. Remember to take only a few leaves. Please **do not** hurt the tree.
4. Leaves must be preserved in some way for them to stay good. The best way is to press the leaves between sheets of newsprint or other soft paper to dry them. (Telephone books work great for this, as do camping directories.) The paper acts as a "blotter" to draw out the moisture in the leaves. Set something heavy on top to keep them flat. Make sure you place the leaf carefully between the paper, because after it's dried you can't change the shape. It will take about one week for them to dry. After the leaves are dried and pressed, mount and label them neatly.
5. This would be a great project to work on with your child. As you are collecting leaves enjoy yourself and the wonderful outdoors that God has given us to explore. If you need help identifying your leaves, any library would have tree field guides. I also have a few that I can loan out. You may borrow them, but it will be for only a short period of time so that everyone in class will have a chance to use them if they wish. There are a few web sites that also have leaf keys to use electronically. They are listed on the bottom of this sheet.
6. A suggestion for mounting the leaves once they are dried is to tape them to a piece of construction paper or use photo stickers. I can get construction paper

for them to use. They then can put the papers in their binders that they brought to school. We have a 3-hole punch in school if you don't have one at home. Another idea is to put your construction paper into page protectors. I do have page protectors you can purchase for \$. 10 each if needed.

7. As you start collecting leaves, please note that you **need** to know how the leaf is arranged on the tree branch. In some books or leaf keys, that is very important in identifying a leaf.
8. **Due date is October 7.** Your grade for this project will be based on neatness, accuracy, attractiveness, and getting it in on time.

9. Leaf keys on the internet (in the past):

http://forestry.about.com/library/treekey/bltree_key_id_start.htm

<http://www.fw.vt.edu/dendro/forsite/key/intro.htm>

<http://www.oplin.org/tree/leaf/byleaf.html>

<http://www.fw.vt.edu/dendro/forsite/key/intro.htm>

Sample leaf label:

Name of Tree: _____

Place leaf collected _____

Broadleaf or Needleleaf (circle one)

Simple or Compound Leaf (circle one)

Arrangement of leaf on tree branch is:

___opposite ___alternate

Venation (vein pattern) is:

___parallel ___pinnate

___palmate

Margin or edge of leaf is:

___entire(smooth) ___toothed

___wavy ___lobed

If your leaf is a needle leaf, you do not have to fill out any more of the leaf label other than the first three lines.