



LOWER PLATTE NORTH Natural Resources District

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Earth Day 2020 Activities

The Lower Platte North NRD is excited you have chosen to celebrate in the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day! This year is unlike any other year, so we have created a list of ideas to help you celebrate while still following the guidelines from recommended health officials.

Neighborhood Cleanup

Grab a bag and walk around your neighborhood picking up any trash. You can also go to a local park or hiking/biking trail. Please be sure you follow social distancing of six feet of others, no gatherings over ten and don't enter areas that have been closed to the public. If your city offers recycling, find out what items they accept and recycle anything you can!

Bird Feeder Activity

Materials:

- toilet paper roll or pinecone
- peanut butter
- spoon, popsicle stick, or spatula (for spreading peanut butter on)
- bird seed
- string
- container (to catch falling bird seed when you sprinkle it on to the feeder)



Directions:

1. Gather your materials
2. You may want to ask an adult for help with spreading the peanut butter onto the paper roll or pinecone – this part gets messy!
3. Use a spoon to spread peanut butter over the roll or pinecone.
4. Set your container under where you plan to sprinkle the bird seed on your feeder.

5. Sprinkle to bird seed on your feeder.
6. Take your string and tie it around the feeder so it is ready to hang on a tree!

Plant a Tree

Contact your local Natural Resources District if they have any trees available or a local nursery. (Please be sure to ask an adult before planting a tree to make sure you allow plenty of room for it to grow.) Don't forget to water it every day!

For [tree planting tips](#), please visit the forestry page on our website at lpnnrd.org

Take a Nature Hike

Go on a nature walk and explore your neighborhood or a local park! *Please remember to follow current health guidelines.* Bring a notebook and pen or a camera to document your findings

We've created some things to look for to help you get started on your nature walk. [Download Scavenger Hunt](#)

Take a look around and explore:

- What do you see above your head?
- What do you see at your feet?
- What do you hear? Take a moment to sit down, close your eyes and listen to all the sounds.
- What birds do you hear or see? Can you identify what bird it is?
- What other wildlife do you see?

Write down all of your discoveries in your notebook, or take a picture of what you find!



Adopt A Tree *(Based on Project Learning Tree's Activity)* Explore the trees in your neighborhood or a local park. If you plan to observe a tree that is not in your yard (for example a neighbor's yard, a tree at the local library, etc.), check with an adult to make sure it is ok for you to observe the tree. Once you have chosen your favorite tree, take a picture or draw it on a piece of paper. You can create your own Tree Journal to record findings about your tree over a few days, weeks, months or by the season.

Once you have found your tree to adopt, begin your observation by describing things about your tree. For example: *My tree is not very tall. It does not have any trees on it, but it does have little pink flowers. The flowers smell good. The bark on the tree is smooth and brownish-gray. My tree is next to a very tall tree that doesn't have any leaves on it.*

Starter sentences and ideas for your tree journal:

- My tree looks like...
- My tree feels like...
- My tree smells like...
- My tree is surrounded by...
- Using all five senses, describe your tree.
- Are there other trees next to your tree?
- Are there other plants next to your tree?
- Does the tree have leaves? If so, what color are the leaves?
- Does the tree have flowers? What color are they? What do they smell like?
- Does the tree have any fruits, nuts or seeds? Draw what you find.
- What kind of tree is it? [Download this tree guide to help you find out](#)
- Can you measure the circumference of the tree's trunk?
- If you plan to do this activity throughout all seasons, observe these things: when do buds start to grow on the tree? when do the leaves start to fall? If it has fruit, when does the fruit start growing and when is it ready to be picked from the tree? If it has seedpods, when do the seedpods start falling off?

For older students:

- Imagine you are a bird. Could you build a nest in this tree? What would you need to build the nest? Where would you put the nest at? Draw a picture of the nest in your tree.
- Do you see any animals or evidence of animals being in or around your tree? Don't forget to look closely for any insects! Identify or draw the insects you find in your journal.
- Where is your tree located? Can you draw a map showing where your tree is at?
- During the summer and fall, observe when the tree provides the most shade. What other economic benefits might this tree provide? (Hint: think of what the tree can provide for a house)
- Does your tree provide any environmental benefits? (Hint: weather events)
- Think of wildlife that might live in this tree. What advantages and disadvantages does this tree have for the animal's habitat?

