



Waldo County 4-H Program
992 Waterville Rd, Waldo, ME 04915
(207) 342-5971 Ext
(800) 287-1426 toll free in Maine
(800) 287-8957 TDD
sadee.mehuren@maine.edu
joyce.weaver@maine.edu

Putting knowledge to work with the people of Maine

Adopt A Tree

Purpose of activity: The purpose of the Adopt A Tree activity is to provide youth with the tools they need to become citizen scientists, including scientific observation and data recording.

Materials:

- Adopt a Tree journal (scrap paper or a notebook will work as well)
- Pencil, colored pencils, or other art supplies
- Optional: Camera and printer to print photos

Instructions:

1. Look around your yard or neighborhood for a tree. Choose a tree that you will be able to find again easily and that you will have access to throughout the year.
2. Decide how long you wish to observe your tree. You can choose to adopt your tree for a month, a season, or a whole year!
3. After you have found your tree and are ready to observe your tree, use the journal (or a piece of paper) to document your observations of your adopted tree. Be creative! You can document your tree by drawing pictures, writing sentences, creating a poem, or taking photos.
4. As you observe your tree, think about what questions you have about your tree? Do you know what kind of tree it is? Look closely at different parts of your tree. Listen quietly. What do you see? What do you hear?
5. How tall is your tree? You may want to measure your tree to include the height in your journal.
6. If you have any questions about your tree, try having an adult help you do some research. You might learn something new about your tree.

Extended Challenge:

- Try inviting your friends to participate in this activity with you through a video conference. You can observe the same tree or different trees and compare your observations.