



# The Secret Lives of Trees and Forests



Livingstone  
Range  
SCHOOL DIVISION



## Secret Lives of Trees and Forests

Trees and Forests are one of the many reasons why Alberta is so beautiful! In Southern Alberta's Treaty 7 Territory, we will often find trees and forests that enrich our ecosystems and are the necessities for the plants and animals that inhabit them. What comprises trees and forests? How do forest systems interact? Why are they important? How do we identify trees and why are they here? How does human behaviour impact local ecosystems? What happens when land is deforested? Investigate these questions with us through a day of forest exploration, research and observational data collection activities.

- **Grade:** 4-6
- **Dates:** Available during the Fall, Spring and Summer seasons.
- **Where:** PEAKS Campus, your local forest or local protected wildland area.
- Materials will be provided.

**\*If you are interested or have any questions about this program, please contact [PEAKS Campus](#)**

**\*[Post Experience Survey](#):**

**Must be completed by all teachers, supervisors and students.**



# Learning Objectives

With PEAKS facilitators, you and your class will explore the biodiversity in our local forests and the impact they have on its surroundings. Students will have the opportunity to explore and investigate the following:

- Tree identification - dichotomy sheets
- Tree anatomy
- Investigation and data collection of various tree species.
- Wildfire and forest regeneration.
- Building an understanding of all life in the ecosystem.
  - Biodiversity and symbiosis
  - How living things grow and need food
  - Plant life cycles
  - Food Chain
  - Habitat health
  - Ecosystem sustainability
  - How humans affect our local forests, ecosystems, plants and animals
- Develop awareness of “Leave No Trace” concepts and our responsibilities in protecting our wildlands.
- Preservation and conservation of our ecosystems.

PEAKS Campus utilizes the following Alberta Education competencies as guiding principles to student education:

<b>CRITICAL THINKING</b>	<b>COMMUNICATION</b>
<b>PROBLEM SOLVING</b>	<b>COLLABORATION</b>
<b>MANAGING INFORMATION</b>	<b>CULTURAL AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP</b>
<b>CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION</b>	<b>PERSONAL GROWTH AND WELL-BEING</b>

Click [Curricular Links](#) for more information.

# What to Expect

## **Equipment provided by PEAKS Campus includes:**

- Multiple Copies of “Guide to Common Trees and Shrubs” & Dichotomy Sheets - Government of Alberta.
- A state of the art Mobile Field Study Lab which contains dissecting and compound microscopes, microscope supplies, 2 TV’s, sample collection supplies

## **Additional programming:**

- Interested in diving deeper into forest and ecosystem exploration? Check out our [Wetland Field Study Program](#) to broaden students’ investigation skills and perspectives of wetland ecosystems and their interactions.