Tree Explorations

NAME _____ DATE_____

Here are some different ways to explore your tree. Use a journal to keep notes, drawings, and other observations.

- Make a sketch of your tree. Draw the shape of its trunk, branches, and canopy (treetop).

- Find out what kind of tree it is. Does it have any fruits, nuts, or seeds that help you identify it? Sketch what you find. Use a field guide or other reference guide to look up its name.

- Where is your tree? Draw a map to show its location.

- Draw a picture of your tree from various perspectives: from a distance, from a high place, or from underneath looking up.

- Investigate the health of your tree. Is it alive? How can you tell? Is it healthy? In what ways are people helping or hurting it?

- Write 10 words to describe your tree, and then use these words in a paragraph or poem about your tree.

- Draw a picture of a leaf from your tree. How does the leaf smell? How does it feel?

- Make a rubbing of your tree's bark using the edge of a crayon or a soft-leaded pencil. How does the bark feel? How does it smell?

- Are any animals on or near your tree? Don't forget to look for insects, spiders, and other small animals. Use binoculars or magnifiers for a closer look.

- Are there any signs that animals have used your tree in the past? Look for holes, nests, trails, and other animal signs and describe what you see.

- Create a model that shows how your tree interacts with the environment around it.

- Measure your tree. How long are its leaves? How big around is it? Use a ruler or measuring tape to find out.

- Each time you visit your tree, describe any changes you notice since the last visit.

- Take photographs of your tree every visit. Look at several of the different photographs at once. In what ways has your tree changed over time and in what ways has it stayed the same?

- Keep track of seasonal changes in your tree. When do the leaves start to fall? When do the leaf buds form on the branches? When do the fruits or seedpods ripen?

I LOVE MY GREEN JOB!

CAREER CORNER

FORESTERS take care of forests. They monitor forest trees over long periods of time to be sure that they are growing and healthy—just like you are doing with your adopted tree.