

INTRODUCTION

The following activities have a very singular, simple purpose. They are NOT designed to provide each child or participant with everything he or she needs to know about trees. On the contrary, they are designed to instill enough curiosity and enthusiasm to spur the children on to WANT to learn everything they can about trees.

Within each unit, activities are loosely labeled P-Primary, I-Intermediate, and A-Advanced to provide some guidelines to the involvement and information contained within them. Many believe, however, that any pure exploration into science and nature has no age boundary. Discovery of something new is exciting and fresh whether it is being seen through the eyes of a 5-year-old or an 80-year-old. The noted British writer and biologist Thomas Huxley expressed it this way: "For every man the world is as fresh as it was the first day, and as full of untold novelties for him who has the eyes to see them."

In the same spirit of simplicity, most of the references listed in the units are children's and juvenile's books. Scientific and technical information in these books has already been reduced to an understandable level for the young naturalists. Such material removes one of the biggest stumbling blocks to introducing young people to the world of science and nature exploration by making technical concepts simple to understand.

With these tools and simple activities on how to use them at hand, add your own enthusiasm and curiosity, and use it all to open your children's minds and senses to the world outside their own Minnesota back door. *