



Being a Naturalist in the Life of a Child

Presented as a home gathering, brown bag lunch, or short workshop

Description. This presentation explores an exciting ongoing role, *Being a Naturalist in the Life of a Child*. The relationship can be daily (parent or neighbor), episodic (grandparent), or distant (relative). The role requires no pre-existing knowledge of nature or biology.

Children are born, as Rachel Carson observed long ago, with an innate “sense of wonder” and curiosity about the natural world. This natural connection is experienced directly through their senses – seeing, touching, hearing, and smelling.

In our modern culture, many significant influences disconnect children from a sensory experience in nature and erode their sense of wonder. Those include the commercialization of childhood, regimentation through organized activities, preoccupation with an electronic “wonder world,” over-stimulation generally, and adult oversight and protection for security and safety.



As an antidote to these modern influences, the adult naturalist amplifies and nurtures a child’s natural sense of wonder and curiosity. The benefits to both adult and child are countless, and the bonding around a shared interest in the natural world can be one of the most enriching and memorable dimensions of life for both of them.

Host. To explore this role with friends, a host schedules a Center presentation in any of three convenient formats: a home gathering - 1 ½ hrs, a brown bag lunch at work - 1 hr, or a short workshop - 2 hrs.

Center. The presentation is offered by the Center for Earth Leadership. It is one of three Center programs developed to enrich the lives of children living in an urban culture.

*For information, or to schedule a presentation, contact the Center:
503-227-2315 or info@earthleaders.org.*