

The Nature Detectives Difference

Leaders are Guides not Teachers

Leaders of Nature Detectives program are guides to provide supervision and overall direction for each class. Children take responsibility for their own learning and personal experiences.

Combine Disciplines

Programs present activities from a combination of disciplines from the arts, science and literacy. Students and their families enjoy opportunities to develop an understanding and respect for the outdoor world – plants, animals, places, landscape together – with meaningful connections as the outcome.

Learn by Observation

Nature Detectives leaders do not lecture. Our handout materials engage students to think and explore. Nature Detectives programs do not typically discuss or repeat information presented during a school day. Students learn to see with new eyes. To become aware of what they see today and discover how nature can and does change over time.

Focus on Inquiry-based learning

Hands-on exploration is our primary focus and goal – learn by observation and inquiry. Nature Detectives search for evidence, ask questions, draw, and take note of observations in *Nature Detectives Discovery Journals*.

The difficulty in leading an inquiry-based program is the need to generate good questions that can move towards meaningful answers. In the end, our perceptions and our conversations inform our understanding of the natural world.

Engagement not Assessment

Nature Detectives do not complete learning assessments or periodic evaluations. Students come with enthusiasm for learning and exploring the outdoors. During classes, they have **FUN** engaging with other students and look forward to each new session.

Nature Detectives Website

<https://naturedetectivesusa.com> features

- Original books to purchase by the author to complement and extend learning opportunities
- Free activities to download, informational blogs to support activities, and organization resources for parents and programs leaders.