



GO ON A SEASONAL SAFARI

Here in Taos, we are so lucky to live in a place with dramatically changing seasons. For example, in the fall, every area of our ecosystem is adapting to the shorter days and colder temperatures. Each season, if you observe closely enough, you will find many, many changes occurring. Please share your observations with us, if you'd like!

Materials: Magnifying glass or microscope, notebook, and pencil

1. Find a place to explore. It can certainly be a place that you know pretty well. It can be your backyard or a favorite park or up in the mountains. Make sure it is a place you will be able to visit at least once each season.
2. Walking really slowly, or on your hands and knees, look for signs of the changes in seasons.
 - a. **Search for insects under leaves**
 - b. **Feel the soil with your hand - is it warm or cold?**
 - c. **Count how many fallen leaves are within a small specific area**
 - d. **Notice if any new plants are growing...or dying**
 - e. **Look up high and down low**
 - f. **Listen for sounds that may be different**
 - g. **Smell the air, the soil, the trees**
 - h. **Check out all the colors you see**
3. Spend a bit of time just sitting and using your senses to take it all in.
4. Take notes describing what you observe that you think is only present at this time of year. Draw what you see. Notice the big things (overall setting and feel) and the small things (all those details). Take photographs, if you have access to a camera or phone.
5. If you can, visit this exact location at least one time during each season for a year and complete the above activities during each visit. What changes? What stays the same?

Field Institute of TAOS

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