

PAL

Play & Learn



Agenda



Program Introduction

Brief discussion of our plan and mission for the PAL Docent program.



Program Packages

Outline of each individual drop-in program that we currently have planned.



Scheduling

Take time to fill out scheduling forms to find optimal time for PAL program hours.



Feedback and Questions

Time to discuss any ideas, question, concerns, or feedback you may have about the program.



Current Drop-In Programs

Put a Ring on It

Objectives:

Educate the Pre-K-12 population about how tree rings are formed and what researchers can decipher about environmental and historical events etc. by examining them; take example larger cookie and give mini lecture on how rings are formed, what they signify and how scientist use them to date important events in history

Materials:

- ★ Large tree cookie/stump (clean, not too heavy)
- ★ Smaller tree cookies to pass around
- ★ Highlighters/sharpies (to mark different rings/encourage kids to mark and explore the rings on their handouts)
- ★ Create your own tree story handout



Symphony of Nature

Objectives:

Explore and learn about all the different special sounds throughout nature; matching creatures or elements to the noises they produce; challenge visitors to discover these same sounds throughout MBBY & Memphis

Materials:

- ★ Old fashioned bird call
- ★ Wooden frog noise maker
- ★ Shakers
- ★ Rainstick
- ★ Spring Peeper – Say “Peep, Peep” OR use jingle bells; Chorus Frog – Run your fingers along the teeth of a comb.; Cricket Frog – Say “Click, Click” OR use noisemaker toys OR clink two marbles together; Leopard Frog – Snore loudly OR run your fingers along a balloon; Green Frog – Snap a rubber band OR a banjo string



Memphis Sands

Objectives:

- Set up display of silt and sand filtering water to demonstrate function of an aquifer and why it is such a unique feature for Memphians to take pride in and protect
- Provide 'further reading and research' options

Materials:

- ★ Aquifer demo (ant farm like situation in glass, or cylindrical model)
- ★ Laminated diagram of Memphis Sands aquifer courtesy of CAESAR
- ★ Assets from local aquifer focused organizations



Plant Perfume

Objective:

Why do flowers smell good (or bad)? How do they produce smells? What do different smells accomplish? How do different smells attract different pollinators and why are pollinators important?

- Construct your own custom smell from the dried flowers provided.
- What type of pollinator would your perfume attract?

Materials:

- ★ Sachets
- ★ **Dried flowers**
 - Gomphrena, Colorful Chrysanthemum, Lavender, Rose petals, Rosemary, Lily, Albizia flower, Lotus seed hear, Rose, Foetus chrysanthemum, Jasmine, Roselle, Snow Chrysanthemum, Forget-me-nots, Calendula officinalis, Lemongrass
- ★ Cute little cups/bowls
- ★ Laminated visual about smells + pollinators



Nature Journal Zine

Objective:

Origami zine tutorial for parents of babies/toddlers or mid-aged children to use around My Big Backyard or at home!

- Zine assembly
- Quick lecture about nature journaling, botanical illustrations, etc.
- Plant pounding example
- Nature stickers, markers, pencils, etc. to decorate; prompt to discover new things in MBG

Materials:

- ★ Paper
- ★ Nature journal example
- ★ Stickers
- ★ Colored pencils, etc.



Spontaneous Inspiration

Programs that can change from week to week and develop new topics based on feedback and visitor needs

Always Growing

As My Big Backyard turns 15 we want to continue to expand our programmatic impact and continue to explore new ways of teaching and providing for Memphis families



Accessibility

Drop-in programs available to all visitors at no additional charge

Consistency

Recurring and consistent on the schedule; visitors can count on PAL programs to be available on expected days

Always Learning

Education programming offered as much as possible so that learning opportunities are always present in MBBY

Friendly Faces

PAL Docents are ambassadors for My Big Backyard and will become recognizable leaders within our community

