2022 is N.C. State Park’s Year of the Tree! Trees can be found in any park or your backyard. Learn more about trees by completing the activities below.

Trees are very important and help us in many ways! The roots of trees stop soil erosion. Trees can provide people with food such as apples and also provide food for moths and butterflies. They can also be homes for birds and other critters. The leaves can create cool shade on sunny day and most importantly, help create the oxygen we breathe!

Find the leaf shape! In your park, find examples of each shape of leaf.

- **Star**
  - maple
  - sycamore
  - sweet gum

- **Oval**
  - birch
  - beech
  - hickory

- **Needle**
  - cedar
  - longleaf pine
  - loblolly pine

- **Heart**
  - red bud

- **Cat Head**
  - tulip poplar

Acorns cached on this activity: _____
Find a tree and fill out the worksheet about it below.

1. **Leaf Characteristics:** Check one in each category.

   **SHAPE**
   - [ ] Lobed
   - [ ] Entire
   - [ ] Toothed
   - [ ] Divided

   **TYPE**
   - [ ] Compound
   - [ ] Simple
   - [ ] Opposite
   - [ ] Alternate

   **VEINS**
   - [ ] Pinnate
   - [ ] Palmate
   - [ ] Parallel

2. **Observe:** Make 5 observations about your tree, starting with “I notice...”
   1. I notice ______________________________________________________
   2. I notice ______________________________________________________
   3. I notice ______________________________________________________
   4. I notice ______________________________________________________
   5. I notice ______________________________________________________

3. **Measure:** Measure the trunk of your tree – don’t forget to include units!
   **You can borrow a tape measure from the park office.**

   \[
   \text{circumference (C)} = \pi \times \text{diameter (D)}
   \]
   \[
   \pi = 3.14
   \]
   \[
   D = C \div 3.14
   \]

   Circumference ________
   Diameter ________
4. **Explore:** *Explore your tree and draw a sketch of something interesting you found.*

5. **Name it:** *Make up a name for your tree based on your observations.*

______________________________________________________________

6. **Identify:** *Ask a ranger or use the internet to answer the questions about your tree to find out what type it is.*

   **Common Name:** ____________________________________________
   **Scientific Name:** __________________________________________
   **Evidence:** ________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________
   **Interesting fact about your tree:** ____________________________
   _____________________________________________________________
   _____________________________________________________________

Acorns cached on this activity: ______