

# Pheno-Fun Patch Program: Summer

## Virtual Event

During the summer Pheno-Fun event, which will be hosted virtually by a DRIWR park ranger, attendees will be asked to describe what comes to mind when they think about summer. Do they notice anything different about local animals, insects, or plants?

After everyone shares their answers, they'll discuss key scientific details about summer, like:

### Wildlife Adaptations: Summer & Future Seasons

Life flourishes in the summer, and every living thing needs to adapt to survive. Why does the fur of a white-tailed deer change? After squirrels store food all over the forest, how do they remember where to find it?

### Adaptation & Predator/Prey Dynamics

We'll discuss the ways local plants and animals adapt to survive year-round as well as the predator/prey dynamics in Humbug Marsh.

## On-Your-Own Activity

Grab your journal and pencil! Then, find a safe, nearby wooded area where you can go on a hike and focus on how nature adapts around you.

1. Find a spot to sit quietly for about 15 minutes and observe animals nearby.
  - How do animals behave differently in the summer than in the spring?
  - How has their appearance changed?
2. Create a new animal you think would be the perfect predator. Give it a name and draw it!
  - It could have eagle eyes, the speed of a mountain lion, and elk antlers—a lelk!
  - As a bonus, create the perfect prey to escape from your new super predator.



## GSSEM-Sponsored Activity

Go on a summer “Adaptations” hike at Humbug Marsh in Trenton! A park ranger will guide you on the trail, so you’ll have the perfect opportunity to see how wildlife adapts to its surroundings.

1. Grab a journal and pencil with you before you head out! Take a few moments to record the behavior and appearance of animals, plants, and insects you encounter on your hike.
  - How do they behave differently in the summer than in the spring?
  - How has their appearance changed?
2. When you’re done with the hike, the park ranger will lead a fun, hands-on game to learn about predator/prey relationships.

# Summer Scavenger Hunt

## Observation Checklist

- Find three different shades of green.
- Find an animal's home.
- Find a stick that's exactly your height.
- Find a leaf that's as big as your hand.
- Find three different types of seeds.
- Find a cloud shaped like an animal.
- Find something sharp and prickly.
- Try to find five pieces of litter and throw them away.

Note: Remember to wear protective gloves!



## Journal Checklist

**Please note findings in your journal for the following:**

- Find a pretty rock. What color is it?
- If you were a thirsty animal, where would you find a drink around here?
- If you were a bird, where would you build your nest? Why?
- Look around you. Do you see anything that looks out of place? What is it?
- Find something red. What is it?
- Take off your shoes and walk on the grass. Describe how it feels.
- Close your eyes and listen. What sounds do you hear?

## List Your Three Favorite Summer Activities

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

# Summer Scavenger Hunt

Bonus Challenge: Try to Find These Organisms & Objects!



Grasshopper 



Pinecone 



Bird 



Leaf 



Fly 



Bee 



Twig 



Ladybug 



Sunflower 



Stump 



Butterfly 



Tree 



Daisy 



Snail 



Grass 