Sights, Sounds and Smells of Autumn

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Learn more about this activity from the author at: https://youtu.be/CG_wcEsH1HM

Sometimes we need to take a break from our hurried lifestyles and enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of autumn. Let's take a few minutes to help our 4-H Cloverbuds explore each of these as we brainstorm them in a group and then go on an outdoor hike to explore as many sights, sounds and smells as we can.

1. Begin by asking the 4-H Cloverbuds what they like best about autumn or fall. You might need to explain that fall is just a different name than autumn but it is the same season. Let each child name one or two of their favorite things about fall.

2. Have the Cloverbuds brainstorm a list of autumn **sights** they might see outdoors. Here are some examples if the group is struggling: (Note - some of the examples provided may not be found in a city or town. Help the children expand their view of autumn and harvest time by explaining some of these examples).

   - football game
   - orange pumpkins
   - piles of leaves
   - leaves changing colors
   - deer in fields
   - picking pumpkins
   - leaves falling from trees
   - making apple butter
   - trick or treating
   - bonfires
   - corn maze
   - costumes
   - geese flying south
   - hayrides
   - spiders
   - tractors and farm equipment
   - coats/jackets
   - fall decorations
   - farmers harvesting crops
   - fields ready for harvest

3. Next have everyone list autumn **sounds** they may only hear during the fall. More examples:

   - crunching leaves
   - farm equipment
   - wind rustling leaves
   - children laughing
   - geese honking
   - squirrels barking
   - cheers at a ballgame
   - chainsaw
   - whistle at a ballgame
   - leaf blower
   - tractors

4. Finally, have the Cloverbuds name **smells** that are associated with autumn. Examples include:

   - pumpkin pie
   - manure on fields
   - hot cider
   - crops being harvested
   - smoke from a bonfire
   - cinnamon
   - apples
   - smores
   - pumpkin spice
   - fall leaves
   - apple butter

5. Now that everyone is excited about autumn, take everyone outside to explore how many of the sights, sounds and smells your 4-H Cloverbuds can identify from their list. Just a quick walk around the block or around the parking lot at your meeting will help allow everyone to identify many sights, sounds and smells. When the hike or walk is complete, ask the children if they saw, heard or smelled something that was not on the groups list.

6. Read a book! Here are a few book titles you might consider to help reinforce the theme.

   - **Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn** by Kenard Pak
   - **Wonderfall** by Michael Hall
   - **Awesome Autumn** by Bruce Goldstone
   - **Seasons Fall** by Anna Claybourne
   - **The Pumpkin Book** by Gail Gibbons
   - **I Know It’s Autumn** by Eileen Spinelli
   - **Let It Fall** by Maryann Cocca-Leffler
   - **Let’s Look at Fall** by Sarah L. Schuette
   - **Fall Leaves Colorful and Crunchy** by Martha E.H Rustad

7. Wrap-up the meeting with an autumn treat or snack from the local farmers market!