

Spring - Environmental Scavenger Hunt at the Yakima Area Arboretum

Welcome to the Yakima Area Arboretum! Use the self-guided tour map, your imagination, and your smarts to find as many of the items below as you can.

- ☐ Non-human animal tracks: The Arboretum is home to many animals that only come out at night. We'd never know they were here if it weren't for the clues they leave behind. Thinking like an animal will help you with this clue!
- ☐ The Sundial. The earliest known sundial was made in ancient Egypt around 1500 B.C.
- ☐ Maple samara: A seed with a wing like the one pictured right is called a samara. Lots of trees (like the ashes and elms) use samaras to scatter their leaves on the wind, but only the maples have double samaras.
- ☐ A bird's nest.
- ☐ A squirrel: The eastern gray squirrels you see at the Arboretum (and in most city parks) are non-native, or introduced squirrels; they were brought here by people.
- ☐ Red leaves on a tree or bush
- ☐ On grounds, we have a couple of resident Living Fossils near our Giant Sequoias. The Dawn Redwoods have been found fossilized all around the Northern Hemisphere. The tree is thought to have been around since the Cretaceous Period (think T-Rex and Triceratops). Can you find them?
- ☐ A leaf longer than 1 foot.
- ☐ How many different kinds of mushrooms can you find? Mushrooms belong to the fungal kingdom, and are actually more closely related to animals than they are to plants.
- ☐ This weird tree (to the right) in the natural area (It's a boxelder maple!)....
- ☐ A Ponderosa Pine tree ID tag
- ☐ Red Winged Black Birds are plentiful at the Arboretum near its water features, look for the distinguishing red-band on the wings of the males. Females are a less conspicuous brown color and are harder to identify



Maple Samara



Boxelder Maple

- ☐ A walnut, hazelnut, or acorn on the ground. Will be hard to find after the squirrels get them!
- ☐ Canada Geese: These geese are known for their V-formations while migrating, and have been reported flying at 29,000 thousand feet (as tall as Mt. Everest)!
- ☐ A man made bird box. Some birds build their own nests while others find holes to nest in.
- ☐ A wild rose: Look for thorns along the stems of the plants and possibly some pink flowers; the leaves of our native rose plants look like this:
- ☐ A turtle: Be patient and don't move too fast. The Arboretum's turtles spend most of their time in the water, and are really shy! If you move too fast they will hide under the water. These turtles used to be people's pets, but were abandoned here. They are called red-eared sliders, and usually live in Asia; our native turtle is called the painted turtle.
- ☐ A post with the word "collection" on it
- ☐ One of the Pagodas on grounds (pictured right)
- ☐ 3 cones from 3 different types of trees.
- ☐ A cactus: The Arboretum has both native and non-native cactus...but where?
- ☐ One of three Bird Watching Stations
- ☐ A leaf with two or more distinct colors (these leaves are called variegated). Note: Two or more colors on a healthy leaf. Dying/dead leaves don't count!
- ☐ Cherry and Crabapple blossoms: They are a sure sign of the change in seasons from Winter to Spring. They are a great early source of pollen and nectar for the bees that live here at the Arboretum.
- ☐ One of our favorite trees on the grounds is the Weeping Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) looks like it came from a Dr. Seuss story. Can you find it? (pictured right)
- ☐ Golden Currants: They are starting to produce flowers in the natural area. The leaves are about the size of a quarter, are wide, flat, and have "lobes" while the flowers are yellow and look sort of like tubes.
- ☐ We have new bathrooms and water fountains! They are located near the rose garden and the gravel parking lot, grab a drink and get refreshed.
- ☐ A piece of petrified wood. We have them around the Jewett Center and can look a lot like a cool rock! These pieces were donated from homes around the valley!

How many things did you find? _____