

Greater Washington Nature Hunt

Take a hike! On Lag B'Omer, it's traditional to take a hike, be outdoors and appreciate nature. You and your family can go on a Nature Hunt to observe and find various items in flora and fauna. It's important to note that you are NOT collecting anything. Please leave everything where you found it and take notes here or pictures with your camera. When we do this, we are practicing the Jewish value of *shomrei adama* ("being partners in Creation") and caring for the environment.

Note: Please watch for poison ivy (look for the red stems) and do a body check for deer ticks once you return home.

Before you begin, read this quote aloud and think on it for a moment:

"To be a Jew means to wake up and to keep your eyes open to the many beautiful, mysterious, and holy things that happen all around us every day."

—Rabbi Lawrence Kushner, *Honey from the Rock*

Trees and Flowers:

1. Find a tree so large you can't wrap your arms around the trunk. Take a picture of it or with it.
2. Find a baby tree that you can hug completely. Take a picture of it or with it.
3. See if you can find the plants that have these leaves or flowers. Circle the ones you find:



Sweetbay Magnolia



Maidenhair Fern



Bluebells



Red Maple



Phlox



Flowering Dogwood

Birds:

These birds are commonly found in our area in May. Circle the ones you spot!



Red-Wing Blackbird



House Finch



Wood Duck



Chickadee



Ruby-Throated Hummingbird



Baltimore Oriole

Other Animals:

Check the box for each animal you spot—or keep a tally of how many of each critter you see! **Note:** Try to be a "bug watcher," not a "bug squasher." Also do not approach any animals or try to touch them!

	Toad
	Deer

	Beetle
	Bat

	Monarch Butterfly
	Squirrel

	Box Turtle
	Worm

Try an experiential nature hunt, adapted from LovetheOutdoors.com:

See

- Leaf w/ insect holes
- Animals eating
- Spider web w/insect
- Clouds going by
- Sunlight coming through trees

Hear

- Leaves under your feet
- Wind in the trees
- Sound of an insect
- Birds singing
- Water running in a creek

Touch

- Tree bark
- Prickly plant
- Wet mud
- Rotten wood
- Wind blowing on face
- Texture of various rocks

Smell

- Flower
- Mud
- Green grass
- Fresh air
- A pine tree

Bonus: Find a human trash item that can be brought back for recycling or placed in a trash can.