

**Fire Company Nature Center Quest
Open to the Public**

Good luck! At the last stop you will find a prize!!

Welcome to Fire Company Nature Center.
Hope you have fun as you enter!

1. Find a seat that faces the campfire.
We hope you don't feel tired.

What did this seat used to be?
And how did it become a seat?

If you guessed a tree,
You may start your quest for free!

2. Start the nature trail on the west side of the parking lot.
Over or around the wire and down the path
Now start thinking about math.
Where **two** arrows point the way
Take the left (straight) one, just for today.
Go until a row of **four** similar trees you do see.
They have smooth gray skin and eyes in their bark.
They produce nuts that make wildlife spark!
What are they?
If you said Beech, you are on the mark!

2. After the beech trees find a cut log where you cross.
It lay down here and is now a home for fungi and moss.

Why did it have to be cut?
Because in the path it did jut!

Follow the trail, down hill and dale.
Cross the creek bed and take a look
At a stump with antlers!
Really?
Here's a riddle: what used to be underground,
Now facing sunlight can be found.

If you guessed roots, you are right!
How did they go from dark to the light?

3. Continue up the trail and find a large old tree.
It once was a home for birds but now others you see.
Fungi and insects, the tree they break down
For habitat and soil, so don't frown.

It's part of the way nature recharges itself;
it grows new plants and provides a home
for animals to live before they roam.

4. Follow the path along a familiar road
And notice two beech trees together.
Or is it one tree? How did they grow?

Continue up the trail you're on
And notice nature's swing upon
A tree. What is it and why was it cut?
If you guessed grapevine, You are correct!
Over time around a tree it does twine.
That might shorten the tree's lifetime.

On your left notice a tree
That grew up with a fence, how can this be?
Does it look like it's grinning?
In spite of the fence, it seems to be winning

Continue to walk along the fence
We hope it doesn't make you wince.
Find a skinny tree where the fence goes through!
Take a close look and ponder just how it grew.

Not far along, on the right, look up
At a tree whose bark is shaggy and rough.
It has hard wood and makes nuts
For people and animals, a favorite!
A rocking chair, a salad bowl,
All from this tree,
made from the wood of a hickory.

5. Keep walking along the old fencerow.
Near the cabin you will go.
On your left, two trees alike
Their bark doesn't bite.
It looks like burnt potato chips.
Do you have any dip?
One is straight, one forms a bow
Why do you think this way it did grow?

6. Go to the cabin after the tree.
Look behind and underneath.
Did you find the treasure?
Where could it be?
Under the steps you'll find your destiny!