



Meet a Tree

Materials: One bandana or scarf per team of 2.

Set up: Choose an area that near at least a few trees that is as free from sticks, brush, and other trip hazards as possible.

Activity:

- Gather the kids and explain to them that they are going to meet new friends today, but that those friends are going to be trees!
- Pair the kids up (it's okay if you only have one pair, and feel free to play yourself, too!) and explain the rules of the game:
 - Establish boundaries for the game.
 - One partner will be the guide, and they will guide their partner (holding hands or linking elbows is a good idea for this part) to a tree of their choosing within the boundaries.
 - They should remain silent, and they are encouraged to take a roundabout way to the tree!
 - The guide leaves their partner at the tree.
 - At this point, the blindfolded partner should spend 5-10 minutes "meeting their tree," or memorizing as many things about it as they can. Encourage them to feel the bark and branching patterns, to smell the tree, to feel the ground where the tree meets the earth, and anything else that will help them remember their tree.
 - When the blindfolded partner is ready, have the guide bring them back to the starting point.
 - Let the blindfolded partners take off their blindfolds, and have them go find their trees! Remind the guides to be silent and not give any hints during this time, unless their partner is really struggling.
 - Switch roles!



Wrap-Up: At the end, discuss with the experience with the kids and ask them what helped them find their tree. If you played this game in your yard or a place you go often, encourage your kids to visit their new tree friend whenever they can!



An ideal place to play this game would look like this!