

*Imagination*  
*Curiosity*  
*Connection to outdoors*  
*Exploration*



# Nature Detectives

Where children in grades kindergarten through third grade explore the outdoor world each week on their school campus.

**Janice Kelley**  
**Founder & Leader**

<https://naturedetectivesusa.com>  
(916) 965-5246

outdoorjan@att.net

*My daughter loves Nature Detectives. The kids touch, feel, smell and explore everyday nature things and see them in a whole new light.*

Mom of a third grade Nature Detectives

***The Nature Detectives Leader Orientation Guide*** and Training Program creates opportunities to expand the program to additional sites to reach more children and families.

## Problem

Given the new reality that children of all ages are spending increasing amounts of time connected to their screens, at home and at school, they are spending far less time outdoors. Young children are also given fewer opportunities to be outside during the school day beyond lunch and recess.

## Opportunity

*Nature Detectives* programs create weekly outdoor nature practices based on four 8-week seasonal themes. *Exploring Wild Places*, *Trees as Habitat*, *Winter Wisdom*, and *Nature in Motion*. Each program is simple to deliver, mobile, flexible and engaging. The leader serves as a guide and facilitator. Each child creates their own *Nature Detectives* field journal where they draw, write and record evidence of their observations. Art projects enhance learning about habitats, weather, lifecycles, outdoor ethics and other topics.

## Cumulative Benefits

- Contributes to environmental literacy in addition to increasing their skill development in sensory observation, risk taking, problem solving, team building and critical thinking.
- Nature exploration strengthens a child's emotional, physical & intellectual development.
- A growing body of research clearly substantiates that an affinity to and love of nature, along with a positive environmental ethic, grows out of children's regular contact with and play in the natural world .