

# Nature Adventures

with NC's 4-H Camps

A virtual learning program for educators and families

## Pine Forest Ecology Discussion & Learning Guide

**Directions:** Follow along and look for answers to the questions below as you participate in the program. If you have others you are working with, answer the questions together.

- 1) What is unique or special about Longleaf Pine trees? **Many features make the Longleaf Pine a unique species of pine tree. They can live to be as old as 300 years, when many other pine species only live to the age of 100 – 150 years. When first growing, the Longleaf Pine grows in a grass stage where it looks like a bundle of grass. Longleaf Pine forests provide habitat for many other unique animal species.**
- 2) What type of natural event triggers a Longleaf Pine seed's growing process? **Low intensity forest fires trigger the seed's growing process.**
- 3) What kind of soil do Longleaf Pine trees prefer to grow in? **Longleaf Pines prefer sandy, dry and well-drained soil, like those found in the Sandhills of North Carolina.**
- 4) What is the North Carolina Sandhills and why are they important to the Longleaf Pine? **The Sandhills is a region in south central North Carolina where Longleaf Pines prefer to grow. They are characterized by rolling hills and sandy soils, as their name implies.**
- 5) List some of the essentials you should take with you when exploring the outdoors on a hike. **Water, closed toe shoes, at least 3 other people with you, and let an adult know where you are going.**
- 6) What are other common plant species found in Longleaf Pine ecosystems? **Muscadine grape, the Sourwood tree, Sassafras, Chinese Privet, Poison Ivy and Dogwood trees are all common species found in Longleaf Pine forests. Chinese Privet is considered an invasive, non-native species.**
- 7) What are common animal species found in Longleaf Pine ecosystems? **Bobcats, Box turtles,**