

# Fall Hike - September 2025

Every year, near the end of September, people all over the world celebrate the first day of autumn, also known as the autumnal equinox. It's a day where everyone, not just science fans or farmers, can appreciate the changing of the seasons. This year, it is September 22.

We also know this season as *fall*! This is due to the way the leaves start to change color, dry, and "fall" off the trees. Did you know that "*autumn*" comes from the Latin word "*autumnus*," with the root of the word meaning "the passing of the year"? The fall signals the end of most growing seasons and the beginning of the harvest season.

The autumn equinox is a worldwide event that happens every year, near the same day. On this day, our sun passes directly over the equator. The equator is the imaginary line dividing our planet between the northern and southern hemispheres. During the spring and summer seasons, our days are longer and warmer and give plants plenty of energy to grow! When the autumn equinox happens, we experience equal hours of day and night. The word "equinox" comes from two Latin words - *aequus* (equal) and *nox* (night).

After this, the days begin to get shorter and colder. This change signals some plants to start to prepare for winter and save energy by stopping their production of chlorophyll (this is the green color that helps plants turn sunlight into food) via photosynthesis and letting their leaves fall!

Of course, this is opposite in places like Australia in the Southern Hemisphere! Our autumn is their spring. Crazy, huh?

September's monthly challenge is to:

- 1) Grab a grown-up and your explorer's eyes to go on a fall nature walk.
- 2) Observe any autumn changes in your environment.
- 3) Collect some fallen leaves and create a fall craft, all to welcome in the new season!

Deadline to submit your Fall Hike Monthly Challenge:

Sunday, August 31, 2025, at 5:00 PM MST.

Submit report at: [https://bit.ly/FallHike\\_Sep2025](https://bit.ly/FallHike_Sep2025)

You will receive your patch in 3 - 4 weeks after the end of challenge.

If you have any questions, please email [info@gsdsw.org](mailto:info@gsdsw.org).

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