Today's Featured Activity: Insect Investigation!

This time of year, just after dark nature puts on a firework show! If you go out at dusk to a field or edge of a woods, set up a blanket or a chair and see how many fireflies you can count. Fireflies also known as lightning bugs, are in fact a type of beetle, a special beetle that glows! Just below their abdomen there is a special light-making organ, called a photic organ, that creates bioluminescence.

When fireflies are flashing, they are communicating to a potential mate! Each species of firefly has their own pattern of flashes, which helps them find each other in the dark. Check out this page for more fun firefly facts!

- Here are some tips for watching fireflies, including how to safely catch and put them in a jar to get a closer look. Don't keep them too long though, they're busy out there!

- Make these tiny pinecone fireflies to enjoy indoors and which are especially cute if you have glow in the dark paint!

- Do you want to help scientists collect important data about fireflies? Join
Firefly Watch!

- If the weather doesn’t cooperate or you don’t want to wait for it to get dark, watch this video about the synchronous fireflies events in the Smoky Mountains or this short film about the same phenomena in Mexico.

Did you do this activity? Post a photo on Instagram and tag @clctrust or use #clctrust.

Have suggestions for activities you’d like to see? Send us an email!

Be sure to check out our blog: The Outside Story!