

## Olivia's Super Duper Insect Program with First Grade!!

On Thursday, February 13, 2014, Olivia Hardin-Nieri, a 4<sup>th</sup> grade student, led the 1<sup>st</sup> grade class in a lesson and field project about insects. Olivia is a member of a Young Naturalists program at the Butterfly Garden of Monteverde and was excited for the opportunity to share what she has learned with her younger schoolmates.



The lesson began in the classroom, with Olivia giving a short review of what the student's had been learning about arthropods such as general anatomy.



Then, they did a short identification activity in groups at their tables. They were given three pictures of bugs and a key with many images of different insects. They attempted to match their pictures to one of the images from the key.



After this short practice in identification, and before heading outside the students were assigned one of three jobs: searcher, recorder, and reporter. Searchers were tasked with locating bugs, while recorders were asked to keep tally marks for each bug found, and to draw a circle or line indicating the size of each. Reporters were asked to make observations during the activity so that they could be the primary presenter of their group's findings after the activity. After being assigned their duties, the class went as a group to the playground to search for insects.



The kids seemed to really enjoy the excitement of turning over a log and finding a host of carpenter ants, or finding cockroach eggs in a tree hollow. All of the groups found and recorded several different insects before time was up, however, there was not time during Thursday's class to report their findings and so they plan to continue the lesson next week.



Thank you Olivia!