



## Fernbrook Farms Environmental Education Center 2021 Fall Upper Level Homeschool Semester

### ***“Comparing Ecological Habitats @ Fernbrook”***

Ages 12-14 Years Old (students must be 12 years old by the start of classes)

**Class Sessions:** Tuesdays 9:30am-11:30am, Tuesdays 1:00pm-3:00pm, Thursdays 9:30am-11:30am, OR Thursdays 1:00pm-3:00pm

At Fernbrook Farms, we can explore the forest, meadow, creek, pond, and CSA fields. This semester the Upper Level Homeschool students will be exploring and comparing some of these diverse habitats to learn about the ecology of each type of ecosystem. The students will work together searching, discovering, and identifying the animals and organisms that live in each habitat. Students will focus on learning about the interactions of these species and understand how they create a dynamic, healthy ecosystem.

#### **Introduction to Ecology**

**September 28<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup>**

What are the biotic and abiotic factors that affect the organisms that live throughout the various habitats at Fernbrook. As a class the students will be learning some basic ecology terms while hunting for butterflies and moths. The class will spend time learning to identify the specimens by examining their distinguishing characteristics. The students will be keeping a record of where they find certain species, for future reference.

#### **Biodiversity Parts I, II and III**

The class will be exploring this topic for three weeks which will include the investigation of insects and spiders among other things. It is a large category with a variety of species and the students will have a lot of ground to cover.

#### **Creek and Pond Biodiversity Part I** **October 5<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup>**

The Creek and Pond have more than fish and frogs. We will also be looking for some aquatic insects in both locations. What do the fish and frogs eat? You guessed it. Aquatic insects. Be prepared to get wet.

#### **Meadow Biodiversity Part II**

**October 12<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>**

More insects? This group of species may not be the cuddliest, but the class will discuss their importance to a healthy ecosystem as we investigate the meadow and record our findings.

#### **Forest Biodiversity Part III**

**October 19<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup>**

Where will we find some interesting insects in the forest? (And we are not talking about mosquitoes!) The classes will be looking under logs and rocks to find decomposers and hopefully some other surprises.

#### **Animal Interactions**

**October 26<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>**

The focus of this class will be looking at how animals interact with each other, and how animal populations change. The students will also be looking for reptiles and amphibians this week. Will the students be able to find the elusive amphibians? The challenge is on!

#### **Food Webs and Toxins**

**November 2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>**

Food webs are complex! The classes will discuss some issues that affect different food web systems and see how the food webs differ in each Fernbrook ecosystem. The students will also be looking at wildflowers and grasses this week to understand the role they play in the ecosystem. The classes will try to identify different species and see where we find the greatest variety around Fernbrook!

#### **Adaptations**

**November 9<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>**

This week the students will be learning to ID birds and compare the species that live in the forest, the meadow and the CSA fields. Students will also examine some of the bird adaptations that help them survive and thrive in specific habitats. Why do certain breeds prefer different habitats and do they visit more than one habitat? Will be one of the essential questions that each class will strive to answer.





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***Invasive Species and Top Predators***

***November 16th or 18th***

What are some of the problems that invasive species cause in an ecosystem? What is the predator and/or prey relationships in each ecosystem? The classes will see if they can find any of the elusive mammals that live on our 230-acre property and discover what their vital role is in each ecosystem.



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**Ages 12-14 Years Old** (students must be 12 years old by the start of classes)

Name of Child		Age	Date of Birth	Male	Female
Address		City State			
Zip Code		Current Grade Level			
Parent's Name		Parent's Name			
Home Phone#	Work#	Home Phone#	Work#		
Email		Email			
Cell#		Cell#			
Employer		Employer			
Emergency Contact (Name, Phone #, Relationship)					

**Class Time & Day : Tuesday 9:30am-11:30am or Tuesdays 1:00pm-3:00pm or  
Thursdays 9:30am-11:30am or 1:00pm-3:00pm**

**8-week Semester runs: September 28<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> to November 16<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>**

### **Confidential Medical Information & Required Emergency Information**

- ☐ Please indicate information about the registrant(s) **regarding medications, allergies, physical disabilities, or restrictions that the instructors should know about. Attach pages if necessary.**

\_\_\_\_\_

In case of an emergency, I give my permission to have \_\_\_\_\_ (child/children) receive first aid and be transported to the nearest hospital by professional, emergency personnel. I understand I will be financially responsible for the cost of such treatment. ☐ YES ☐ NO

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date signed \_\_\_\_\_

I give Fernbrook Farms Environmental Education Center permission to use any photographs or video footage of my child(ren) for any promotional or other legitimate reason. ☐ YES ☐ NO

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date signed \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Registration Fee - \$144.00 for entire semester** \*Discounts available: sibling, CSA member, and multi-session registration\*

- ☐ **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:**  
Fernbrook Farms Environmental Education Center (FEEEC)

**MAIL REGISTRATION TO:**  
FEEEC-ULHS

P.O. BOX 228  
Bordentown, NJ 08505

- ☐ **REGISTER ONLINE:**  
On our website at [www.FernbrookFarms.com](http://www.FernbrookFarms.com)