



**Fernbrook Farms Environmental Education Center**  
**2023 Fall Lower Level Homeschool Semester**  
**Ages 6-11 years old (child must be 6 by the first class)**

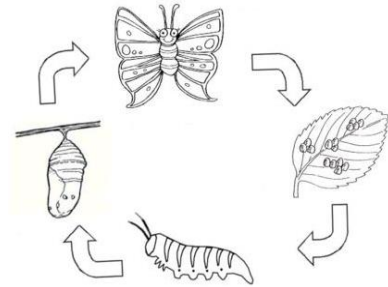


**2-Hour Class Options:** Tuesdays 9:30am-11:30am, Tuesdays 1:00pm-3:00pm,  
Thursdays 9:30am-11:30am or Thursdays 1:00pm-3:00pm

**Enrichment Class Options:** Wednesdays or Fridays 9:00am-3:30pm

**Life Cycle of a Butterfly** **September 19<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup>**

From Swallowtails to Sulphurs, Admirals to Skippers New Jersey is home to a variety of species of butterflies. Through a series of activities, students will study the life cycle of a butterfly while noting its development as it changes from caterpillar to a butterfly. The class will adventure through the meadows focusing on butterflies and their habitats.



**Reptiles & Amphibians** **September 26<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>**

Students will take an early fall exploration to the pond, creeks, streams, and forests in search of croaking Bullfrogs, slow-moving turtles, and quiet Garter Snakes. This class examines the differences between reptiles and amphibians to show how each group survives in certain habitats.

**Dendrology: The Study of Trees** **October 3<sup>rd</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup>**

Each student will create their own Tree ID Guide complete with drawings and leaves collected from Fernbrook. Our goal is for each class to identify over ten varieties of trees. During the class, we will also review the life cycle as well as the parts of a tree.

**Invasive Plants** **October 10<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>**

Students will gain a better understanding of what an invasive species is and the difference between invasive and non-native species. On a tour of Fernbrook, the classes will identify some invasive plants plaguing the Farm. Discussions will also outline ways humans can help keep ecosystems in balance and prevent the spread of invasive plants.



**Fall Farm Fields** **October 17<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup>**

Fernbrook's CSA fall farm fields will be full of brassicas, carrots, peppers, potatoes, squash and so much more. The students will learn the seasonality of different crops that are grown in New Jersey and we will explore the adaptations of these fall crops. The students may also help glean the fields, de-trellis crops and taste test some fall veggies.

**Life Under Our Feet** **October 24<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>**

There is so much life living below our feet. How do we identify what is under our feet? Is it sand, soil, dirt, rocks, or mud? Our classes will discover what micro and macro-organisms are living below the earth's surface as they explore different habitats around Fernbrook.

**Natural Resources** **October 31<sup>st</sup> or November 2<sup>nd</sup>**

This class will help students understand what resources are and how we use them. We'll look at the resources used on the farm and in our homes. Interactive games will help the students see how people waste some of these resources and offer suggestions on ways to conserve the earth's resources. Students will come away from this lesson with a better outlook on their use of natural resources and how the group can balance their usages.

**Our 5 Senses in Nature** **November 7<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup>**

Seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, and touching sends information to our brains to help us understand and perceive the world around us. Our walks provide a great opportunity to be mindful and connect to ourselves and what nature provides us. Students will also tap into two lesser-known senses which includes spatial awareness and balance.

**\*\*Class topics are subject to change depending on weather and environmental factors which may affect the effectiveness of the class topic. \*\***