



Fernbrook Farms Environmental Education Center
2024 Spring Lower Level Homeschool Semester
Ages 6-11 years old (child must be 6 by the first class)



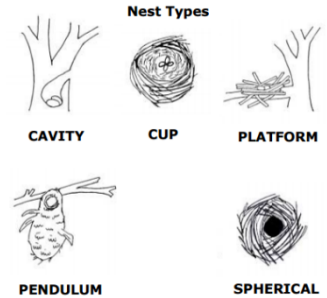
Class Sessions Offered: Tuesdays 9:30am-11:30am, Tuesdays 1:30pm-3:30pm, Thursdays 9:30am-11:30am or Thursdays 1:30pm-3:30pm

Homeschool Enrichment Program: Wednesdays or Fridays 9:30am-3:00pm

Great Greenhouses

March 26th-29th

Our first lesson will introduce the students to the mechanics of a greenhouse. In our groups we will compare and contrast different closed growing structures. The students will discuss some problems that farmers may encounter in a greenhouse. Our students will prepare seeds for our greenhouse as well as construct their own mini greenhouses to take home. ***Please bring an empty egg carton to class***



Life of a Bird

April 2nd – 5th

During this class, the students will explore Fernbrook in search of birds and signs of their existence. Throughout the class we will explore the nests, mannerisms, and calls of birds around the farm. All our findings will then help us identify what bird species inhabit Fernbrook.

Carnivore Carnival

April 9th -12th

Did you know that New Jersey is home to quite a few native carnivores? Did you know that even some plants can be carnivores? In this class, we will learn about what makes an animal or plant a carnivore including their different adaptations. We will also discuss New Jersey's native carnivores. During class we will explore Fernbrook looking for signs of carnivores that live on or visit our 230 acres.

Edible Wild Plants

April 16th – 19th

We can find many plants in the wild, which can provide us with nutrition. Some even taste good! During this class we will scour the forest, meadow, and farm fields looking for palatable plants. The teachers will make it very clear to our students that although they will learn about edible wild plants and their medicinal uses, they should not eat anything they find in the wild until they've identified it with a knowledgeable adult.

Beautiful Botany

April 23rd-26th

Fernbrook Farms is one of the most interesting places for students to learn the importance of botany, the study of plants. The class will explore Fernbrook's farm fields and other areas to gain a better understanding of the science behind different types of plants and their purposes.

Bee Friendly: Pollinating Populations

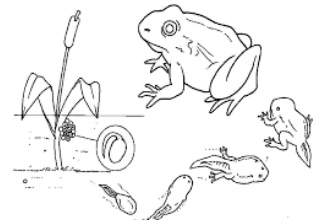
April 30th – May 3rd

Honeybees are important for farms everywhere. Not only do farmers get to collect their honey, but bees also promote pollination. Bees have an amazing sense of community. During this class, we'll take a close look at how bees communicate and work together. Our classes will also discuss other pollinating populations that our farm depends on throughout the growing season!

Metamorphosis: From Tadpole to Frog

May 7th – 10th

The students and teachers will take nets to our creek, pond, marshes, and vernal pools to discover what frog and toad species live at Fernbrook. After identifying the common species we'll examine the anatomy and the process of metamorphosis then release them back into the wild. ***BE PREPARED TO GET WET & MUDDY***



Buggin' Out at Fernbrook

May 14th – 17th

From the forest to the meadow and everywhere in between we can discover insects emerging out of hibernation or hatching from their overwintering in wood, grasses, and the earth. Students will explore Fernbrook searching for a variety of species such as beetles, flies, mantids, ants, dragonflies, bees, wasps and so much more. Once we have a good sampling in jars we will discuss and investigate their specialty body parts such as legs, mandibles, and wings.

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