



Fernbrook Farms Environmental Education Center
2025 Winter Lower-Level Homeschool Semester
Agnes 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 Program Options: Wednesdays or Fridays 9:30am-3:00pm

Hibernation **January 14th – 17th**

Winter is upon us, which means a lifestyle change for many different animals. We will investigate the ecological and biological reasons for hibernation and why some animals prefer to “stick it out.” We will then play a game to see just how effective we can be at surviving the winter.

Shelter-Building **January 21st – 24th**

Whether it is rain, sun, wind, or snow, we all need protection from the elements. A shelter offers this protection, whether permanent or temporary. In this course, we will find ourselves in the forest and learn to build a simple and effective shelter mostly using materials we find in our environment. And it could always use some decoration!

Rocks and Minerals **January 28th – 31st**

Rocks and minerals are foundational to life on earth. They are the source of the soil on land, the salt in the ocean, and the icy clouds in the sky. They also have a storied influence on the lives of humans. We will examine some examples of rocks and minerals and discuss their place in the world. We will then collect our own rocks and add them to a rock tumbler! (Note: Rocks and minerals take about five weeks to polish, so they’ll be available to take home during the last week of the semester.)

Winter Art **February 4th – 7th**

Winter is a beautiful season. It is not as vibrant or colorful as the following Spring, but it is peaceful and serene for the same reason. We will explore snowflakes, the winter landscape, and some familiar winter residents to stimulate your child’s artistry and imagination. This course will be a relaxing and constructive way to celebrate what Winter has to offer.

Winged (and footed) Migration **February 11th – 14th**

High in the sky in Autumn is a familiar sight: geese flying South for the Winter. Why does this occur, and why do they return? We will learn about these animals and some lesser-known (and grounded) mammals that make periodic treks that are necessary for their survival. Then, we will do some trekking of our own!

Vexillology... say what?! **February 18th – 21st**

Vexillology is the study of flags, which use symbols to represent something meaningful or memorable. Did you know that some flags incorporate plants and animals into their design? We will take a look at some “biological” flags of the world, then become vexillographers ourselves! We will design and create flags that are inspired by our environment and say what they mean to us.

Maple Sugaring: Part I **February 25th – 28th**

Have you ever tried maple syrup? Have you ever wondered where that syrup comes from or how it’s made? In the first week of our two-week maple sugaring class, we will tap sugar maple trees (and perhaps some nuttier ones) to extract their sap. The following week, it will become syrup!

Maple Sugaring: Part II **March 4th – 7th**

Part two of our two-part maple sugaring class picks up where we left off. We will reduce our sap to syrup, then become taste-testers, for a sweet end to the winter semester!