



Fernbrook Farms Environmental Education Center 2025 Spring Upper Level Homeschool Semester

“Citizen Science at Fernbrook”

Agnes 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
Wednesdays 9:30am-3 pm OR Fridays 9:30 am-3pm

This semester, the Upper Level Homeschool students will be learning about citizen science. We will be participating in several different projects throughout the semester. (Projects subject to change based on weather/time)

Intro to Citizen Science and Ongoing Projects ***Week of March 18th***

This week we will be learning about what citizen science (also known as community science) is. The class will start their first projects; those are the ones that we will be contributing to all semester. We will also get to know a little bit about each other as there will be new and old faces attending.

Air Monitoring and GLOBE Observer ***Week of March 25th***

This week, we are going to learn about air quality and why we are going to monitor it over the semester. Then, we will look to the skies to do some cloud data research with GLOBE Observer. We will be recording cloud coverage and types of clouds.

Camera Traps, Project NestWatch, and Instant Wild ID ***Week of April 1st***

We will be checking camera traps for wildlife pictures. Once we have our data, we will try to identify the animals in the pictures. We can also help identify animals in other camera trap projects around the world.

Ant Picnic, Ground Temps, and Moisture ***Week of April 8th***

We will be setting up an experiment to give an ant an array of pre-chosen food to see what the ants prefer. We will be collecting and counting the ants on each item and taking pictures of each food item and ant response. While we wait for our ants to take over the picnic, we will be measuring the moisture and temperature of the soil in various spots on the farm.

Microplastics Monitoring ***Week of April 15th***

Microplastics. We have all heard this word. What are they? We will learn about or remind ourselves of what they are. Here is the real question: do we have microplastics in the waters here at Fernbrook? Let's find out. We will sample the water from the creeks at Fernbrook and filter them to look for microplastics. We will report our findings whether good or bad to a citizen science database.

Butterflies and Pollinators ***Week of April 22nd***

This week, we will be heading to the meadow to look for butterflies and other pollinators. Our classes will be recording data to add to the national database of butterflies and pollinator sightings. We will take some pictures of our findings and then log them.

Creek Creature Craze and Eels Part 1 ***Week of April 29th***

Did you know that all American eels travel to the Sargasso Sea for breeding purposes? For Eel Week 1, we will learn about American eels and create something called an eel mop. An eel mop is used to catch baby American eels, also known as glass eels. We will place our eel mops out in the creeks. This will be continued into next week. While we are in the creek, we will be looking for and identifying any other creek creatures for a separate citizen science database.

Creek Creature Craze and Eels Part 2 ***Week of May 6th***

We will continue our eel project. This week, we will be catching eels and measuring and weighing them and recording our data. We will continue to collect eels and search for other creek critters. The creatures that we find in the creek help determine the health of the ecosystem.



American Eel