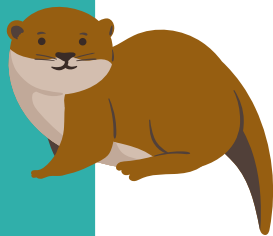




# Homeschool Classes

**JAN - JUN  
2025**



*For more information and to  
register for classes:*

**VISIT OUR WEBPAGE**



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# **EcoTarium Explorers & EcoTarium Adventurers**

## **EcoTarium Explorers (Ages 6 - 8)**

Curious explorers conduct simple, safe, science and nature explorations with their caregivers with a new theme each session. Guided by an EcoTarium elementary educator, participants will learn how to ask questions, experiment, and learn more about the world around them through the power of science!

## **EcoTarium Adventurers (Ages 9 - 12)**

Participants will dive deeper into interacting with the EcoTarium's exhibits, animals, trails, collections, and planetarium while learning about a new topic each session. Adventurers will participate in hands-on activities, experiments, and projects.

## **Program Topics (page 1 of 3):**

### **Animal Adaptations**

Do you and a turtle eat the same food? Could you share the same home as a fox? Discover which characteristics and behaviors help animals move, hunt, and survive. Meet a live EcoTarium ambassador animal, explore the amazing ways it's adapted to its ecosystem, and handle skulls, pelts, and more!

### **Wonderful Weather**

Learn what makes weather change and what factors influence our changing climate. Discover how temperature and pressure combine to create everything from wind and rain to hurricanes and tornadoes, all through exciting models, demonstrations, and experiments, including some that you can try at home!

# EcoTarium Explorers & EcoTarium Adventurers

Program Topics (continued, page 2 of 3):

## **Cool Chemistry**

Dive into the fascinating world of chemistry through hands-on experiments that will spark curiosity and scientific wonder. In this workshop, junior chemists will explore the world of chemical reactions, surface tension, and molecular interactions.

## **Explore the Solar System**

Earth may be whipping through space, but we're not the only one traveling around the Sun! Explore all of the rocky, gaseous, stormy, and cratered worlds within our Solar System. Land on Mars, discover Jupiter's icy moons, and even pay Pluto a visit. Buckle up and prepare for a journey of over ten billion miles!

## **Forces and Motion**

Buckle up for an action-packed exploration of physics in motion! In this program, we will discover the fundamental principles of forces and motion through hands-on experiments and exciting challenges. Young physicists will also investigate how we can use simple machines and use forces to our advantage!

## **Zoo and You**

Discover how different animals eat, move, communicate, and play as we learn about the EcoTarium's resident animals! Participants will learn about animal welfare, habitats, and enrichment in partnership with an expert EcoTarium zookeeper and live animal ambassador. Together we'll discover the challenges and rewards of animal care.

## **Sound and Light**

How do you make a rainbow? How about a soundscape? Through interactive demonstrations and hands-on experiments, discover how sound and light travel through our world as waves to make all of the colors we see and noises we hear!

# EcoTarium Explorers & EcoTarium Adventurers

Program Topics (continued, page 3 of 3):

## **Engineering Design**

Calling all young engineers! Get ready to be innovative problem-solvers in this hands-on workshop that will spark creativity and critical thinking. Participants will dive into the exciting world of the engineering design process, using imagination, teamwork, and design skills to create their own projects.

## **Insects**

Three body parts, two antennae, and some compound eyes... but is that it? Discover how entomologists study insects living in different habitats. Experience a real-world science expedition when we head outside and collect insects and other invertebrates using scientific tools and methods. Then, examine them closely and see what you find!

## **Pond Ecosystems**

Ducks and fish are easy to spot, but have you considered the billions of microscopic organisms that provide energy for a healthy ecosystem? Head down to our pond and collect water samples, then examine them under a powerful microscope to explore this near-invisible ecosystem up close.

## **Stars and Constellations**

Look up on a clear, dark night and you will see about five thousand stars without a telescope. But what is a star? How are they made? And do they really make pictures in the sky? Learn to identify seasonal constellations, then rocket out of our Solar System to explore stellar clusters and nebulae light years away!

## **Electricity and Magnetism**

What's the foundation of hair-raising science? The answer may shock you! Get hands-on with electricity and magnetism through interactive demonstrations that reveal the invisible secrets of conductivity, polarity, and the forces of attraction.

# See Yourself in STEM

## See Yourself in STEM (Ages 13 - 15)

In our new "See Yourself in STEM" program, participants will engage in real-world problem-solving, gaining insights into STEM career paths while developing critical skills. Each session will focus on a different aspect of science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics and how it relates to the world around us. This program inspires curiosity and empowers young learners to envision their future in STEM fields.

## Program Topics (page 1 of 2):

### Engineering

Dive into the wide world of engineering and put your problem-solving skills to the test! We'll learn about various fields of engineering and how they contribute to the world we live in. Participants will also use the engineering design process to design and create their own solution to a real-world problem.

### Natural History

Learn about how scientists study the history of organisms and our natural environment through observation, inquiry, and exploration! Meet the EcoTarium's Collection's Management Specialist, explore our 200 year-old natural history collection, and see what it's like to be a naturalist studying the natural world.

### Astronomy and Astrophysics

Learn about our universe and the objects within it through the lens of a space scientist! In the newly renovated Alden Planetarium, we'll travel through space to get a firsthand look at the wonder of our universe. Participants will discover how scientists learn more about the structure, history, and contents of our universe through direct observation and modeling.

# See Yourself in STEM

## Program Topics (continued, page 2 of 2):

### **Mathematics and Statistics**

Math is all around us! We'll leave the paper and pencils behind and discover how we can use math to predict, explain, and define the world we live in. Participants will learn about how scientists, mathematicians, and statisticians apply mathematical principals through real-world examples, and will try their hand at building a mathematical model related to their own interests.

### **Environmental Sciences**

Explore the dynamic relationships between the Earth, humans, animals, plants, and atmospheric systems. Learn about how environmental scientists study these relationships to inform conservation and sustainability initiatives. Participants will also take advantage of the EcoTarium's outdoor grounds and habitats to conduct a scientific study of their own!

### **Zoology and Animal Science**

Work with one of the EcoTarium's expert zookeepers to discover the world of animals and animal care. Participants will learn about animal welfare, enrichment, behavior, diets, and habitats. We'll meet a live animal ambassador and explore biological artifacts to learn more about what animals need to survive, and how animal scientists can improve the lives of both people and animals.

# Expectations and Policies

## Payment Policy

All class payments are nonrefundable.

## Class Cancellation and Schedule Changes

The EcoTarium reserves the right to cancel or modify a class or program due to inclement weather, staffing limitations, or under-enrollment. If a class needs to be canceled, only enrolled students will be contacted and full refunds of the class fee will be provided.

## Student Absences

Class payments are nonrefundable, and the EcoTarium cannot guarantee make-up sessions or alternative options in the event of student absence.

## Drop-off and Pick-up Policy

Students in the “EcoTarium Adventurers” and “See Yourself in STEM” programs are expected to be dropped off on-time for class. Only adults listed as authorized pick-ups upon registration are permitted to pick up students from class. A photo ID is required for anyone picking up a student.

## Behavior Expectations

All students are expected to demonstrate mutual respect for each other and for staff. Bullying or harassment of any kind is not tolerated, and appropriate action will be taken in partnership with caregivers to ensure a safe and engaging environment for all.

## Learning Accommodations

Students who would benefit from having an aide, translator, caregiver, or therapist in class are welcome to do so. If there are any learning accommodations that you would like our staff to be aware of, please complete the "Learning Accommodations" section of class registration.

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The EcoTarium welcomes youth and adults of all backgrounds. Together we work to ensure that everyone, regardless of ability, age, cultural background, ethnicity, faith, gender identity, ideology, income, nationality, race, or sexual orientation has the opportunity to reach their full potential with dignity, feel accepted, and enjoy being a part of our community.