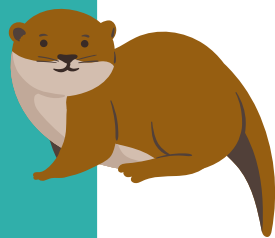


Homeschool Programs

**APR-
AUG
2026**



For more information and to register for classes:

VISIT OUR WEBPAGE



Contents and page numbers:

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Homeschool Days

Join us for a day of exploration with the EcoTarium museum and grounds open exclusively to homeschool families!

- Open hours 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Admission (per person):
 - Members: free up to membership level
 - Adult: \$24
 - Child (ages 2+): \$18
 - Infant (under 2): free
 - Senior: \$18
 - EBT/WIC/Wonderfund cardholders: \$5
- Workshops (per student ages 5+):
 - \$8 per session; \$4 for EcoTarium Homeschool Members
 - 45 minute sessions, up to 15 students per session
 - Caregivers must attend workshops with students
 - Younger siblings are welcome to be in the classroom

Monday, May 11: Physical Sciences Day

- Free “Passport to the Universe” planetarium show included
- Free admission to “The Secret World of Elephants” exhibit included
- Workshop topics:
 - Upcycled Toy Vehicles
 - Aerospace Design
 - Sound Engineering

Monday, June 8: Natural Sciences Day

- Free drop-in Pond Ecosystems program included
- Free admission to “The Secret World of Elephants” exhibit included
- Workshop topics:
 - Global Soundscapes: Mission to Record the Earth
 - Health Sciences: Muscles and Joints
 - Zoology and Animal Care



Physical Sciences Day

May 11, 2026

Early registration opens on Monday, April 20 for EcoTarium Homeschool Members. General registration opens on Monday, April 27. Register at ecotarium.org/homeschool

Schedule

- Free “Passport to the Universe” planetarium show (20 minutes)
 - 11:45 a.m.
 - 12:45 p.m.
 - 1:45 p.m.
 - 2:30 p.m.
- Free admission to “The Secret World of Elephants” exhibit
 - Open hours 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Upcycled Toy Vehicles Workshop (45 minutes)
 - 10:30 a.m.
 - 12:30 p.m.
 - 1:30 p.m. may be added based on demand
- Aerospace Design Workshop (45 minutes)
 - 10:30 a.m.
 - 1:30 p.m.
 - 12:30 p.m. may be added based on demand
- Sound Engineering Workshop (45 minutes)
 - 12:30 p.m.
 - 1:30 p.m.
 - 10:30 a.m. may be added based on demand

Upcycled Toy Vehicles

Create a toy vehicle with everything made from recycled/upcycled materials! Explore how different design variables affect stability and distance traveled.

Aerospace Design

How can we design a breath-powered model rocket to travel as far as possible and safely carry a payload? Experiment with mass, air resistance, and trajectory to optimize your design.

Sound Engineering

Learn about how sound engineers use physics to create the sounds that we hear! Build your own amplifier, and experiment with vibration, volume, transmission, and reflection.

Natural Sciences Day

June 8, 2026

Early registration opens on Monday, May 11 for EcoTarium Homeschool Members. General registration opens on Monday, May 25. Register at ecotarium.org/homeschool

Schedule

- Free Pond Ecosystems program
 - Drop-in 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Free admission to “The Secret World of Elephants” exhibit
 - Open hours 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Global Soundscapes Workshop (45 minutes)
 - 10:30 a.m.
 - 12:30 p.m.
 - 1:30 p.m. may be added based on demand
- Health Sciences Workshop (45 minutes)
 - 10:30 a.m.
 - 1:30 p.m.
 - 12:30 p.m. may be added based on demand
- Zoology and Animal Care Workshop (45 minutes)
 - 12:30 p.m.
 - 1:30 p.m.
 - 10:30 a.m. may be added based on demand

Global Soundscapes: Mission to Record the Earth

Travel the globe in the planetarium with an EcoTarium educator to investigate the spectacular soundscapes of Costa Rica’s rainforests, Hawaii’s coral reefs, and Mongolia’s vast grasslands. You’ll hear your planet in a whole new way!

Health Sciences: Muscles and Joints

How do athletic trainers identify problems with athletes’ muscles and joints and find ways to solve them? Observe structure and movement using a model knee, and learn more about the science behind exercise!

Zoology and Animal Care

Meet a member of the EcoTarium’s animal care team, and learn more about the amazing world of zoology! We’ll also get a chance to meet one of the EcoTarium’s live animal ambassadors.

Homeschool Membership

Enjoy 12 months of free admission and other incredible benefits!

Take advantage of all the EcoTarium has to offer with a Homeschool Membership! Homeschool members receive all benefits of standard EcoTarium membership plus early access to homeschool class registration at no additional cost.

Membership Benefits

- Free admission including all public programs and event days.
- Free or reduced admission to 1,000+ museums, zoos, and gardens through the EcoTarium's three reciprocal networks: Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC) Passport Program, Association of Children's Museums (ACM) Reciprocal Network, and North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) Association.
- Discounted rates on train tickets, planetarium shows, museum shop purchases, birthday parties, and camp programs.
- Early access to EcoTarium Explorers, EcoTarium Adventurers, Homeschool Days, and Family Science Workshop homeschool class registration.

Homeschool Membership Details (as of April 2026)

- \$210 admits up to 4 individuals; one of those individuals must be an adult cardholder
- Add individuals for \$30 per person, up to 8 total

Discounted Rates:

- \$2 off Explorer Express Train tickets
- \$1 off planetarium show tickets
- 10% off purchases in museum shop
- 10% off gift memberships
- 10% off birthday parties
- 10% off summer camps

[Become a Homeschool Member Today!](#)

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” program 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.

TEEN SCIENCE CAFÉ

Join the teen
leadership team!

*Free weekly program for
teens ages 14 – 18*

WHAT IS A TEEN SCIENCE CAFÉ?

A free, fun way for teens to participate in discussions and activities with local scientists. And there's always free food!

**CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER**

First meeting
Wednesday, April
29 at 2pm!



WHAT DOES THE TEEN LEADERSHIP TEAM DO?

- Participate in weekly team meetings at the EcoTarium
- Meet with local scientists
- Plan and schedule cafés
- Recruit friends to attend cafés
- Decide topics, food, activities, design, and advertising
- Assist in leading cafés

WHEN WILL WE MEET?

- Weekly leadership team meetings on **Wednesdays at 2pm at the EcoTarium**
- Monthly café events scheduled by leadership team and open to all teens!

Spring and Summer Events

There's always something new and exciting at the EcoTarium! Please note that these events are not homeschool-exclusive and are open to the public. All are welcome!

Community Science Vacation Week | April 20-24

Harness your powers of observation to help solve real-world problems in your community and across the globe. Hunt for stars, peek at plants, and track animal trends, then share your discoveries.

Astrophysics Speaker Series | select Saturdays

Join a local astronomy expert in the Alden Planetarium and dive into the latest discoveries in the grandest science of all. Come back each month to learn more about our cosmic hometown!

Mud Day | Saturday, June 27

Get down and dirty with everything from mud pies and mud painting to mud toss games and creature sculptures on Mud Day! Bring a change of clothes; today will be delightfully messy for the whole family.

Insect Day | Saturday, July 11

Explore the hidden world of insects on Insect Day! Did you know that more than half of known species are insects? We think that's something to celebrate!

Rocket Day | Saturday, July 25

Celebrate the science of space exploration on Rocket Day! Build physical or chemical rockets of your very own, then count down to blast-off when we launch a model rocket into the sky.

Feather Fest | Saturday, August 15

What's wrong with feeling bird brained during Feather Fest!? Join us to spy frequent flyers, use tools to simulate birds' eating habits, practice your warbles, and meet a favorite feathered friend.





ECOTARIUM SUMMER CAMP

Join us this summer for
endless fun at the EcoTarium!

CAMPER AGE: 5-15

JUNE - AUGUST
222 Harrington Way, Worcester

Registration is
**NOW
OPEN!**



Each week we'll explore science and nature themes alongside friends new and old.

Spaces fill quickly, so register today to secure your spot. If your preferred session is full, sign up for the waitlist, and we'll notify you as soon as space becomes available!

Scan to Learn More and Register Now!



ecotarium.org/camp

museum of science and nature
EcoTarium