



Saplings



Saplings is a collection of group programs offered during the traditional school year for students in preschool and kindergarten. These programs provide students with an opportunity to experience the natural world through fun, hands-on activities in a theme-based lesson.

All programs are staff led and intended for groups of **25 students or less**, with 1 chaperone for every 5 children strongly encouraged. If there are additional adults or siblings with your group, we ask that they take some time to enjoy our gardens and exhibits during the program. Each program is **60 minutes** long and **costs \$3 per individual (students and parents)**. School employees are free!

Contact the North Carolina Arboretum at (828) 665-2492.
Please call Michelle Pearce (x224) to register your group for a program.

Monthly Programs at The NC Arboretum

September – Magnificent Monarchs!

Monarch butterflies are some of the world's greatest migrators. We will learn about their lifecycle from egg to adult, discover just how far they travel each year and how they do it. We will also have a chance to walk through the gardens looking for migrating Monarchs and other butterflies and learn about the program Monarch Watch.

October – The Secret Life of Squirrels*

What could be more fun than watching the antics of a silly squirrel? Well, what if you could be a squirrel?! Learn about the adaptations these busy mammals have that help them succeed in nature. We will also pretend to be squirrels while we collect food for winter, practice our balance and look for good places to nest.

November – As Tall as Trees!*

Have you ever wanted to grow as tall as a tree? Come to the Arboretum to explore the world of trees! Learn about the different parts of a tree, find out what trees need to grow during a fun game, and then take a walk to identify trees by using different shapes, colors and textures to describe them.

December – Winter Wonderland

Don't let the cold weather get you down. Join us as we explore the magic of the Arboretum in winter. We will learn about the many evergreens along the trails, look for signs of winter animals and discover the uniqueness in each snowflake.

January – Where Did All the Animals Go?*

Humans like to turn up the heat and stay inside when the weather gets cold, but what do the animals do? Some animals will travel great distances to find warmer weather a more food, some will sleep away the cold, and others will fatten up to stay warm while they stay active. We will learn some new animal vocabulary, go on a winter walk, and find out just where all the animals have gone.

February – Weather Wonders

Weather is an amazing act of nature. We may be scared during a spring thunderstorm, enjoy making snowmen in the winter, or have a blast running around outside during the warm summer months. We will learn how different types of weather are created, what different cloud shapes mean, and get to measure the weather of the day using weather tools!

March – An Eggs-ellent Start to Life!

Many of the earth's animals start from eggs, but each of them are unique. We will learn the difference between bird eggs, amphibian eggs, insect eggs and reptile eggs while we also spend time learning the differences between these groups of animals. Then we will spend some time outside having our own Spring Egg Hunt!

April – All the Magic of Life Exists within a Single, Tiny Seed*

In an interactive demonstration, we will learn how the parts of a seed provide everything needed to create a plant. During a hike on the trails we will look for different kinds of seeds and learn about how they make the journey from the parent plant to the ground to sprout.

May – Colors and Shapes in Nature

The flowers are blooming, the birds are singing and butterflies are fluttering by! Come to the Arboretum this month to see all of the spring activity. We will look for familiar shapes in the trees and leaves and learn about the colors of nature and what they mean.

*These programs are also available as Outreach at your location. “Where did all the animals go?” and “All the magic of life...” are only available seasonally.