

# Field Trip Program- Ecosystems and Food Webs

At The North Carolina Arboretum

Students learn about the richness of habitats here in the mountains of North Carolina as we explore the life of a pond, woodland and an open space. Students will identify plant and animal indicator species and determine their roles and unique adaptations in ecosystems. We'll discuss how energy flows from producers to consumers and decomposers of a community and why biodiversity is important for environmental quality.

## Principles:

- Ecosystems include a high diversity of plant and animal life in our region.
- Changes to habitats can be harmful to plant and animal life.
- Humans can use conservation practices and habitat improvements to promote conservation and biodiversity.
- Organisms, both plants and animals interact with each other and the non-living things within an ecosystem.
- Each organism in an ecosystem has a particular role in transferring energy.

Duration: 1.5 hours

Cost: \$6.00 per student/parent chaperone. Teachers with the school are free. Payment should be given to the instructor at the start of the program. A second program can be booked at a cost of an additional \$3.00 per student.

Months Offered: September to mid-November, mid-March to May.

NC Science Essential Standards:

Fifth Grade: 5.L.2.1, 5.L.2.2, 5.L.2.3

Starting Location: In front of the **Education Center** at the program start time (either 9:30 am or 12:00 pm) set upon booking the program. Groups arriving early may enjoy the property and facilities. Only school groups that have pre-registered for an exhibit visit may enter the exhibits at the Baker Exhibit Center.

### *What do my students need?*

Students should wear clothing that is appropriate for the weather. Students with physical disabilities or limitations are capable of participating but the instructor should be told prior to day of the program to make any special arrangements.

Want to schedule this program? Contact Michelle Pearce, Youth Education Coordinator, at [mpearce@ncarboretum.org](mailto:mpearce@ncarboretum.org) or (828) 665-2492 ext. 624

