

Field Trip Program- Exploring Ecology

At The North Carolina Arboretum

Through a population simulation and field study, students will learn about the fundamental principles of ecology. Students will act out the dynamics of a local population as it goes through many generations, facing shortages in food supply and introduced predators. Students will also use tools and equipment to study a wooded area of the Arboretum and gather data on the producers, consumers, and abiotic factors that exist there.

Principles:

- Ecosystems can be studied from multiple levels of organization.
- Each organism in an ecosystem has a specific role in transferring energy.
- Living and non-living factors influence each other and can impact the diversity of an ecosystem.

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:

Sixth Grade: 6.L.2.1, 6.L.2.3

Eighth Grade: 8.L.3.1, 8.L.3.2, 8.L.3.3

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 in the creek walk, 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 or (828) 665-2492 ext. 624

