

## **SCIENCE OF NATURE**

Mondays, January 24 -May 2 (no class February 14, March 14, or April 4; 12 weeks)

11:00am-12:15pm

Ages 6-8

Students explore the world around them as they investigate the biology and ecology of plants and animals, and the environment they inhabit. We study what mosses and lichens really are, look at the microhabitats of different bugs, dissect an owl pellet to see what they eat, use microscopes to see the tiny critters that live in a pond, and more! Classes will meet at Line Creek Nature Area, close to our Center. All lab costs and park usage fees are included in registration fee. Course enrollment is limited to 12 students. **\*\*THESE EVENTS ARE PRIVATE RESERVATIONS AND ARE NOT ENDORSED OR SPONSORED BY THE SOUTHERN CONSERVATION TRUST\*\***

Instructor: Nanette Lenderman, MEd

Location: Line Creek Nature Preserve (Off Hwy 54 on the Fayette/Coweta line)

Course fee: \$275 OR \$25/lab

10% off sibling discount

Register for full semester or individual labs.

### **LAB SCHEDULE:**

#### **Mosses and Lichens – Monday, January 24**

We start the semester by investigating some of the smallest plants found in your backyard. Students use microscopes to investigate mosses and lichens (and find out that lichens are actually two organisms), and create their own living terrarium.

#### **Science of Leaves – Monday, January 31**

Students use leaf rubbings to learn about the different species of trees, and create an art + science masterpiece. We also conduct a chromatography experiment to look at leaf pigments, and find out why green leaves turn yellow and orange in the fall.

#### **Flower Dissection – Monday, Monday, February 7**

We learn to properly use dissection tools as we dissect and study the different parts of a flower, observe similarities and differences of different flower types, and discuss why different flowers have specific shapes.

#### **Fruits and Seeds – Monday, February 21**

Why do plants produce fruits and seeds? What is inside a seed? What do seeds need to grow into a plant? How do seeds get to a good place to grow? This week we dissect fruits and seeds to investigate their characteristics, and help us answer questions about them.

### **Terrestrial Invertebrates** – Monday, February 28

Bugs have a terrible reputation, but insects and spiders are important to the ecosystem. We investigate a decomposing log to see how many kinds of invertebrates we can find, what part of the log they like to live in, and what makes them incredible.

### **Herpetology** – Monday, March 7

This week we study reptiles and amphibians that are found in our yards and parks. We learn how to identify them, study habitats they prefer, and investigate what it means to be native, non-native or invasive.

### **Ornithology** – Monday, Monday, March 21

Students collect scientific data and use citizen science to help scientists determine range and populations of native bird species. We learn how to identify birds, and study a bird food web as we dissect owl pellets.

### **Microscopic Critters** – Monday, March 28

In lab today, we investigate cool aquatic critters. We look for and identify microscopic protists and invertebrates in water samples from nearby water sources.

### **Water Quality Lab** – Monday, April 11

This week we learn about nutrient cycles in our waterways as we conduct water chemistry tests on water samples from local ponds.

### **Watersheds** – Monday, Monday, April 18

Students simulate the movement of water (and pollutants) across a landscape to the ocean using a model to study where our water goes, and what it takes with it along the way.

### **Soils and Rocks** – Monday, Monday, April 25

This week we study the different types of soils and rocks found in our backyard. We investigate soil as a habitat, and compare the absorbency of different soils, and discuss why it matters.

### **Weather and Climate** – Monday, May 2

Students investigate the difference between weather and climate through experiments using familiar household items, and analyzing the data from their research.