



Middle School Connections 2025-26

Attend a home school program specifically designed for students ages 11—13. Practice thinking critically, analyzing and interpreting

data, using scientific tools and techniques and learning more about our natural world. Sessions are held rain or shine; please dress for both indoor and outdoor activities. Fee is per student, \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members, and includes one adult admission. Classes are from 1:30-3:00pm at The Zand Education Center. **Registration is required at [www.dawesarb.org/ calendar](http://www.dawesarb.org/calendar).**

Space is limited to 16 students per class.

September 26 – Dynamic Duos

Learn about interrelationships in nature as we explore symbiotic relationships among the organisms here at The Dawes Arboretum. Look for associations and become a citizen scientist as you walk the Nature's Notebook Phenology Trail.

October 24 – Tree ID 101

Fall is a great time to study tree ID! Learn the basics while exploring the varied collection of trees at The Arboretum. Practice tree identification using guidebooks and a dichotomous key. Did you know we host several State Champion trees?

January 23 – Rocks, Minerals, and Soils

Be a "rock star" as you learn about OH's rocks and minerals. Practice critical thinking to ID a mystery rock. Do a field investigation into soil types and what the differences mean to plants and man.

February 27 – Water Wonders

The water cycle is the system by which the Earth's fixed amount of water is collected. Travel through the cycle, build a terrarium to take home and learn the connection between the water cycle and all living things.

March 27 – Environmental Justice for All

Everyone has an equal right to a healthy environment- but does everyone have a healthy environment? Students use problem solving skills and critical thinking to propose various actions to real-life scenarios. We'll explore the US EPA's EJSCREEN tool to assess our local community's environmental justice issues.

April 24 – Space Invaders

Learn all about invasive species and why they may be a problem in an ecosystem. Review predator/prey relationships and food webs. Dress for the outdoors as we will take part in an invasive removal project in The Arboretum woods!