



Middle School Connections 2026-27

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.**

Space is limited to 16 students per class.

September 25 – The Name Game: Classification

Taxonomy is the study of naming and classifying organisms into groups. Learn how scientists sort plants and animals into categories, practice using simple dichotomous keys, and go on a biodiversity search around The Arboretum!

October 23 – Solar Snacks: Photosynthesis

Plants may not snack on our favorite foods, but that doesn't mean they don't eat! Dive into photosynthesis, the way plants make their own food. A handful of hands-on experiments will give a sneak peek into a process that happens in plants across The Arboretum every day.

January 22 – Zooming In: Cells & Organelles

You, me, bugs and trees! We're all made up of cells. Discover parts of a cell and all their important jobs, compare and contrast plant and animal cells and practice using a microscope to see for yourself!

February 26 – DNA Detective: Introduction to Genetics

Human DNA contains over 20,000 different genes, all giving directions on how to make each part of you. Learn how DNA codes for different traits through hands-on activities and extract DNA from a familiar fruit!

March 26 – Digging Through the Past: Fun with Fossils

Learn about the types of fossils and the different ways they are formed then play a game with classmates to practice the knowledge. Get a closer look at real fossils, many discovered here in Ohio! Use critical thinking and analysis to solve a fossil mystery.

April 23 – Nature's Clock: Phenology & Seasons

Phenology is the study of the timing of biological events in nature such as flowers blooming, birds migrating or frogs calling. How do temperature, day length and precipitation influence the timing of these events? Explore these questions and more on a phenology search around our gardens!