



Fernbrook Farms

Homeschool Fall Semester 2009

Class Dates and Topics

Communities Work Together

September 22, 23, 24

During this introductory class we will look into the relationships between organisms in an ecosystem that help them meet their needs for survival. We'll explore the balance of the natural world by looking at specific relationships, as well as the over all balance of the natural communities at Fernbrook.

Populations: Finding the Balance

September 29, 30, October 1

This session on populations looks closer at the balance in an ecosystem. Students will learn more about competition for resources and the flows of energy in natural systems. Students will also learn about carrying capacities of healthy ecosystems, as well as the natural and human impacts that cause species extinction.

Stream Exploration

October 6,7, 8

Together we'll look at stream ecology and discover which plant life thrives on the banks and why. We'll learn about riparian zones (the edges of wetlands), and how they differ from isolated woodlands. We'll also look at the life within the stream and how the web of life connects all of the organisms that make the stream their habitat. *(This is a wet lesson! All students should come prepared with shoes they can fully submerge in the water.)*

Fall Migration

October 13, 14, 15

New Jersey is a grand avian highway in the Fall and Spring. In this lesson we will watch and learn about the flight patterns and schedules of birds migrating south for the winter. We will look at what factors push the birds to fly south and hopefully identify some of them on their journey to warmer climates.

Benthic Macro Invertebrates

October 20, 21, 22

There's a whole community of insect species just below the water's surface! While some are predators, others only eat plants- each of these however, plays an important part in sustaining the life below and ponds surface. Together we'll collect and examine the anatomy of several species of benthic macro invertebrates to learn their importance in the wetland ecosystem. We'll see eggs, larvae, nymphs and adults of many species important to the health of the pond.

Dendrology: Studying the Trees

October 27, 28, 29

In this lesson, each student will create their own eastern deciduous forest tree identification guide using drawings and leaves collected on the farm. Students will hike the farm to learn everything from tree anatomy & identification to the difference between coniferous and deciduous trees.

Mammals of New Jersey

November 3, 4, 5

Fox, beaver, ground hog and deer. These are a few of the mammals that can be easily spotted while traveling the trails of Fernbrook. Together we'll track some of these animals and try to piece together their day- where they may have slept, eaten, and drinking holes they may have visited. We'll look at the behaviors and characteristics of mammals and make plaster molds of tracks we find.

Field Trip: Double Trouble State Park

November 10, 11, 12

During this field trip we'll tour Double Trouble State Park to learn about the past and present cranberry industry. We'll see the original village, that housed the former cranberry farm and packing plant, and learn how the winding cedar rivers and pitch pine forest ecosystem of the Pinelands enabled industry to thrive.



**Fernbrook Farms Education Center
Homeschool Fall Semester 2009**

Please Print or Type

(Please note: We need a new registration form for your child(ren) each semester. Thank you!)

Name of Child(children)		Age	Date of Birth	Male	Female
Address		City		State	
Zip Code		Grade entering in the fall			
Mother's Name		Father's Name			
Home Phone#	Work#	Home Phone#	Work#		
Email		Email			
Cell/Pager#		Cell/Pager#			
Employer		Employer			

Confidential Medical Information & Required Emergency Information

- Please indicate information about the registrant(s) **regarding medications, allergies, physical disabilities or restrictions that the instructors should know about. Attach pages if necessary.**

My Child's physician's name and phone# is _____

My Childs medical insurance carrier is _____ Policy# _____

In case of an emergency, I give my permission to have _____ (child/children) receive first aid and be transported to the nearest hospital by professional, emergency personnel. I understand I will be financially responsible for the cost of such treatment.

YES

NO Parent/Guardian _____ Date signed _____

Schedule of Classes

*(Classes will be held for ages 6-11 on Tuesdays and **Wednesdays** from 1:30-3:30pm & **Thursdays** from 9:30-11:30am.)*

- o Please circle **TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY or THURSDAY** indicating which day you will be attending class.

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- o How did you hear about our homeschool programs? _____

Registration Fee - \$80 for entire semester

- o We are asking for registrations for the entire eight-week semester. If after the first day you are dissatisfied, you may receive a \$70 refund. If you have any questions regarding this please contact us at (609) 298-4028.

o MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
Fernbrook Farms Environmental Education Center

MAIL APPLICATION TO:
Fernbrook Farms
P.O. BOX 228
Bordentown, NJ 08505