

Homeschool Programs 2016-2017 School Year



Join us each month during the school year 11:45-12:45pm for ages 5—9 at the Greenbelt Nature Center and 11:30—1:00 pm for ages 10-14 at High Rock Park, for themed programming designed with your homeschool learner in mind. Our knowledgeable staff and volunteers, and our resources are here to help you expand and enhance your curriculum.

Fee \$8 per session non-members/\$6 Greenbelt Conservancy members. Pre-registration and pre-payment required. Pay for 4 sessions get one free!

Schedule of Programs

Wednesday September 14

Water, Water Everywhere

Water is essential to our planet. Discover the special properties of this element that makes it unique and necessary for life on earth through activities and easy experiments. Held at the Nature Center.

Solve an Eco Mystery: Who Polluted the Hudson?

Learn about the Hudson River on a journey back through time to discover "Who Polluted the Hudson"? Consider the effects of pollution on our ecosystem and ourselves and investigate steps we can take to clean up our waterways. Held at High Rock Park.

Wednesday, October 19

Soil Sleuths: Life on the Forest Floor

The soil is alive! Find clues of a world of tiny animals living beneath our feet. Hike and investigate the undercover forest critters using magnifying lenses and other sleuthing tools. Held at the Nature Center.

The Forest FBI (Fungus, Bacteria and Invertebrates)

The forest employs an undercover team of ... decomposers! The FBI are fungus, bacteria, and invertebrates. Seek them out in soil and on rotting logs, and observe how they complete the food chain by turning organic materials into compost. Held at High Rock Park.

Wednesday November 9

Map Reading and Wayfinding

An essential skill, a map can help you know where you're going in the forest, a large event, or a shopping mall. Learn basic map vocabulary and concepts, work as a group to put together a map of the Greenbelt, and then make a map of your own. Held at the Nature Center.

Orienteering

Brush up on map reading and compass skills, test your navigational know-how with simple orienteering activities, then make your own compass to take home. Held at High Rock Park.

Wednesday December 14

Parts of the Cell

The human cell is the smallest building block in our body. We will look inside and learn about its many small parts and how they help the cell do its job. This lesson will conclude with building a model of a cell...that we can eat! Held at the Nature Center.

Cellular Exploration

Using microscopes, examine cells from different plants and animals and learn about their similarities and differences. We will conclude by making an edible model of a cell. Held at High Rock Park.

Wednesday February 8

Energy and Natural Resources

What is energy, anyway? And where does it come from? Learn about energy production and usage, and examine its impacts on the Earth along the way with a fun "mining" activity. Held at the Nature Center.

Energy and Natural Resources

Energy is used by our devices, but also by transportation, food production, and more. Looking at the concept using an "energy chains" model, work as a group to decode the nature of energy and consider the role personal choices play in energy consumption. Held at High Rock Park.

Wednesday March 8

Garden for Wildlife

Learn easy and fun ways to make your yard more inviting for wildlife such as birds and butterflies. By adding special plants and a water source, your home can be a small habitat for animals in the neighborhood. Held at the Nature Center.

Pollinators

When butterflies, bees, and birds visit flowers to sip nectar, they also spread pollen to make new seeds. We will explore this relationship to learn how plants and animals help each other to live and grow. Held at High Rock Park.

Wednesday April 19

Birds

Join in the fun as we explore the world of birds through eggs, feathers, and bird beaks. Afterwards we will hike the trails (weather-permitting) in search of our feathered friends! Held at the Nature Center.

Bird Behavior

Birding has become one of the most popular sports in America. Students will learn how to identify common bird species of the Greenbelt, by their characteristics, calls and behavior, while using a bird field guide and binoculars. Join us for a memorable lesson about our aerial friends! Held at High Rock Park.

Wednesday May 10

Springtime Scavenger Hunt

Our mission is to find signs of spring hidden in plain sight. Complete this seasonal search by training your eyes and your focus on this guided hike to find natural objects, large and small. Held at the Nature Center.

mini Bio-Blitz

What kind of plants and wildlife exist in the heart of Staten Island? Investigate the biodiversity of the Greenbelt forests by identifying what lives and grows here! We will census as many species as possible over this time period. Held at High Rock Park.

Wednesday June 14

Pond Life Cycles

Discover the amazing ways that different pond organisms live, grow, and change throughout their life span and how they fit into an aquatic ecosystem. Held at the Nature Center.

Ponds under the Spotlight

Our ponds are full of life. Some can easily be seen and some are a little more hidden. By using the right tools such as microscopes, we will take a closer look at an entire ecosystem waiting to be discovered. Held at High Rock Park.