



Home School INVESTIGATIONS

at The Dawes Arboretum

Middle School Connections 2018-19

Attend a home school program specifically designed for students ages 11–13. Practice thinking

logically and 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, \$5 for members and \$7 for non-members. Classes are from 2 - 3:30pm at The Zand Education Center, unless otherwise noted.

Registration is required at www.dawesarb.org/learn/calendar.

September 18 – **What’s the Buzz?**

What is the bee’s role in the forest ecosystem? Students will develop an understanding of the pollination process and the relationship between pollinators and flowering plants. Make a model scenario depicting the impact of climate change on pollination.

October 16 – **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 guide books and a dichotomous key. Did you know we host several State Champions and one National Champion tree?

November 20 – **A Peek at Packaging**

We all buy stuff, and most of that stuff comes in packaging. We’ll debate the functions, benefits and drawbacks of packaging, design alternative packaging for various products and learn about natural resources, trash, toxicity and litter.

March 19 – **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.

April 16 – **Riparian Retreat**

Meet at the Red Barn Area to visit a riparian habitat. Through hands-on exploration students will learn why this is such an important space for humans and wildlife. Habitat, food webs and niche species will be discussed.