

Fall 2024-
Spring 2025



Homeschool Programming

Explore, experiment, and connect with nature.

Situated in a urban wetland nature preserve, Shelby Bottoms Nature Center welcomes students to engage with the natural world and build a lifelong love of science, exploration, and learning.



- Homeschool days
- High school guided lab experiences
- Lesson plans and activity guides for use during On-Your-Own visits
- Service learning opportunities
- Homeschool educator workshops
- Many public educational programs

Our Mission

To provide quality environmental education and responsible recreation.

To help protect, preserve, restore, and manage the Park ecosystem and all natural resources.

To raise awareness, foster respect, and share enthusiasm for the natural environment.

Scheduled by SBNC

These programs are scheduled by the Nature Center and may require registration. Please view our seasonal program schedule, join our homeschool email list, follow us on social media, or contact us for information on upcoming opportunities.



Homeschool Days

Grades K-8

Join us for our flexible homeschool days! Come enjoy self-guided activities prepared by the Nature Center and its educational partners or sign up for one of the staff-guided activity sessions throughout the day (or both!).

Each homeschool day has its own theme, prioritizing place-based and environmentally relevant themes such as water quality and native pollinators. All activities aim to build critical thinking skills, as well as encourage exploration, curiosity, and experimentation while building a love of nature, learning, and the outdoors.

Homeschool Educator Workshops

Adult

All homeschool educators are welcome at these workshops, intended to help provide tools and curriculum for use with individual students or larger co-op groups. These workshops focus on lessons and activities covered in the curriculum the Nature Center supplies for **On-Your-Own** field trips.

Educators who have attended a workshop may request the use of certain additional materials and tools when scheduling On-Your-Own field trips to help enhance lessons.

Want to stay up-to-date on current offerings? Sign up for our homeschool email list by contacting us through email or phone! Please provide:

- Name
- Contact email
- Which types of opportunities interest you
- Organization (if relevant)



All curricula are developed in alignment with the Tennessee Academic Standards for Science and are designed to provide educational experiences where students engage in science practices and apply crosscutting concepts to build on their understanding of science ideas.

Scheduled by Visiting Group

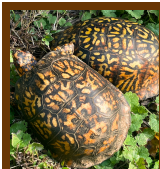
The Nature Center offers a limited number of scheduled private programs. Please see the last page for more information on scheduling.

High School Labs

Grades 9-12

2 hours

Students conduct fieldwork using outdoor science methods in these lab experiences.

Fall	Spring	Year-round
Meadow Succession Collect species diversity data and observe ecological succession.	Water Quality Learn about the park's water systems and collect water quality data.	Forest Composition Investigate forest age and composition to examine human impact.
Pollinator Survey Investigate pollinator habitat preference and adaptations.	 	Bird Census Learn about bird research methods and participate in ongoing data collection.

On-Your-Own Visits

All Ages

Self-paced

The park is always open to visitors! Come on your own or bring a co-op group for an On-Your-Own visit using curricula and activity outlines provided by the Nature Center. Please contact the Nature Center to request these lesson guides.

Clipboards may be available to borrow during your visit. We strongly recommend that larger groups (10+) schedule a visit time with the Nature Center. See back for details.

Service Learning

All Ages

1-3 hours depending on project

In service learning, students address community needs while building knowledge and critical thinking through reflection. We will find an opportunity that fits both your groups' and the park's needs. Some past examples include:

- Invasive plant removal
- Planting
- Litter cleanup
- Trail maintenance

Service learning opportunities may be available as part of homeschool days, and can be added to guided or on-your-own field trips as well as scheduled independently.



Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a cost associated with Nature Center programs?

All of our programs are free! We are working hard to make authentic science experiences available to all learners.

Can I schedule a private field trip for my homeschool group?

Groups of students completing work for grades 9-12 are welcome to schedule a field lab. We are currently not accepting reservations for K-8 groups but may do so in the future.

What are your group requirements for private field trips?

Groups must be between 15-30 students with at least a 1:10 adult-to-student ratio. Younger siblings should not attend.

When can my group visit the Nature Center?

Private field trips are offered Tues-Fri, 9 am-12 pm. Afternoon trips may be available on a case-by-case basis. On-Your-Own visits are preferred on Mondays or Tues-Fri from 12:30-4 pm, but other times may be available.



**Contact Nature Center for
ADA accommodations**

How do I request a field trip or On-Your-Own visit?

To request any sort of visit, please complete the form linked below. If the trip is On-Your-Own, you may skip the final two sections if they are not relevant.

Why do I need to schedule ahead for an On-Your-Own visit?

The Nature Center is a busy place! If you bring a large group without making a reservation, you run the risk that spaces you were planning to use may be closed or in use for a public program or large school group. Additionally, unscheduled groups are not eligible to borrow supplies such as clipboards and pencils.

These program don't work for me/my homeschool group. Is there another way we can get involved with the Nature Center?

Yes! We offer a large number of free public programs each year. Many of them are educational and great for homeschool learning. Please check out our seasonal program schedule. Programs that require registration may fill up, and families should sign up individually.

Ready to register?

To request a visit, fill out the **SBNC Field Trip Request Form** available in the "Related Links" section of our website or at the QR code at right and return it to us by email.



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