

Homeschool Nature Group at the May Arboretum in Winter/Spring Semester

What is it? During the upcoming semester, homeschoolers of Reno can join together for weekly lessons and activities about the environment and science! These sessions will cover different ecosystems from around the world, focusing on a few focal species from each area, characteristics of the biome, and more! Sessions will include 2 hours of structured and guided activities, lessons, thought exercises, games, and crafts. Following this, participants can join for an optional homeschool social hour of unstructured time for children and parents to interact with like-minded individuals.

Who is it for? This program is developed in line with the Next Generation Science Standards, for students in K-5th grade. Students who are slightly older than this range may be permitted to register for the program at the educator's discretion, especially if they are siblings with another participant. Students must turn five years old prior to the start of the semester to enroll in a class. People with disabilities are always welcome to join Arboretum programming.

What is the commitment? This program is intended to be completed in its entirety, from mid-January through Late May, with a Spring Break in line with WCD, from March 17th-28th. Though no formal homework will be assigned, students will be invited to complete a reflection activity at home each week to explore beyond the classroom.

How much does it cost? This program will be \$200 dollars to cover the cost of programming materials, but May Arboretum Society members can enroll for \$25 dollars off. If enrolled prior to January 10th, families can apply for financial assistance, resulting in partial or complete coverage. Financial assistance is offered on a limited basis, so families should apply early to increase chance of coverage.

What is the meeting schedule? This class will meet weekly, usually in the Ranch House, near the south parking lot of the Arboretum. For grades K-2, class will be held on Wednesday afternoons, from 12 to 3. For grades 3-5, class will be held on Thursday afternoons from 12-3. Students may be considered for the alternate class time for scheduling conflicts, but this is at the sole discretion of Arboretum staff. Below are the likely themes for the semester, but is subject to change.

Date	Topic
1/22 or 1/23	Tour and Intro
1/29 or 1/30	Alaska Taiga
2/5 or 2/6	Chihuahuan Desert
2/12 or 2/13	Caribbean
2/19 or 2/20	Galapagos
2/26 or 2/27	Patagonia
3/5 or 3/6	Zambezi Basin
3/12 or 3/13	Congo Rainforest
3/19 or 3/20	SPRING BREAK- no class
3/26 or 3/27	SPRING BREAK- no class
4/2 or 4/3	Arabian Desert
4/9 or 4/10	Mediterranean
4/16 or 4/17	Fjord Estuaries
4/23 or 4/24	Siberian Tundra
4/30 or 5/1	Gobi Desert
5/7 or 5/8	Yangtze Basin
5/14 or 5/15	Indonesia
5/21 or 5/22	Australian Shrublands
5/28 or 5/29	Wrap Up and Review

