

# Zoo Knoxville Homeschool Academy

## Fall Semester 2026

### Weekly Classes



**Cost:** Zoo membership is required to attend class. Both the student(s) and whoever brings the student(s) to class must either pay admission or have a membership. Visit [zooknoxville.org](http://zooknoxville.org) to purchase a membership.

Pre-K	\$89 for semester (one parent must attend with student, no other children allowed)
K-2 <sup>nd</sup> grade	\$89 for semester
3-5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup>	\$109 for semester

*Transfer fee from one weekly class to another: \$10. Cancellations: More than 30 days before start of semester: 2/3 refund. 28-15 days: 1/3 refund. 14 days or less: no refund. Prices subject to change without notice.*

**Registration:** Online registration for new families starts April 21<sup>st</sup>!

Advance registration is required. Registration is online at [zooknoxville.org](http://zooknoxville.org). Registration and payment must be received at least two business days before students can start attending class. **Register by August 13th to be able to attend the full semester. Registration stays open during the semester and is discounted before fall break for the remaining semester. Most classes fill before the semester starts.**

**Schedule:** Register each child for one class per week. Classes occur weekly from Aug 18<sup>th</sup>- Nov 18<sup>th</sup> except the weeks of Sept 29<sup>th</sup> and Oct 6<sup>th</sup> there will not be classes.

Tuesdays:

Class Start Time	PreK* (1 hour)	K-2 (1 hour)	3rd-5th (1.5 hours)	6th-9th (1.5 hours)
9:45 AM	Ms. Louise (Log Cabin)	Ms. Emilee (Foundation)	Ms. Kelsey (ARCC)	
12:15 PM		Mrs. Louise (Foundation)	Mr. Colby (ARCC)	6 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> Ms. Amanda (Log Cabin)
2:15 PM		Mr. Tanner (Foundation)	Mr. Colby (ARCC)	8 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> Ms. Amanda (Log Cabin)

Wednesdays:

Class Start Time	PreK* (1 hour)	K-2 (1 hour)	3rd-5th (1.5 hours)	6th-8th (1.5 hours)
9:45 AM		Ms. Emilee (Foundation)	Ms. Cassidy (ARCC)	6 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> Ms. Amanda (Log Cabin)
12:15 PM		Tanner/ Emilee (Foundation)	Mr. Colby (ARCC)	8 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> Ms. Amanda (Log Cabin)
2:15 PM		Mr. Tanner (Foundation)	Mr. Colby (ARCC)	

\* Pre-K: one adult must attend with student, other non-registered siblings are not permitted in class

\*\*Class instructors may change throughout the semester as needed

Zoo Knoxville offers a wide variety of weekly science classes for homeschool students from Kindergarten through 9<sup>th</sup> grade. These classes are split up into four groups, Pre-K, K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade, and 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade. During these classes students will cover 4 to 5 units in a variety of sciences. Each unit will have an introductory class and two classes that are more hands-on building from the first week and applying concepts to the plants and animals found in Zoo Knoxville. Students attend one class a week and families can choose which class time suits their schedule, depending on availability.

# Zoo Knoxville Weekly Homeschool Class Schedule Fall 2026

Aug 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>

## **Introduction to Homeschool and Intro to Chemistry**

Students will receive a basic overview of chemistry concepts including the basics of matter, atoms, polarity, and begin practicing using the scientific method in a laboratory setting.

Aug 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>

## **Chemistry: Elements, Compounds, and Mixtures**

Students will build on their understanding of basic chemistry concepts and explore more thoroughly the specifics of atoms and how these are able to create elements, compounds, and mixtures through a series of experiments.

Sept 1<sup>st</sup>- 2<sup>nd</sup>

## **Chemistry: Water Quality**

Students will learn how chemistry can be applied to measure the quality of water sources, both natural and manmade. Students will learn how to conduct different water quality tests and analyze the data gathered to determine the quality of different water sources, including Zoo Knoxville's self-populating wetland habitat.

Sept 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>

## **Chemistry: Aquatic Indicator Species Field Trip**

Students will be using the skills developed last class in an off-site field research setting to determine the water quality of a nearby water source. Students will also have the opportunity to catch, observe, identify, and release macroinvertebrate species and learn how the presence of indicator species can give scientists valuable information regarding the health of an aquatic ecosystem.

Sept 15<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup>

## **Ecology: Seasonal Changes Part 1: Animals**

Students will learn about the changes undergone by animal species in the autumn and winter months and participate in an activity to benefit local animals, either at the zoo or at home, as these changes take place.

Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>- 23<sup>rd</sup>

## **Ecology: Seasonal Changes Part 2: Plants**

Students will learn about the changes undergone by plants in the autumn and winter seasons. Students will participate in a laboratory based study of plant anatomy and have the opportunity to practice collecting specimens for observation.

Sept 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>

FALL BREAK: NO CLASSES

Oct 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>

FALL BREAK: NO CLASSES

Oct 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>

## **Botany: Review and Seed Dispersal**

Students will focus on plant reproduction and learn how different categories of plants are able to produce offspring through the production of seeds, spores, and more. Students will also learn about how these seeds are dispersed throughout an ecosystem, culminating in a dissection.

Oct 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>

## **Botany: Seed Dormancy and Dissection**

Students will learn about dormancy and the role it plays in the reproduction of plants and in the rejuvenation of ecosystems. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in a dissection to learn the ins and outs of plant reproduction.

Oct 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>

**Botany: Fall Field Trip to Local Park (must have attended prior week[s])**

Students will participate in a botany-based scavenger hunt at an off-site location.

Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>

**Astronomy: Seasonal Changes**

Students will learn about how changes in the Earth's position affect our seasons. Students will focus on the changes in observable constellations and learn some of the stories behind their names.

Nov 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>

**Astronomy: Earth, Moon, and Sun**

Students will learn about the movements of the earth, moon, and sun. Students will spend time learning about the phases of the moon and how the earth, moon, and sun interact to produce eclipses.

NOTE: This class involves the use and ingestion of food items. Please contact Amanda Haire in the event of food allergies to coordinate suitable replacements.

Nov 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>

**Astronomy: Our Solar System and Galaxies**

Students will learn about our galaxy, solar system, and the planets found in them.