



Elachee Nature Science Center

Educating for Today . . . Preserving for Tomorrow

First Wednesday Home School Series 2011-2012

Elachee Nature Science Center, the southeast's first nature center and museum to be accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), is excited to offer another year of the First Wednesday Program series for home school students for the 2011-2012 school year.

Beginning August 3, join us for these popular hands-on, educational and exciting programs scheduled on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month from 1:30-3:30 p.m. The cost for the entire 10 program series is \$75 per student and \$35 per participating parent. Families may also register on a semester basis at a rate of \$50 per student and \$25 per parent. This series is open to children in grades pre-K through 5th grade. Pre-registration with payment is required before your student may participate in the program.

Join us for a FREE First Wednesday Preview Day on Wednesday, July 27, from 1:30– 3:30 p.m. Tour the facility, meet some of the Elachee staff, speak face to face with the Education Director and Program Manager and enjoy a short program presentation. You may register your child on Preview Day too!

Fall Semester 2011

August 3 – *Georgia's Coast*

Learn about coastal habitats and some of Georgia's state symbols while visiting with our resident gopher tortoise, *Gopher Boy*, and walk inside a life-size inflatable right whale. We'll also visit our Starlab planetarium to do a hands-on activity about moon phases and tides.

September 7 – *Navigating Chicopee Woods*

Navigate through the woods with a GPS unit, compass and a map. Follow a series of clues to find your way back to the nature center from a specified point in Chicopee Woods.

October 5 – *Tremendous Trees of Thompson Mill*

Meet at the UGA Thompson Mill Arboretum in Braselton, GA for a special tour of some unique trees found throughout the state. Students will learn how scientists classify trees as they use a dichotomous key to identify tree species and will learn about the various parts of a tree.

November 1 – *Nocturnal Animals – a special evening program!*

Join Elachee staff on Tuesday, November 1, from 6:15-8:15 p.m. for an evening of animals and planets! Hike the woods in the dark and see what we can scare up, dissect owl pellets and see Jupiter and Venus through "Shirley".

December 7 – *Dinosaurs and Fossils*

Tour Elachee's museum and see a Mosasaur skeleton up close while learning about the dinosaurs and Ice Age mammals that roamed across Georgia millions of years ago. Dig up various plant and animal fossils in a simulated dig and make your own fossil to take home.

Spring Semester 2012

January 4 – *Super Science Sampler*

Enjoy hands-on activities involving biology, physics and chemistry. See how high your group can make a bottle rocket fly, cook a tasty snack using the sun's energy and create some simple chemical reactions using various solutions.

February 1 – *“My Side of Elachee” Wilderness Survival*

Read and listen to excerpts from “My Side of the Mountain” then go on your own exploration in Chicopee Woods. Learn how to survive outdoors with only a few basic items just like the main character in the story.

March 7 – *No Bones*

Explore the world of insects and other invertebrates in Chicopee Woods. Look at small animals up close in our microscopes and see and touch some larger preserved and live specimens in our collection.

April 4 – *Lake Lanier Ecology – a special 3-hour program!*

Hop aboard the *Chota Princess II* catamaran as we explore and analyze Lake Sidney Lanier, Georgia's most important reservoir, through a number of experiments and demonstrations. This program will be at Aqualand Marina in Flowery Branch, GA and will meet from 1:30-4:30 pm!

May 2 – *Flying Wild at Chicopee Lake*

End the season with a fun and educational bird festival celebrating International Migratory Bird Day. Enjoy “Bird Olympics”, test your trivia skills in a challenging game of “Jeop-Birdy” and look at various land and aquatic bird species at Chicopee Lake Aquatic Studies Center.