



## Tennessee Aquarium Outreach Curriculum Map '25-'26

Outreach programs range from 45 min.-1 hr., are designed for a classroom size group (~30 students), and certain grade levels based on state standards, however several can be modified on request for your grade/age group. Please feel free to ask questions or further describe what you would like your group to gain from this experience in the form's comment section.

*Note:* Not all outreach programs will have an ambassador animal present. When they are present, a touch experience is not guaranteed and is dependent on animal behavior/protocol and CDC recommendations (children 4 and under, immunocompromised individuals, and adults 65 and older are NOT recommended to touch reptiles).

### General Public

Program Name	Description	Grade Level	Standards
<a href="#">Animal Encounter</a>	Participants will observe and interact with 3 ambassador animals and corresponding biofacts while learning about their amazing adaptations and habitats.	N/A	<i>Can be modified to hit certain standards regarding adaptations and environmental impact.</i>
<a href="#">Shaping Our Oceans</a>	Join us as we explore different levels of life within our oceans and our connection to the Gulf of Mexico. Participants will discover how we affect our oceans while living hundreds of miles from the coast and will meet some of our ambassador animals along the way! <i>NOTE:</i> NOT available on Wednesdays/Saturdays	<i>Can be modified to hit certain standards regarding adaptations and environmental impact.</i>	TN: 4.ESS3.2 GA: S2F3; S3L2; S7L4 AL: SCI.5.10.2; SCI.6.15.2; SCI.6.15.3; SCI.6.16.4; SCI.7.6.4
<a href="#">STEAM/Career Day</a>	Invite Aquarium staff to your tabling event to learn more about how we use STEAM daily and/or about the amazing career opportunities at the Tennessee Aquarium!	N/A	---

### Elementary (K-5th)

<a href="#">Alive or Not?</a>	How do we determine if something is alive or not? Participants will interact with biofacts and ambassador animals in search of evidence of feeding, breathing, movement, reaction to the environment, and reproduction to determine if something is alive or not.	K-1st	TN: K.LS1.2; 1.ETS1.1 GA: SKL 1 AL: SCI.K.3.1-4
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Life Cycles	Which animals go through metamorphosis? Participants will explore multiple life cycles seen through insects, reptiles, and amphibians and meet some of our young and adult animal ambassadors.	1st-2nd	TN: 2.L21.3 GA: S2L1 AL: SCI.2.6.2
Name Game	How do scientists decide what group an animal belongs to and what tools do they use? Participants will use an animal's physical adaptations to classify them while utilizing dichotomous keys. Then using thier new knowledg, will identify a live animal ambassador!	2nd-5th	TN: 2.LS1.2 GA: S5L1 AL: SCI.3.7.2-3
Food Webs	Who is eating who and why is that important? Participants will play a food web game that explores trophic levels and how they can be broken or changed over time.	3rd-5th	TN: 3.LS2.4; 3.LS4.3 GA: S4L1 AL: SCI.5.14.1; SCI.5.15.1-3
Stream Scene	Dive into your local stream and meet the critters who call it home. Participants will play a game to understand our environmental impact on local streams and creeks and what they can do to help.	3rd-5th	TN: 3.LS4.3; 4.LS2.4 GA: S3L2; S5L4 AL: SCI.5.10.2
<b>Middle School (6th-8th)</b>			
Owl Discovery	Participants will learn all about the elusive owl by dissecting an owl pellet! They will observe and identify different types of bones to discover the owl's latest meal.	6th-7th	TN: 7.LS1.6 GA: S7L4 AL: SCI.7.8.4
Food Webs	Who is eating who and why is that important? Participants will play a food web game that explores trophic levels and how they can be broken or changed over time.	6th-8th	TN: 6.LS2.1; 6.LS2.4; 6LS4.1 GA: S7L4 AL: SCI.7.6.1-5
Name Game	How do scientists classify animals and what tools do they use? Participants will use an animal's physical adaptations to classify them while building a cladogram. Then using thier new knowledge they will identify some of our live animal ambassadors!	6th-8th	TN: 8.LS4.3 GA: S7L1 AL: SCI.7.15.2; SCI.7.16.1

Race to Save the Laurel Dace	Discover how the Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute (TNACI) is saving an endangered species and how responsible land management can protect this underwater animal.	6th-8th	TN: 6.LS2.1; 6.LS2.4; 6.LS4.1 GA: S6E6 AL: SCI.6.15.2; SCI.6.16.4-5; SCI.7.9.1-2
Stream Scene	Dive into your local stream and meet the critters who call it home. Participants will play a game to understand our environmental impact on local streams and creeks and what they can do to help. **	6th-8th	TN: 6.LS2.1; 6.LS2.4; 6.LS4.1 GA: S6E6 AL: SCI.6.15.2; SCI.6.16.4-5; SCI.7.9.1-2
Highschool (9th-12th)			
MicroMystery	Discover how microplastics travel from everyday items to our ecosystems and what we can do to mitigate their effects.	9th-12th	TN: BIO1.LS4.3 GA: SB5 AL: B.9.3
Race to Save the Laurel Dace	Discover how the Tennessee Aquarium Conservation Institute (TNACI) is saving an endangered species and how responsible land management can protect this underwater animal.	9th-12th	TN: BIO1.LS4.3 GA: SB5 AL: B.9.3
Stream Scene	Dive into your local stream and meet the critters who call it home. Participants will play a game to understand our environmental impact on local streams and creeks and what they can do to help.	9th-12th	TN: BIO1.LS4.3 GA: SB5 AL: B.9.3
Sustainable Seas	Through a fishing simulation, participants will take part in "the tragedy of the commons" and explore how technology, population growth, and sustainable practices impact fish catches and fisheries management.	9th-12th	TN: BIO1.LS4.3 GA: SB5 AL: B.9.3