



Tennessee Aquarium Virtual Outreach Curriculum Map '25-'26

Virtual 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. Some programs may require material prep beforehand. An aquarium educator will reach out with instructions if applicable. A zoom link will be created and sent to the main contact's email about 2-3 days before the program date.

General Public

| Program Name | Description | Grade Level | Standards |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Animal Encounter | 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> |
| Shaping Our Oceans | 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 |

Elementary (K-5th)

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---------|---|
| Alive or Not? | 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 |
| 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 knowledge, will identify a live animal ambassador! | 2nd-5th | TN: 2.LS1.2 GA: S5LI AL: SCI.3.7.2-3 |
| 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 |
| Middle School (6th-8th) | | | |
| 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 |
| 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 |
| 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 |