

Habitat Detectives: Nature Exploration

Topics covered: Investigate the lake, forest, and meadow habitats at Lichterman Nature Center. Habitat detectives will interact with live animals, explore the grounds with one of our naturalists, and examine preserved wildlife specimens and natural artifacts. Habitat Detectives highlights seasonal, environmental, ecological, and conservation concepts. Vocabulary and information are tailored to be appropriate for different age groups.

Ages: PK – 8th

Purchase Details: \$7 per student / \$4 per adult

Programs can be reserved by phone: 901-636-2221
Tuesday - Friday, 2-hour sessions by appointment

Objectives:

1. Visit each Lichterman Nature Center habitat (lake, forest, and meadow) and learn about the animals that live there by interacting with live animals and examining preserved specimens.
2. Recognize the importance of balanced ecosystems and biodiversity.
3. Understand the values of environmental stewardship and preservation of natural habitats.

Vocabulary: adjusted for specific grade levels

habitat
detective
specimen
native (endemic) species
invasive species
ecosystem
food chain
biodiversity
conservation
mammal
reptile
amphibian

Fun Facts:

- Lichterman Nature Center has 65 acres of lake, forest, and meadow habitats.
- There are over 1,000 animals being cared for by Lichterman staff members and volunteers, not including the wild animals on the grounds! You can see many of these animal ambassadors in our Backyard Wildlife Center.
- You can see preserved specimens of several bird, mammal, reptile, amphibian, and insect species in the Lichterman Nature Center Visitor Center.

Web Resources:

Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency – www.tn.gov/twra.html

Tennessee Wildlife Federation – www.tnwf.org

Exhibit Information at Lichterman Nature Center – www.memphismuseums.org/lichterman-nature-center/

Tennessee Herpetological Society – www.tnherpsociety.org/

Museum Resources:

- **At Lichterman Nature Center:** View preserved specimens of some of Tennessee’s native wildlife in the Visitor’s Center. Visit the Backyard Wildlife Center to see our animal ambassadors, including snakes, fish, lizards, birds, and more. Walk the grounds to see Myrtie’s Lake, and wander through our forest and meadow trails.

Where: Lichterman Nature Center Habitat Trails (180 student max)

When: Year-round, Tuesday – Friday, sessions by appointment

- **Standards:**
 - (Grade Level) K - 8
- **Tennessee: (Life Science)**
 - LS (1-4), ETS2
- **Mississippi: (Life Science)**
 - L (1-4), E (10)
- **Arkansas**
 - LS 1, 2, 3, 4