



## **NATURE INVESTIGATIONS**

**Starting fall of 2022, The Arboretum will offer a variety of interactive programs for grades 1 through 12. Lead by Arboretum educators, each “Nature Investigation” below takes students on a journey into the garden where they will take a closer look at the incredible natural systems at work.**

*\*Curriculum is adapted based on grade level.*

### **BIODIVERSITY**

Biodiversity is important to keep an ecosystem balanced and resilient to change. When scientists want to study an environment, one thing they examine is how biodiverse it is. In this program, students will take a close look at a section of the garden, learn about its biodiversity, and discover why its significant.

### **INDIGINOUS HISTORY**

The plants of California were critical to the everyday lives of the indigenous peoples of the San Gabriel Valley, and indigenous peoples were critical to the plants. The Arboretum is rich with plants that allowed those peoples to thrive for many years. In this program, students will explore the value of these plants, the ways indigenous peoples worked in partnership with the earth, and practice making something utilitarian with plants.

### **PLANT ADAPTATION**

Plants, like all living things, have adaptations that help them survive in their environments. The biomes of the Arboretum are teeming with exciting examples of this. In this program, students will investigate the different ways plants of the Arboretum have adapted to survive in their native environments and identify features that help plants survive.

### **POLLINATION**

Clever flowers use animal pollinators to help them move pollen and reproduce. If we look closely, we will see this amazing relationship in action all around the Arboretum. In this program, students will discover the important role pollination plays in the plant life cycle, learn about the incredible value of these nature-heroes, and understand ways in which humans can help support their work.

### **SUSTAINABLE HABITATS**

Animals need sources of food, water, shelter, and a place to raise young in order to survive. We call this combination of elements an animal’s habitat! In this program, students will explore the garden and identify several elements that create a habitat, identify an animal using its habitat in nature, and create a model habitat of their own.