

BOWIE HOMESCHOOL SPRING 2026

Bowie Homeschool is specially designed for homeschool families, groups, and co-ops to learn about the fascinating natural world around us. This spring, we will discuss the fierce raptors and friendly songbirds that roam Tennessee skies, explore how tiny seeds spread to become tall trees and fragrant flowers, and learn how to protect the Earth and all of its wonderful habitats and creatures!

This semester, we will offer two kinds of Bowie Homeschool sessions:

- The first session of the month will be Naturalist-led, and consist of a 30-minute lecture and 30-minute activity (approximately). Registration is required in advance.
- The second session of the month will consist of self-led activities during Open Hours, and registration is not required.

Bowie Homeschool programs are designed for ages 5 and above, and will be hosted rain or shine.

Please remember to bring appropriate shoes, a water bottle, and dress for the weather, as activities are held outdoors. Bowie Homeschool is NOT a drop-off program. For more information please check out our Homeschool Guide available online at www.bowiepark.org and at Bowie Nature Center.

To register for Bowie Homeschool programs, please call Bowie Nature Center at 615-799-5544 or email the Parks Program Coordinator at BBailey@Fairview-TN.org. We hope to have online registration soon!

SESSIONS

1) February 4th, 10am to 11am - "Wings of Wonder: Exploring Birds and Raptors"

We will learn about various types of birds including birds of prey! Discover how they fly, hunt, and live, and how we can care for the birds that we see every day.

Location: Bowie Nature Center

***Registration is Required – Opens January 12th, Ends February 2nd**



2) February 18th, 10 am to 3pm - "Feather Detectives" Open Hours

Students will have the option to 1) Participate in Project Feeder Watch, where they will help the Naturalists determine which kinds of birds visit the Nature Center bird feeders so that scientists can track migration patterns, 2) Use the app Merlin to identify birds by sight or sound while on a bird hike while playing Bird Bingo, or 3) Matching bird feathers to the photos of various types of birds.

Location: Bowie Nature Center

3) March 4th, 10am to 11am - "Roots and Shoots: Plant Identification and Growth"

We will learn how to recognize plants, discover how they grow from seeds, and understand what plants need to live and thrive.

Location: Joanne's Outdoor Classroom

***Registration is Required – Opens February 2nd, Ends March 2nd**



4) March 18th, 10am to 3pm - "Botany Buddies" Open Hours

Students will have the option to 1) Scout plants of various types and growth stages during a scavenger hunt, 2) Learn about plant anatomy through a self-guided flower dissection, or 3) Craft and test their own kind of "plant seed" based on a type of seed dispersal method.

Location: Bowie Nature Center



5) April 1st, 10am to 11am - "Nature's Balance: Caring for Land, Water, and Life"

We will learn how land, water, plants, and animals work together and how we can help take care of the Earth.

Location: BNP Shelter 1

***Registration is Required – Opens March 2nd, Ends March 30th**

6) April 15th, 10am to 3pm - "Planet Protectors" Open Hours

Students will have the option to 1) Conduct a simple water quality test and write their observations about the environment on a guided nature journal page, 2) Take a "One-Foot Hike" to observe how many organisms and objects exist in such a small space outdoors, or 3) Explore how pollution travels through watersheds in a hands-on activity.

Location: Bowie Nature Center

For questions or comments regarding park programs, please contact Parks Program Coordinator Breanna Bailey at bbailey@fairview-tn.org or 615-387-6074.

Spring 2026 Homeschool Programs

February 4th, 2026 – 10am to 11am

“Wings of Wonder: Exploring Birds and Raptors”

We will learn about various types of birds including birds of prey! Discover how they fly, hunt, and live, and how we can care for the birds that we see every day.

Location: Bowie Nature Center

***Registration is Required – Opens January 12th, Ends February 2nd**

February 18th, 2026 – 10am to 3pm

“Feather Detectives”- Open Hours

Students will have the option to 1) Learn about bird beak designs and food preferences while participating in Project Feeder Watch, where they will log which kinds of birds visit the Nature Center bird feeders so that scientists can track migration patterns, 2) Go on a birding hike and play Bird Bingo by using the Merlin app to identify birds by sight or sound, or 3) Playing a bird feather matching game in the Nature Center.

Location: Bowie Nature Center

March 4th, 2026 – 10am to 11am

“Roots and Shoots: Plant Identification and Growth”

We will learn how to recognize plants, discover how they grow from seeds, and understand what plants need to live and thrive.

Location: Joanne’s Outdoor Classroom

***Registration is Required – Opens February 2nd, Ends March 2nd**

March 18th, 2026 – 10am to 3pm

“Botany Buddies” – Open Hours

Students will have the option to 1) Scout plants of various types and growth stages during a scavenger hunt, 2) Learn about plant anatomy through a self-guided flower dissection, or 3) Craft and test their own kind of “plant seed” based on a type of seed dispersal method.

Location: Bowie Nature Center

April 1st, 2026 – 10am to 11am

“Nature's Balance: Caring for Land, Water, and Life”

We will learn how land, water, plants, and animals work together and how we can help take care of the Earth.

Location: Bowie Nature Park Shelter 1

***Registration is Required – Opens March 2nd, Ends March 30th**

April 15th, 2026 – 10 am to 3pm

“Planet Protectors” – Open Hours

Students will have the option to 1) Conduct a simple water quality test and write their observations about the environment on a guided nature journal page, 2) Take a “One-Foot Hike” to observe how many organisms and objects exist in such a small space outdoors, or 3) Explore how pollution travels through watersheds in a hands-on activity.

Location: Bowie Nature Center

Cancellation Policy

Programs are hosted rain or shine, unless weather is severe. Cancellations will be posted on the Bowie NP Facebook page, and participants will be notified as soon as possible by email or phone number listed on registration information.

If unable to attend a registered session, please notify a staff member as soon as possible so that families on the waitlist can be notified in a timely manner.

Please be advised that any individual who registers for a session and fails to notify staff of their absence on two (2) occasions will be ineligible to register for or attend any remaining sessions for the rest of the year (Spring and Fall). This policy is in place to ensure fair access, proper planning, and effective use of resources so that programs remain free and accessible to the community.

Helpful Information

- Advance registration is required for the first session of the month, but not the second.
- Please dress for the weather and the outdoors. Bring a water bottle, sunscreen, and bug spray.
- Long pants and closed-toed shoes are recommended. Crocs are not!

About Bowie Homeschool

We are proud to offer programs specifically designed for homeschool families, groups, and co-ops to participate in nature classes at Bowie Nature Park. Nature classes are taught by Bowie Park Naturalists and Volunteer Naturalist Karie Saeed.

Bowie Homeschool sessions will take place on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. The first session will be Naturalist-led and include a 30-minute lecture and 30-minute activity (approximately). Registration is required in advance. The second session will consist of self-led activities during Open Hours, and registration is not required.

The cost is free. All programs are designed for children ages 5+, however, younger siblings are also welcome to attend. Please register by calling or stopping by Bowie Nature Center.

Advance registration is required for ALL participants (students, adults, and siblings) for the first session of the month.

Registration is limited to 30 participants per session (this includes students, parents, and siblings). A waitlist is available.

All children must be accompanied by a registered adult. **Bowie Homeschool is not a drop-off program.**

Bowie Nature Park Map



Joann's Outdoor Classroom is located down a trail behind the nature center. From the rear door, follow the trail (colored pink on the map) for 0.2 miles. Turn right at the bench. Walk 0.15 miles to Joann's Outdoor Classroom.

Lake Van Shelter 1 is accessed by going straight into the park past the Treehouse Playground and turning right just past the Restrooms. Note: This is a one-way route.

Lake Van Shelter 2 is accessed by turning right at the first road within Bowie Nature Park and following the loop down to Shelter



Bowie Nature Center
7211 Bowie Lake Road
Fairview, TN, 37062
615-799-5544