

The North Carolina Arboretum Society

The grant for \$1 million, over five years (2019 - 2024) will expand educational STEM programs to reach across the state to all 100 counties. The Arboretum's three STEM programs for expansion across the state:

- ▶ *Project EXPLORE* (Experiences Promoting Learning Outdoors for Research and Education) supports a teacher coaching program. This K-12 teacher coaching program has Arboretum educators serving as coaches. Teachers practice outdoor hands-on learning, using curriculum-based lesson plans and equipment while modeling best practices for student learning opportunities. Once a teacher completes two years in the program they receive a certificate of completion.
- ▶ *Project OWL* (Outdoor Wonders and Learning) supports teacher professional certifications centered on STEM subjects that support educator-lead continuing education programs targeting K-5 teachers. The project provides teacher certifications as a Criteria I workshop for Environmental Education. The five-year goals include 684 teachers impacting 33,840 students.
- ▶ *ecoEXPLORE* supports an out-of-school citizen science program at public libraries and parks. This STEM program is designed to reach grades K-8 during non-school times and is focused on science exploration. The five-year goals include programming to aid 10,000 students to earn two badges.

The expansion plans include establishing six regional hubs, 36 coaches and 18 facilitators to reach across the state.