Synopsis:
This active investigative program leads students to an understanding of how organisms are connected to ecosystems through the cycling of matter including the role of decomposers and decomposition.

Students will:
- Make and verbally communicate about observations in an ecosystem
- Collaboratively create a diagram that models how matter cycles through an ecosystem
- Understand that food is the fuel organisms need to survive, grow, and reproduce
- Record how organisms use matter to build bodies and energy to do things
- Safely collect, observe, and accurately draw living organisms in the ecosystem

Length of Program: 2.5 hours
Location: Stokes Nature Center
Season Offered: Fall or Spring
Program Fee: $6 per student

Logistics:
- The school bus should drop you off at the Stokes Nature Center trailhead of the River Trail in Logan Canyon (on the south shoulder of the highway) where you will be met by your Naturalist Educators.
- Please have a plan for dividing your group in half, each smaller group should include a teacher or staff from your school.
- Program will end at the Stokes Nature Center and you will walk with your students back down the trail. Plan 7-10 minutes from the end of the program to walk back to the trailhead.
- Students should wear comfortable clothing that may get dirty.
- We will be outside for the entirety of this program, dressing in layers is advised.
- Closed toe shoes are appropriate. Please, no flip flops!
- Students should wear visible name tags at all times (packing tape over a name tag keeps them from falling off).
- Please bring one adult per five students. There is no charge for adult chaperones.
- Restrooms are available inside the Nature Center.
- Running water will not be available at the site, so please plan ahead with water bottles.

Classroom Teacher Pre-Program Preparation
- If multiple classrooms from your school are participating, please ensure that all teachers on your team receive the confirmation email which contains essential information about your scheduled field experience.
- See curriculum connections on the next page.
**Curriculum Connections**
SEEd Standards 5.3.1, 5.3.2, 5.3.3

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**Additional Utah Core Curriculum Connections**

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