To maximize the effectiveness of your “No Child Left Inside” program at The Morton Arboretum, please familiarize your students with the following vocabulary words. This will be most effective just before the program.

1. **Habitat** – The place in nature where a plant or animal usually lives

2. **Food Web** – The interlocking food chains within an ecological community

3. **Ecosystem** – A community of living and non-living things in an environment and all their interactions

4. **Adaptation** – A body part or behavior that helps a living thing survive in an environment

5. **Decomposer** – A living thing that breaks down dead plant and animal materials

6. **Interdependence** – A condition where the plants and animals living together in an area depend upon one another for survival

7. **Survival** – Continuing to live through dangerous or hard conditions

8. **Abiotic** – A part of an ecosystem that is not alive

9. **Biotic** – A part of an ecosystem that is alive

10. **Environment** – All the living and nonliving things that surround an organism where it lives

11. **Biodiversity** – The total number of different species in one area or on Earth as a whole