



# ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

## STAFF CONTACTS

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## FALL 1 PROGRAM SESSION: September 8 – October 26, 2025

### WONDERBUG DISCOVERIES (AGES 18 MONTHS- 3 YEARS WITH PARENT) (ACY)

This parent-child nature discovery program is highly sensory-based involving themed storybooks, songs, hands-on time, and outdoor time with exploratory walks through the Purdy Nature Preserve. Each week will focus on a different theme or topic in nature. A portion of each class will be held outdoors, weather permitting, so dress accordingly!

### ECO-KIDS (AGES 3-5 YEARS) (ACY)

Explore the outdoors and watch the changes throughout the seasons while we learn more about the plants and animals found around our YMCA and on the Purdy Preserve. Short hikes and playtime outside will be supplemented with craft and story time indoors. Have your child dressed for the weather as we will be outdoors every week, weather permitting!

### OUTRAGEOUS OUTDOORS (AGES 3-5 YEARS) (ACY)

This exciting class gives your child a chance to learn all about the beauty and wonder of the natural world through hands-on activities, games, stories and crafts related to the nature theme of the week, as well as time outdoors exploring nature. Have your child dressed for the weather as much of this class will be held outdoors, weather permitting.

### YOUNG EXPLORERS (AGES 3-5 YEARS) (ACY)

Use your senses to discover and investigate the wonderful sounds, colors, shapes, smells and textures of the natural world. Outdoor exploration time will be supplemented by stories, songs, games and crafts, with each week focused on a different topic in nature. Portions of each class will be held outdoors, weather permitting, so dress accordingly!

### OUTDOOR EXPLORERS CLUB (AGES 5-10 YEARS) (ACY)

Let the Environmental Education team at the Apple Creek YMCA turn your off-day from school into a full day of exploration and activities related to the outdoors. Join us for hikes, playing in the woods, creative free-time, and more! Pack a nut-free lunch, snacks and appropriate clothing for indoors and outdoors in a backpack and join us for a fun-filled day! Additional information will be sent by email after registration has been completed.

### **LIVE ANIMAL CARE (AGES 6-12 YEARS) (ACY)**

Drop your child off on the second Saturday of each month in the Nature Study Classroom to learn how we care for our classroom animals, including snakes, lizards, turtles, frogs, and fish. Help feed the animals, clean their tanks, and make sure they are living healthy lives. We will occasionally bring our lessons outdoors, so please dress accordingly.

### **ARCHERY 101 (AGES 8-14 YEARS) (ACY)**

Learn the basics of archery including the "11 steps to becoming a successful archer." Class follows National Archery in Schools Program (NASP) guidelines. All equipment is provided, but experienced students may bring their own bows if they meet the instructor's standards. Class will be held outdoors.

<b>Class name</b>	<b>YMCA</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Y Member</b>	<b>General Public</b>
Wonderbug Discoveries	ACY	18 months-3 years	W	9:30 AM	10:30 AM	\$43	\$65
Eco-Kids	ACY	3-5 years	TH	9:30 AM	11:00 AM	\$53	\$79
Outrageous Outdoors	ACY	3-5 years	T	9:30 AM	11:00 AM	\$53	\$79
Young Explorers	ACY	3-5 years	W	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	\$53	\$79
Outdoor Explorers Club-September 29	ACY	5-10 years	M	7:00 AM	5:00 PM	\$42	\$56
Outdoor Explorers Club-October 31	ACY	5-10 years	F	7:00 AM	5:00 PM	\$42	\$56
Live Animal Care-October 11	ACY	6-12 years	S	10:00 AM	Noon	\$9	\$12
Live Animal Care-November 8	ACY	6-12 years	S	10:00 AM	Noon	\$9	\$12
Live Animal Care-December 13	ACY	6-12 years	S	10:00 AM	Noon	\$9	\$12
Archery 101	ACY	8-14 years	M	4:30 PM	5:15 PM	\$38	\$61

### **ADULT AND FAMILY PROGRAMS**

**(Children under 14 may attend only with an adult)**

#### **NIGHT HIKE (ALL AGES) (ACY)**

Come out to the Purdy Preserve and experience the sights and sounds of fall in the dark. Hikes begin at the Apple Creek YMCA with a short program in the Nature Study Classroom. Pre-registration is required-sign up all members of the family who will be attending. Please bring a flashlight.

<b>Class name</b>	<b>YMCA</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Y Member</b>	<b>General Public</b>
Night Hike – October 16	ACY	All Ages	TH	6:30 PM	8:30 PM	FREE	\$6/person

### **SCHOOL PROGRAMMING**

The Apple Creek YMCA and Bruce B. Purdy Nature Preserve are now accepting field trip registrations for the 2025-26 school year for grades K-12. Local schools may book trips on several different topics related to plants, animals, forestry, pond study, life cycles and much more. Programs will be tailored to each school's curriculum needs and will be led by YMCA naturalists. Call 920.702.2305 or email the Environmental Education Director at [svondracek@ymcafoxcities.org](mailto:svondracek@ymcafoxcities.org) for a complete list of programming options.

### **LEADERS FOR GIRL, BOY AND CUB SCOUTS OR OTHER YOUTH GROUPS**

Scouts of all ages may schedule time with a YMCA Naturalist to fulfill requirements for outdoor related try-its, achievements or badges they are working on. Cost for a 60-90 minute session is \$3.50/child with a minimum of 10 youth attending. There is no fee for leaders and adult chaperones to attend. Programs can be held at your normal meeting location or at the Apple Creek YMCA.

### **BECOME A NATURE PRESERVE VOLUNTEER**

Volunteers are needed for many outdoor related tasks such as mowing, tree trimming, trail maintenance and more. Call 920.702.2305 for more details on how you can help shape the Bruce B. Purdy Nature Preserve.



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