



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

STAFF CONTACTS

ACY – Richard Imp, Environmental Education Director: P 920.841.8166 E rimp@ymcafoxcities.org

WINTER 1 PROGRAM SESSION:

January 5 – February 22, 2026

No Programs on Thursday, January 15th from 3:00 – 9:00 pm. These classes will be prorated.

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 nature and ourselves. This class helps children tie the Y's core values of Caring, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility to themselves, nature, and their community. 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.

FIELD STUDIES AND PHENOLOGY (AGES 3-16 YEARS) (ACY)

Based off the Wild Wonder Foundation, this nature journaling class for all ages places its focus on different over-arching themes to consider the core writing prompts of "I Notice, I Wonder, and It Reminds Me Of." Each class will consist of an introduction to the theme, outdoor exploration time, and journaling. Registration includes a nature journal and supplies for journaling are provided. Families are encouraged to sign up together, and parents are encouraged to join the class and participate in the activities.

JUST PLAY OUTSIDE (AGES 5-10 YEARS) (ACY)

This is an opportunity for your child to come to the Y and go outside and play. Students will arrive after school to play games, explore the preserve, play in the snow or on the playground, and just have fun!

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.

Class name	YMCA	Age	Day	Start	End	Y Member	General Public
Wonderbug Discoveries	ACY	18 months-3 years	W	9:30 AM	10:30 AM	\$49	\$75
Eco-Kids	ACY	3-5 years	TH	9:30 AM	11:00 AM	\$60	\$83
Outrageous Outdoors	ACY	3-5 years	T	9:00 AM	10:30 AM	\$60	\$83
Outrageous Outdoors	ACY	3-5 years	W	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	\$60	\$83
Field Studies and Phenology	ACY	3-16 years	T	3:30 PM	5:00 PM	\$60	\$83
Field Studies and Phenology	ACY	3-16 years	TH	3:30 PM	5:00 PM	\$51	\$71
Just Play Outside	ACY	5-10 years	W	3:45 PM	5:15 PM	\$60	\$83
Outdoor Explorers Club-Dec 29	ACY	5-10 years	M	7:00 AM	5:00 PM	\$42	\$56
Outdoor Explorers Club-Dec 30	ACY	5-10 years	T	7:00 AM	5:00 PM	\$42	\$56
Outdoor Explorers Club-Jan 16	ACY	5-10 years	F	7:00 AM	5:00 PM	\$48	\$60
Outdoor Explorers Club-Jan 19	ACY	5-10 years	M	7:00 AM	5:00 PM	\$48	\$60
Outdoor Explorers Club-Feb 16	ACY	5-10 years	M	7:00 AM	5:00 PM	\$48	\$60
Live Animal Care-Jan 10	ACY	6-12 years	SAT	10:00 AM	Noon	\$10	\$15
Live Animal Care-Feb 14	ACY	6-12 years	SAT	10:00 AM	Noon	\$10	\$15

ADULT AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

(Children under 14 may attend only with an adult)

WINTER WORKSHOP SERIES - NEW

Come join the Y for make and take programs that will combine crafts and environmental education! Please sign up each person that will be participating in the workshop and let us know of anyone who will be attending with the participant if they are under the age of 14.

BACKYARD BIRDFEEDERS (FAMILY) (ACY)

Want to learn more about Wisconsin's overwintering birds? Come join the Apple Creek naturalists for a program about our winter residents and how to build suet bird feeders to help keep them fed through the winter!

PAPER HEART SEED STARTERS (FAMILY) (ACY)

Come join the Apple Creek Y as we make Paper Heart Seed Starters! These starters will make the perfect Valentine's gift for the gardener in your life. We'll learn how to make recycled paper, as well as all about the native plants in our seed mix and why native plant gardens are important.

DIY RECYCLED GREENHOUSES (FAMILY) (ACY)

Looking to get a head start on your garden this year? Come join the Apple Creek naturalists as we make greenhouses out of recycled materials!

Class name	YMCA	Age	Day	Start	End	Y Member	General Public
Winter Workshop Series – Backyard Birdfeeders- Jan 24-NEW	ACY	All Ages	SAT	10:00 AM	NOON	\$10	\$15
Winter Workshop Series- Paper Heart Seed Starters- Feb 7-NEW	ACY	All Ages	SAT	10:00 AM	NOON	\$10	\$15
Winter Workshop Series- DIY Recycled Greenhouses- Mar 7-NEW	ACY	All Ages	SAT	10:00 AM	NOON	\$10	\$15

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 920.841.8166 or email the Environmental Education Director at rimp@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 920.841.8166 for more details on how you can help shape the Bruce B. Purdy Nature Preserve.