



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

STAFF CONTACTS

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

SPRING PROGRAM SESSION:

April 13 – May 31, 2026

No classes Sunday, May 24 and Monday, May 25, 2026

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!

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)

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!

AFTER-SCHOOL NATURALISTS (AGES 5-10 YEARS) (ACY)

Come join the Naturalists at Apple Creek and explore the Bruce B. Purdy Preserve! Kids will play games, hike the preserve, do activities in the Nature Study Classroom, and just have fun!

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.

NATURE EXPLORER'S CLUB (AGES 6-12 YEARS) (ACY)

Go off-trail with one of the Apple Creek Naturalists! Each month, kids will explore a new part of the preserve, learning about the animals and plants that live there and how to identify them. Come see parts of the preserve most people don't see!

NATURE EXPRESSIONS – A NATURE IN ME PROGRAM (AGES 10-16 YEARS) (ACY)

Discover ways to identify and embrace your emotions on Purdy Preserve! Find ways to create meaningful connections with nature through meditative hikes, nature immersion activities, and restorative movement. Through these nature-based explorations, kids will learn to find mindfulness in movement and develop tools to help express themselves and process difficult emotions.

ARCHERY 101- APRIL 20-MAY 18 (AGES 8-14) (ACY)

Learn the basics of archery in this special 5-week class 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.

Class name	YMCA	Age	Day	Start	End	Y Member	General Public
Archery 101	ACY	8-14 years	M	4:30 PM	5:15 PM	\$28	\$40
Outrageous Outdoors	ACY	3-5 years	T	9:30 AM	11:00 AM	\$60	\$83
Wonderbug Discoveries	ACY	18 months-3 years	W	9:30 AM	10:30 AM	\$49	\$75
Outrageous Outdoors	ACY	3-5 years	W	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	\$60	\$83
After School Naturalists	ACY	5-10 years	W	4:30 PM	5:30 PM	\$49	\$75
Young Explorers	ACY	3-5 years	TH	9:30 AM	11:00 AM	\$60	\$83
Live Animal Care - Apr 11	ACY	6-12 years	SAT	10:00 AM	NOON	\$10	\$15
Nature Explorer's Club - Apr 18	ACY	6-12 years	SAT	10:00 AM	NOON	\$10	\$15
Nature Expressions - A Nature in Me Program - Apr 18	ACY	10-16 years	SAT	10:00 AM	NOON	\$10	\$15
Nature Explorer's Club - May 2	ACY	6-12 years	SAT	10:00 AM	NOON	\$10	\$15
Live Animal Care - May 9	ACY	6-12 years	SAT	10:00 AM	NOON	\$10	\$15

SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

The Apple Creek YMCA and Bruce B. Purdy Nature Preserve are 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.