



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

STAFF CONTACTS

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SUMMER PROGRAM SESSION:

June 8 – July 19, 2026

July 20 - August 23, 2026

No Class June 29 – July 6, 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! Class will not be held on July 1st.

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. Please have your child dressed for the weather as a portion of each class will be held outdoors, weather permitting. Class will not be held on June 30th.

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! Class will not be held on July 2nd.

GARDEN WONDERS – A PARENT AND CHILD EXPERIENCE (AGES 3-8 YEARS WITH PARENT) (ACY)

Spend quality time teaching your child the basics of gardening in a small group setting. Learn hands-on techniques in growing, managing, and harvesting our vegetable garden through picture books, experiments, and worktime together in the garden. Class will not be held on July 1st.

MAGICAL FOREST (AGES 5-9 YEARS) (ACY)

Kids learn to embrace nature through a different lens by using their imagination to create a fantasy world where “a tree becomes a castle and a chipmunk is a guard for a mystical princess hiding in the foliage.” We will create a story together while spending time outside and build on it each week, using journaling and different art forms to express ourselves. Class will not be held on July 2nd.

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

Go off-trail with one of the Apple Creek Naturalists! Each week, we'll explore a new part of the preserve, learning about the animals and plants that live there and how to identify them. Come visit parts of the preserve most people don't see! Class will not be held on July 1st.

EARTH-WORKS STUDIO (AGES 8-12 YEARS) (ACY)

Step outside, look closer, create something amazing. In this hands-on class, middle schoolers will explore nature with fresh eyes discovering beauty in the smallest details and turning natural materials into one-of-a-kind art. From leaves to stones, we'll gather, create, and experiment with fun and inspiring techniques. Perfect for curious minds and creative spirits, come get a little messy and a lot inspired!

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 equipment if it meets the instructor's standards. Class will be held outdoors. No class June 29th.

ARCHERY 102 (AGES 8-15 YEARS) (ACY)

Young archers will continue to hone their skills and build on the basics learned in Archery 101. Class follows National Archery in Schools Program (NASP) guidelines. All equipment is provided but students may bring their own equipment if it meets the instructor's standards. Class will be held outdoors. No class July 2nd.

JUST GIRLS – A "NATURE IN ME" PROGRAM (AGES 12-15 YEARS) (ACY)

Come together to find your strengths and learn more about yourself through outdoor experiences. Together, we'll explore mindfulness, create connections, and learn how to express ourselves in different ways within a "girl's only" environment. Class will not be held on June 30th.

Class Name	YMCA	Age	Day	Start	End	Y Member	General Public
Wonderbug Discoveries - June 8-July 19	ACY	18 months- 3 years	W	9:30 AM	10:30 AM	\$35	\$54
Wonderbug Discoveries - July 20-Aug 23	ACY	18 months-3 years	W	9:30 AM	10:30 AM	\$35	\$54
Outrageous Outdoors - June 8-July 19	ACY	3-5 years	T	9:30 AM	11:00 AM	\$43	\$59
Outrageous Outdoors - July 20-Aug 23	ACY	3-5 years	T	9:30 AM	11:00 AM	\$43	\$59
Young Explorers - June 8-July 19	ACY	3-5 years	TH	9:30 AM	11:00 AM	\$43	\$59
Young Explorers - July 20-Aug 23	ACY	3-5 years	TH	9:30 AM	11:00 AM	\$43	\$59
Garden Wonders - June 8-July 19	ACY	3-8 years	W	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	\$35	\$54
Garden Wonders - July 20-Aug 23	ACY	3-8 years	W	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	\$35	\$54
Magical Forest - June 8-July 19	ACY	5-9 years	TH	3:30 PM	5:00 PM	\$43	\$59
Magical Forest - July 20-Aug 23	ACY	5-9 years	TH	3:30 PM	5:00 PM	\$43	\$59
Nature Explorer's Club - June 8-July 19	ACY	6-12 years	W	4:30 PM	6:00 PM	\$43	\$59
Nature Explorer's Club - July 20-Aug 23	ACY	6-12 years	W	4:30 PM	6:00 PM	\$43	\$59
Earth-Works Studio - June 8-July 19	ACY	8-12 years	F	9:30 AM	11:00 AM	\$43	\$59
Earth-Works Studio - July 20-Aug 23	ACY	8-12 years	F	9:30 AM	11:00 AM	\$43	\$59
Archery 101 - June 8-Aug 23	ACY	8-14 years	M	4:30 PM	5:15 PM	\$54	\$79
Archery 102 - June 8-Aug 23	ACY	8-15 years	TH	4:30 PM	5:15 PM	\$54	\$79
Just Girls - June 8-July 19	ACY	12-15 years	T	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	\$35	\$54

Class Name	YMCA	Age	Day	Start	End	Y Member	General Public
Just Girls - July 20-Aug 23	ACY	12-15 years	T	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	\$35	\$54

One-Day Workshops

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.

CULINARY CREATIONS FOR KIDS (AGES 8-12 YEARS) (ACY)

Explore the Apple Creek garden and use available produce to supplement culinary masterpieces to eat or take home. Learn different methods of food preparation to make the dishes we create look beautiful and taste amazing.

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

Discover ways to identify and embrace your emotions on Purdy Preserve! Activities may include sensory hikes, creating ephemeral art using found natural materials, drawing or even photography. Through these nature-based explorations, kids will learn to find mindfulness in movement and develop tools to help express themselves and process difficult emotions.

NATURE BASICS FOR CURIOUS ADULTS! (AGES 18 YEARS +) (ACY)

Ever wondered exactly what your kids get to do in Environmental Ed classes? Ever wanted to recapture the feeling of going on a field trip in grade school? Here's your chance! Come join the Apple Creek Naturalists and learn about nature through crafts, outdoor experiences, and meeting the center's ambassador animals! Each workshop will be a different program based on one of our Nature Kids Programs or field trips.

Class Name	YMCA	Age	Day	Start	End	Y Member	General Public
Live Animal Care - July 11	ACY	8-12 years	SAT	10:00 AM	12:00 PM	\$10	\$15
Live Animal Care - Aug 8	ACY	8-12 years	SAT	10:00 AM	12:00 PM	\$10	\$15
Culinary Creations for Kids - June 12	ACY	8-12 years	F	9:30 AM	12:30 PM	\$20	\$26
Culinary Creations for Kids - July 10	ACY	8-12 years	F	9:30 AM	12:30 PM	\$20	\$26
Culinary Creations for Kids - Aug 7	ACY	8-12 years	F	9:30 AM	12:30 PM	\$20	\$26
Nature Expressions - June 26	ACY	10-16 years	F	9:30 AM	12:30 PM	\$20	\$26
Nature Expressions - July 24	ACY	10-16 years	F	9:30 AM	12:30 PM	\$20	\$26
Nature Expressions - Aug 21	ACY	10-16 years	F	9:30 AM	12:30 PM	\$20	\$26
Nature Basics For Curious Adults! - June 20	ACY	18 years +	SAT	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	\$10	\$15
Nature Basics For Curious Adults! - July 18	ACY	18 years +	SAT	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	\$10	\$15
Nature Basics For Curious Adults! - Aug 15	ACY	18 years +	SAT	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	\$10	\$15

SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

The Apple Creek YMCA and Bruce B. Purdy Nature Preserve is now accepting field trip registrations for the 2025-2026 school year for grades K-12. Local schools may book trips on a variety of different topics including plants, animals, forestry, pond study 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 1-2 hour session is \$3 per child with a minimum of 10 participants. Programs can be held at your normal meeting location or at the Y.

BECOME A 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.