



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

STAFF CONTACTS

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FALL 1 PROGRAM SESSION:

September 7 – October 25, 2026

No classes on Monday, September 7, 2026 Labor Day. Monday 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!

NATURE WONDERS FOR PRESCHOOLERS (AGES 3-5 YEARS) (ACY)

Expand upon your child's preschool and kindergarten readiness skills through this nature based experiential learning program. Children will be introduced to basic academic skills during their exploration of nature and the outdoors. Each week will feature a different academic element, such as numbers, shapes, colors, and letters, which will be incorporated into the nature theme of the week.

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.

ARCHERY 101 (AGES 8-14) (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 and will not be held on September 7th.

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 and will not be held on October 22nd.

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
Nature Wonders for Preschoolers	ACY	3-5 years	TH	9:30 AM	11:30 AM	\$72	\$94
Outrageous Outdoors	ACY	3-5 years	T	9:30 AM	11:00 AM	\$60	\$83
Outrageous Outdoors	ACY	3-5 years	W	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	\$60	\$83
Archery 101	ACY	8-14 years	M	4:30 PM	5:15 PM	\$38	\$60
Archery 102	ACY	8-15 years	TH	4:30 PM	5:15 PM	\$44	\$70

HIKES, WORKSHOPS, AND OUTDOOR EXPLORER'S CLUB

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, and frogs. 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.

PURDY PATHFINDERS (AGES 8-14 YEARS) (ACY)

Spend Saturday morning exploring Purdy Preserve with the Apple Creek Naturalists! Go off-trail and visit hidden spots on the preserve, all while learning about the plants and animals that call Purdy Preserve home!

NATURE BONDING (AGES 11-16 YEARS) (ACY)

On the Second Wednesday of each month, you and your child can join the Apple Creek Naturalists and explore the preserve, learn about wild edible plants, aromatherapy, nature-based artwork and much more! Each month is a new experience, as activities will change with each session!

INTRO TO NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY (AGES 14+) (ACY)

Bring your camera or your phone and join one of the Apple Creek Naturalists on a hike to learn the basics of nature photography! This workshop is a perfect place to start for beginners, or a great opportunity to meet other nature photographers in the Y community.

INTRO TO LANDSCAPE PAINTING (AGES 16+) (ACY)

Learn about landscape painting at Apple Creek YMCA! This workshop is an introduction to plein-air painting (landscape painting in the outdoors!). Perfect for beginners or experienced painters.

NATURE BASICS FOR CURIOUS ADULTS (AGES 18+) (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.

NATURE IN ME: A GUIDED WELLNESS HIKE (AGES 18+) (ACY)

Take some time out of your busy week to go on a guided wellness hike with one of the Apple Creek Naturalists! These hikes are designed to help participants focus on mindfulness and being in the present moment, all while hiking through the natural beauty of Purdy Preserve!

COMMUNITY OUTDOOR ART (ALL AGES) (ACY)

On the second Friday of the month, join an award-winning local artist to explore collaborative art outdoors! Friday, September 11th will be focused on sidewalk chalk murals, and Friday October 9th will be a chance to make large-scale sculpture art using found materials!

FAMILY NIGHT HIKE (ALL AGES) (ACY)

On October 16th, come join one of the Apple Creek Naturalists for a free night hike through Purdy Preserve! This program is free, but you must still register to attend.

Class Name	YMCA	Age	Day	Start	End	Y Member	General Public
Outdoor Explorer's Club – September 25	ACY	5-10 years	F	7:00 AM	5:00 PM	\$48	\$60
Outdoor Explorer's Club – October 30	ACY	5-10 years	F	7:00 AM	5:00 PM	\$48	\$60
Live Animal Care – September 12	ACY	6-12 years	SAT	10:00 AM	NOON	\$10	\$15
Live Animal Care – October 10	ACY	6-12 Years	SAT	10:00am	NOON	\$10	\$15
Purdy Pathfinders – September 19	ACY	8-14 years	SAT	10:00 AM	NOON	\$10	\$15
Purdy Pathfinders – October 17	ACY	8-14 years	SAT	10:00 AM	NOON	\$10	\$15
Nature Bonding – September 9	ACY	11-16 years with parent	W	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	\$10	\$15
Nature Bonding – October 14	ACY	11-16 years with parent	W	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	\$10	\$15
Intro to Nature Photography – September 25	ACY	14 years +	F	9:30 AM	12:30 PM	\$10	\$15
Intro to Landscape Painting – October 23	ACY	16 years +	F	9:30 AM	12:30 PM	\$10	\$15
Nature Basics for Curious Adults – September 19	ACY	18 years +	SAT	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	\$10	\$15
Nature Basics for Curious Adults – October 17	ACY	18 years +	SAT	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	\$10	\$15
Nature in Me Hike – September 18	ACY	18 years +	F	9:15 AM	11:00 AM	\$10	\$15
Nature In Me Hike – September 21	ACY	18 years +	M	9:15 AM	11:00 AM	\$10	\$15
Nature In Me Hike – October 16	ACY	18 years +	F	9:15 AM	11:00 AM	\$10	\$15
Nature In Me Hike – October 19	ACY	18 years +	M	9:15 AM	11:00 AM	\$10	\$15
Community Outdoor Art – Sidewalk Chalk Murals – September 11	ACY	All Ages	F	9:30 AM	12:30 PM	\$10	\$15
Community Outdoor Art – Landscape Art – October 9	ACY	All Ages	F	9:30 AM	12:30 PM	\$10	\$15
Family Night Hike – October 16	ACY	All Ages	F	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	FREE	\$10

SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

The Apple Creek YMCA and Bruce B. Purdy Nature Preserve are accepting field trip registrations for the 2026-27 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.