



# LISTENING AND LEARNING

Environmental Education is about learning skills, developing character and making friends. It teaches self-reliance, a love for nature and the outdoors and the development of attitudes and practices that build character and leadership.



## ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

UPDATED ON: AUGUST 24, 2016

### STAFF CONTACTS

ACY – Shane Vondracek, Environmental Education Director P 733.9622 E [svondracek@ymcafoxcities.org](mailto:svondracek@ymcafoxcities.org)

### 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 seasonal theme or topic in nature. A portion of each class will be held outdoors, weather permitting, so dress accordingly!

### YOUNG EXPLORERS (AGES 2-4) (ACY)

We will use our senses to discover and investigate the wonderful sounds, colors, shapes, smells and textures of the natural world. We will incorporate outdoor exploration time, storybooks, songs, games and crafts. Each week will focus on a different topic in nature. A portion of each class will be held outdoors, weather permitting, so dress accordingly!

### ANIMALS IN THE FALL (AGES 3-5 YEARS) (ACY) (SESSION 1)

Discover how animals get ready for winter through hibernation, migration and food collection. We will learn about black bears, ducks and geese, squirrels and more through stories, games, and simple crafts. Class will go outside when the weather allows, so please have children dressed for the weather.

### CREEPY CRITTERS (AGES 3-5 YEARS) (ACY) (SESSION 2)

We will learn about nocturnal creatures such as raccoons, skunks, owls, bats, spiders and more through stories, games, and hand-on learning. Find out why it can be exciting instead of creepy to hear strange sounds outdoors at nighttime. Class will go outside when weather allows, so please have children dressed for the weather.

### 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. Class will end with time for lunch, so please pack a nutritional lunch (peanut and tree-nut free) for your child, and have them dressed for the weather. Children can be transferred to and from other preschool classes within the Apple Creek YMCA.

### 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.

### ARCHERY 101 (AGES 8-16) (ACY)

Learn the basics of archery in this class including the '11 steps to becoming a successful archer.' Class follows the NASP guidelines and is taught by an NASP Certified Instructor. All equipment is provided. Class will be held outdoors and is only available during session 1.

### ADVANCED ARCHERY (AGES 10-18 YEARS) (ACY)

This class is designed for experienced archers. Archery 101 is a prerequisite. Various targets are used including 3D. Equipment is provided by the Y, however, personal bows are encouraged. Class is held outdoors.

**Fall Session 1: September 6-October 23, 2016**

**Fall Session 2: October 24-December 18, 2016**

This is a working document and is subject to change.

**(Monday classes prorated for Labor Day)**

**(No Classes November 21-27, 2016)**

Class name	YMC A	Age	Day	Start	End	Y Member	General Public
Wonderbug Discoveries	ACY	18 months - 3 years	T	9:30 AM	10:30 AM	\$28	\$46
Young Explorers	ACY	2-4 years	R	12:30 PM	2:00 PM	\$43	\$61
Animals in the Fall – Fall 1	ACY	3-5 years	M	9:15 AM	10:45 AM	\$43	\$61
Creepy Critters – Fall 2	ACY	3-5 years	M	9:15 AM	10:45 AM	\$43	\$61
Outrageous Outdoors	ACY	3-5 years	W	10:00 AM	NOON	\$53	\$71
Live Animal Care - October 8	ACY	6-12 years	S	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	\$6	\$9
Live Animal Care November 12	ACY	6-12 years	S	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	\$6	\$9
Live Animal Care - December 10	ACY	6-12 years	S	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	\$6	\$9
Archery 101- Fall 1	ACY	8-16 years	MW	5:30 PM	6:15 PM	\$42	\$55
Advanced Archery- Fall 1	ACY	10-18 years	MW	4:30 PM	5:15 PM	\$42	\$55

## ADULT AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

(Children under 14 may attend only with an adult)

### FALL COLORS HIKE (ALL AGES) (ACY)

Come out to the Bruce B. Purdy Nature Preserve and Apple Creek YMCA for a guided hike on our ever changing trails. See and learn about our plant and animal communities while getting out and enjoying the fall colors! Hikes begin at the Apple Creek YMCA with a short program in the Nature Study Classroom. Pre-registration is required.

### 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. Please bring a flashlight.

Class name	YMCA	Age	Day	Start	End	Y Member	General Public
Fall Colors Hike - October 1	ACY	All Ages	S	3:00 PM	5:00 PM	FREE	\$5
Night Hike - October 25	ACY	All Ages	T	6:00 PM	8:00 PM	FREE	\$5

### SCHOOL PROGRAMMING

The Apple Creek YMCA and Bruce B. Purdy Nature Preserve are now accepting field trip registrations for the 2016-17 school year for grades K-12. Local schools may book trips on a number 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 733.9622 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 the Naturalist to fulfill requirements for outdoor related try-its, achievements or badges they are working on. Cost for a 1 1/2 hour session is \$30 for up to the first 10 youth and \$2 for each additional youth. 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.

### TEAMBUILDING - APPLE CREEK YMCA (GRADES 6-8)

Attention Middle School teachers- the Apple Creek YMCA offers a 4 1/2 hour teambuilding program. Please call for more details or to book a date for this quickly growing program! Program can be altered for High School, College or Corporate groups.

### BECOME A PRESERVE VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are needed for many outdoor related tasks such as mowing, tree trimming, trail maintenance and more. Call 733.9622 for more details on how you can help shape the Bruce B. Purdy Nature Preserve.

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