



# 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: NOVEMBER 17, 2017

### 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 activities combined 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 YEARS) (ACY)

Use your senses to discover and investigate the wonderful sounds, colors, shapes, smells and textures of the natural world. Outdoor exploration time will be supplemented by stories, songs, games and crafts, with each week focused on a different topic in nature. Much of each class will be held outdoors, weather permitting, so dress accordingly!

#### PLAYFUL FRIENDS (AGES 3-5) (ACY) (Session 1)

Learn about animals that stay 'playful' all winter long such as deer, otters, owls, foxes, rabbits and more through hands-on activities, games, stories, and crafts. We'll be spending some time outdoors, so please dress for the weather.

#### WAKE UP EVERYONE (AGES 3-5) (ACY) (Session 2)

Learn about the animals waking up from various forms of winter resting to welcome the coming spring, including bears, groundhogs, badgers, and chipmunks. Each class will have hands-on learning activities, stories and crafts to help your child explore the unique winter world of these animals. We'll be spending some time outdoors, so please dress 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, nut free lunch for your child, and have them dressed for the weather as a portion of each class will be held outdoors, weather permitting. Children can be transferred to and from other preschool age 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.

#### SNOWSHOEING FOR KIDS (AGES 4-10) (ACY)

This outdoor program will give your child the chance to go on a true snowshoe adventure in and around the Purdy Preserve. Come dressed for the weather and ready to explore! Snowshoe rental is included, and hot chocolate will be served when we get back inside.

#### KNOT TYING SKILLS (AGE 8-12) (ACY)

Learn basic knots that are useful in outdoor adventures and everyday situations. Practice the overhand knot, square knot, slip knot, half hitch, and more. Conclude with a knot-tying challenge.

**Winter Session 1: January 8-February 25, 2018**

**Winter Session 2: February 26-April 15, 2018**

This is a working document and is subject to change.

## **ANIMALS IN FLIGHT (AGES 6-12) (ACY)**

We will explore how animals, such as peregrine falcons, flying squirrels, bats and vultures take flight. Then we will make paper models of each to test out and take home.

## **ANIMAL GROSSOLOGY (AGES 6-12) (ACY)**

Join us for an inside look at gross, yucky, disgusting yet fascinating animal attributes including vomit munching houseflies, blood slurping leeches, and slime making slugs.

<b>Class name</b>	<b>YMCA</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Y Member</b>	<b>General Public</b>
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
Playful Friends - Session 1	ACY	3-5 years	M	9:15 AM	10:45 AM	\$43	\$61
Wake Up Everyone! - Session 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 - January 13	ACY	6-12 years	S	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	\$6	\$9
Live Animal Care - February 10	ACY	6-12 years	S	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	\$6	\$9
Live Animal Care - March 10	ACY	6-12 years	S	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	\$6	\$9
Live Animal Care- April 14	ACY	6-12 years	S	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	\$6	\$9
Snowshoeing for Kids- Jan 28	ACY	4-10 years	S	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	\$5	\$8
Snowshoeing for Kids- Feb 4	ACY	4-10 years	S	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	\$5	\$8
Knot Tying Skills- Jan 20	ACY	8-12 years	S	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	\$6	\$9
Animals in Flight- Feb 17	ACY	6-12 years	S	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	\$6	\$9
Animal Grossology- Mar 17	ACY	6-12 years	S	1:00 PM	3:00 PM	\$6	\$9

## **ADULT AND FAMILY PROGRAMS**

**(Children under 14 may attend only with an adult)**

### **FAMILY SNOWSHOE HIKES (All Ages) (ACY)**

Join us at the Apple Creek YMCA and Bruce B. Purdy Nature Preserve for our family friendly snowshoeing programs (Ages 6+ recommended). Snowshoes are provided, but you are welcome to bring your own if you have them. Pre-registration is required and children under 14 must attend with an adult. Please dress in layered winter clothing appropriate for outdoor activities. Call 733.9622 for further details.

<b>Class name</b>	<b>YMCA</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Y Member</b>	<b>General Public</b>
Snowshoe Hike- Purdy Preserve	ACY	All Ages	Jan 20	9:30 AM	11:30 AM	\$7	\$10
Snowshoe Hike - Purdy Preserve	ACY	All Ages	Feb 17	9:30 AM	11:30 AM	\$7	\$10

### **SCHOOL PROGRAMMING**

The Apple Creek YMCA and Bruce B. Purdy Nature Preserve are still accepting field trip registrations for the 2017-18 school year for grades K-12. Teachers 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 trained 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**

Leaders for all ages of girl and boy youth groups may schedule time with the Naturalist to fulfill requirements for outdoor related try-its, achievements or badges they are working on. Cost for a 1-2

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hour session is \$3/child with a minimum of 10 youth attending. Programs can be held at your normal meeting location or at the Apple Creek YMCA.

**TEAMBUILDING - APPLE CREEK YMCA (Grade 6- Adult)**

Attention teachers and corporate team leaders- the Apple Creek YMCA is now offering 2 and 4 hour teambuilding programs. Please call for more details or to book a date for this quickly growing program! Program can be altered for Middle School, 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. If you already enjoy spending time on the preserve, please consider helping us keep it beautiful and well maintained for all of our visitors. Call 733.9622 for more details on preserve related volunteer opportunities.