



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# GROWING CURIOUS MINDS

**Nature Kids: Preschool–Kindergarten  
Environmental Education**

**Bruce B. Purdy Nature Preserve  
APPLE CREEK YMCA**



# WHAT IS NATURE KIDS?

Nature Kids is a program offered through the Apple Creek YMCA to bring nature to children right in their own classroom - No busses or field trip forms needed!

A Nature Kids program is the perfect first step in introducing the exciting world of animals, plants and natural resources to young children. The goal of Nature Kids is to teach preschool to kindergarten age students environmental appreciation through hands-on activities, crafts, games and stories. These programs are scheduled for 45 minutes to 1 hour depending on the topic and what activities are included. The Y's core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility are incorporated into each program and each program is specifically designed to meet the state of Wisconsin's Academic Standards.

## NATURE KIDS PROGRAMS

Programs are listed below by the month they are offered.

### SEPTEMBER

**Busy Bees** - Learn about bees and their hives. Make a bee mask to take home, and learn to dance like a bee.

**Amazing Amphibians** - See why frogs, toads and other amphibians are so different from us and learn about the changes they go through as they grow.

**Bye Bye Birds** - Learn why some birds migrate, and some birds reside here all year long. Explore their beak structure, food sources and feathers through engaging activities.

### OCTOBER

**Chipmunk Chatter** - Shrink to the size of a chipmunk and experience life, food gathering and hibernation from their point of view.

**Going Batty** - Learn about these misunderstood animals and why it is great to have them around, then make a bat decoration just in time for Halloween!

**Autumn Leaves Fall** - Discover the answer to the question of why trees lose their leaves through exploration, songs, games and a craft.

### FEES:

\$40 minimum program fee, covers up to the first 20 students.

Groups larger than 20, an additional \$1 will be charged per student.

Plus milage.

## NOVEMBER

**Talking Turkeys** - This big bird is more than just part of Thanksgiving. Learn why we have turkeys in Wisconsin today and try to walk and talk like a turkey.

**Nature Senses** - Find out how our senses compare to animals and how they use their senses to help them to survive in the wild.

**Awesome Animal Beds** - Compare different animal homes based on the type of bed they construct and the way they construct them.

## DECEMBER

**Winter Mysteries** - Compare the different behavioral strategies animals use for surviving winter through stories, actions and an art project.

**Smell, Touch and See a Christmas Tree** - Explore all the different types of evergreen trees and decide which one would make the best Christmas tree.

## JANUARY

**Oh Deer, Oh Deer** - Learn about one of Wisconsin's largest and most common animals and all its special adaptations.

**Mammal Mania** - See, feel and compare fur from 10 different mammals, find out where they live, what they eat and other fun facts.

**Pretty Little Snowflakes** - Discover and act out how a snowflake is formed through actions, experiments and an art project based on symmetry.

## FEBRUARY

**All About Owls** - Learn about the amazing owl family and how to talk to them. Make and decorate your very own owl puppet.

**Making Tracks** - All animals leave tracks behind in the snow or mud. Learn their shapes and make plaster of Paris tracks to take home.

**Move Like a Mammal** - Move like the animals in this large motor, fascinating and fun program learning about how mammals move based on their body shapes.



## MARCH

**Snakes Alive** - Meet and touch a real live snake and see why these cold-blooded creatures are great to have around. Then decorate a pet snake to show off to your friends!

**Beetles, Butterflies, and Bugs** - See examples of different kinds of insects, learn their body parts and make a insect decoration.

**Signs of Spring** - Explore the different signs of spring through your senses and learn to recognize what to watch for as spring approaches.



## APRIL

**Backyard Birds** - Hear about common backyard birds, learn to “talk” like they do and see their nests, feathers and more.

**Amazing Amphibians** - See why frogs, toads and other amphibians are so different from us and learn about the changes they go through as they grow.

**Dirt Makes Our Lunch** - Learn why dirt is so fun and meet some of the critters that call dirt home. Plant some seeds and take them home!

## MAY

**Life in a Shell** - Do turtles really carry their homes on their back? Meet these wonderful creatures and find out more about their lives.

**Schoolyard Safari** - What lives outside the walls of your school? We will “hike” around outdoors to find all sorts of animal life and take in the sights, sounds, smells and feelings.

**Color Wonderland** - Explore the color spectrum through the wonder of color mixing using water bottles filled with primary colors. May also include a color hike outside.

# SCHEDULE A CLASSROOM VISIT

A naturalist from the Y's Environmental Education program will visit your classroom any time of the school year. To schedule a visit, call Richard Imp, EE Director at 920.841.8166 or email [rimp@ymcafoxcities.org](mailto:rimp@ymcafoxcities.org). Dates are limited and generally fill at least a month ahead of time; call early to make sure we will be able to accommodate your program request.