



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT<sup>®</sup>  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# BRINGING NATURE TO YOUR SCHOOL

**Nature Kids: School Age Environmental  
Education Programs**

**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 kindergarten to 5th grade 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 grade in which they are offered. 1-3 choices are available for each grade during the school year.

### KINDERGARTEN\*

**Nature Senses** - Explore how our senses compare to animals and how they use their senses to help them to survive in the wild through hands-on activities.

**Plants and Animal Needs** - Discover how plants and animals get their basic needs filled through experiments, activities and an interactive presentation.

\*More programs available in the Preschool-Kindergarten Environmental Education Brochure

### 1st Grade

**Animal Traits and Survival** - Discover animal life cycles and how their offspring may or may not represent the adult animal through activities and small group challenges.

**Adaptations** - Consider different animal adaptations by comparing their external structures and how they work to help them survive in their habitats.

**Plant Traits and Survival/Day Patterns** - Explore plant growth, adaptations and defense mechanisms plants use to help them survive using hands-on activities with living plants and plant artifacts. Combined with patterns of the sun's movements and why plants behave the way they do because of that.

### 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.

## 2nd Grade

**Materials Properties: Outer Coverings, Insulators or Conductors** - Using animal artifacts and live animals, discover how different animals regulate body temperature. Live animal only available in fall and spring.

## 3rd Grade

**Animal Life Cycles / Traits And Inheritance** - Compare and contrast various life cycles and inherited traits that animals obtain as they grow throughout their lives (ie: insects wing structures change from their juvenile state to adulthood).

**Water Cycle, Weather Patterns and Predications** - Explore the water cycle through experiments, comparing the seasons and weather patterns here in Wisconsin to those around the world.

## 4th Grade

**Animal Systems, Physiology Systems Program** - Compare the physiological systems of respiration, circulation, digestion and skeletal/muscular between different animal groups (mammals, birds, reptiles, insects, fish), with an emphasis on hibernation.

**Animal Structures and Functions (Senses)** - Consider the 5 senses and how animals use the structures on their bodies to sense the world and process it in their brains.

**Animal Structures and Functions (Skulls)** - Examine and identify various skulls using a basic dichotomous key. Study the structure and function of skulls and how they can be used to identify animals in various ecosystems.

## 5th Grade

**Ecosystems and the Food Web** - Explore how food chains connect to food webs, and how energy cycles affect ecosystems. Discuss keystone species and how different, non-living factors can shape habitats, ecosystems and food webs.

**Water Cycle and Earth's Systems** - Explore the water cycle using activities and games, learn the science behind how water moves and examine how that movement helps connect and shape ecosystems and habitats.

**Emotions in Motion** - Recognize and release emotions through movement inspired by animals in nature. Each pose reflects an emotion; practicing these sequences, students learn to navigate negative feelings and welcome positive ones. Designed as an indoor activity in a large open space, mats and props are provided.

## 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.

