SUMMER SCIENCE OUTDOORS!

Program Guide

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**EXPLORING SCIENCE OUTDOORS!**

Look for tracks, examine logs, run around, fly a kite, or paddle a canoe: explore Science Outdoors!

Science Outdoors exposes youth, ages 4 to 14, to different outdoor and science related activities. It is a unique opportunity to supplement and to reinforce science concepts taught in class with hands-on activities after school. Our goal is to share the benefits of outdoor place-based education with youth-serving organizations in our neighborhood.

**WHY SCIENCE OUTDOORS?**

We’re all about getting your kids outdoors!

At a time when physical education programs are being cut, the Center offers valuable kinesthetic learning opportunities including rock climbing, canoeing, biking, hiking, fishing & teambuilding. We also strive to include the literacy skills of listening, speaking, writing, and reading into most of our programs.

Research shows that consistent contact with a piece of land throughout one’s childhood, coupled with a mentoring relationship with an interested adult results in respectful and responsible behavior toward the environment. Science Outdoors strives to bring the benefits of outdoor education to the children of Milwaukee!
Registration
Program Requests & Booking: Interested groups may request programs by email: programs@urbanceologycenter.org or contact our Community Programs Department at least 6 weeks in advance. Program requests submitted months in advance will be given priority booking.

Program Length & Location
Our programs are 1.5-2.5 hours in length, including transportation time (if transportation is needed and available). Have the program at your site, a nearby green-space or at one of the Urban Ecology Center branches.

Bookable Times:
Tuesday to Saturday
Morning Programs: 10am-12pm
Afternoon Programs: 1pm-3pm

Group Size & Cost
Our first tier group size is up to 13 students. Second tier is 14-26 students. Larger groups may be accommodated at an additional cost.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of students</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 13 students</td>
<td>$80 per hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-26 students</td>
<td>$160 per hour</td>
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Capacity
Our best-practices teaching ratio is 13 students to 1 UEC educator. For groups wishing to make use of UEC provided transportation, our programming capacity is 26 students and 2 adults. Larger group requests that do not require UEC transportation will be considered based on the Center’s capacity to serve.

Transportation
Transportation can be provided for the field trips happening at the center. Our buses accommodate 14 passengers, and we are unable to transport students w/o an additional adult on each bus. We can guarantee transportation for up to 28 people (26 students and 2 adults). Unfortunately, our buses do not accommodate students in wheelchairs. Please contact us if your group needs an accessible bus and we’ll work with you to arrange transportation.

Chaperones
We require one adult from your organization for every 13 students or one for each bus. Chaperones help with discipline and assist the educator as needed (passing out supplies, taking a child to the bathroom, etc.) to ensure we can provide a quality experience for all students. Group Leader(s) and chaperone(s) are expected to be fully involved with the program.

Bathroom
While facilities are available, we strongly encourage groups to use their site facilities prior to the trip to allow optimum use of the time we have together.

Dress
All our programs have an outdoor component. Students, group leader, and chaperones should dress according to the weather. In inclement weather, outdoor activities may be shortened, but, unless the weather is severe we will still go outside. Please have students wear rain gear when needed. We keep a small supply of extra items, but it is best to borrow items from your site. We strongly recommend that children wear closed shoes (or other footwear appropriate for hiking) as well as clothes and shoes that can get dirty.

Students with Special Needs
Any of our programs can be modified for students with special needs. Please communicate any special needs with Center educators so that we can be prepared for your group. The Urban Ecology Center buildings and many trails are accessible for students who use wheelchairs.

Cancellation Policy
In the case of questionable weather, the Center will determine if the program should be canceled. We honor your site’s snow cancellation policy. If this should happen, you will receive a full refund. If for any other reason a trip needs to be canceled, our cancellation policy is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days before trip</th>
<th>Refund amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31 days or more</td>
<td>Full refund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-30 days</td>
<td>50% refund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-7 days</td>
<td>No refund</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Super Soil Science
**GRADES: K-8**

What is soil? Why does it matter? What is matter? Let’s dig into a little soil science while learning about the cycle of matter and how we’re part of it too! We’ll look closer at soil and then try to speed up the process and make our own. Together we’ll bring the soil back outside where we’ll make some ephemeral art.

**Here We Grow: Plant Basics**
**GRADES: K-2**

Take a closer look into the structure of the plants we see everyday. Search for different types of plants, learn what they need to survive, and the functions of their parts. Perhaps we’ll even plant some seeds of our own!

**Artful Forest**
**GRADES: K-8**

Venture into the trees to discover nature’s patterns on leaves and see how leaves are inspired to make your own unique art. What’s special about each tree and how can we tell them apart? Learn the basics of tree identification and then test your skills in the forest!

**SCIENCE INQUIRY**

Really Small Things
**GRADES: K-5**

Join us on this big adventure, to learn about some of the smallest living things! Use a microscope to see into a world that lives on something as small as an ant. Feel like a giant while looking at plant cells or spider legs!

Sensational Seasons
**GRADES: K-3**

From color changing leaves to falling snowflakes, come find out what makes our Wisconsin seasons SENSATIONAL by exploring changes through games and hands-on activities.

**WATER**

Pond/River Exploration
**GRADES: K-8**

That’s right, we’re going underwater! There we’ll discover the always changing ecosystem that thrives in the freshwater. What do the organisms living in there tell us about the habitat? Look out for dragonfly larva, beetles, and maybe even a stick bug!

Wacky Water
**GRADES: 3-8**

Water is essential to life on Earth! We’ll use scientific experiments and fun games to learn about our watersheds and the properties of the water we drink. We’ll also discuss how water changes as it moves around.

**EXPLORATION**

Survival Challenge
**GRADES: K-8**

We’re going into the green spaces, so bring your outdoor skills and critical thinking to endure the wilderness. Work together as teams to brainstorm scenarios and test your knowledge as you try to survive some of the many elements of nature.

**ANIMALS OF WISCONSIN**

Homes & Habitats
**GRADES: K-5**

Animals come in all shapes and sizes, and therefore, need different things from their environments. Meet and discover the animals that live in all different kinds of ecosystems in our city and state. From prairie to pond, we’ll cover it all!

Amazing Adaptations
**GRADES: 2-8**

Observe the special traits and adaptations that help animals survive where they live. Whether it’s hunting, soaring through the skies or swimming through the sea animals have learned to change over time. Students will also have the opportunity to see and handle live animals from our Native Wisconsin Animal Room.

Buzzing about Pollinators
**GRADES: K-3**

Come see what all the buzz is about! Students will learn the process of pollination and identify common pollinators. Afterwards, they’ll mimic the process themselves through team-oriented games and activities.

Incredible Insects
**GRADES: 4-8**

Have you ever seen an ant that flies? Or a spider that walks on water? There are so many insects and they’re all so different! Come learn with us what they have in common and what neat things they can do. Learn the basics of insect classification and collect and identify insects outside with us.

Owls are a Hoot
**GRADES: 1-8**

This program is sure to be a hoot! Learn about these amazing birds and their incredible adaptations and hunting skills while discovering what they had for dinner. We might even get to dissect a real owl pellet! Then we’ll get outside to see where an owl out of daylight might hide!

Feathered Friends
**GRADES: K-2**

What feathered friends live in your city? Get to know what makes birds different from other animals, and explore the outdoors as we embark on a birding scavenger hunt. Let’s see how many feathers friends we can find outside using our binoculars and field guides.

Brilliant Birds
**GRADES: 3-6**

Chirp, Squawk, Peep! Join us and the birds on this day of birding, learning bird calls and funny things different birds do! While we can hear their unique language chirping through the trees, what are they saying?

Scaly & Slimy Friends
**GRADES: 2-8**

If you don’t find Amphibians “ribbiting” you sure will after this! Slither along with us to explore these salamanders, frogs, snakes, turtles and toads. Their slime and scales are “toadally” cool and each unique. Learn what we have in common with snakes and maybe touch one too!
QUESTIONS ABOUT SUMMER SCIENCE OUTDOORS?

Send an email to programs@urbanecologycenter.org or contact any of our branches:

**Riverside Park**
1500 E. Park Place
Milwaukee, WI 53211
(414) 964-8505

**Washington Park**
1859 N. 40th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53208
(414) 344-5460

**Menomonee Valley**
3700 W. Pierce Street
Milwaukee, WI 53215
(414) 431-2940

www.urbanecologycenter.org