

## What is Nature Kids?

Nature Kids is a program offered through the Apple Creek YMCA to bring nature to children right in your 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. Nature Kids' goal 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.

A naturalist from the YMCA Environmental Education program will visit your classroom any time of the school year. To schedule a visit, call Shane Vondracek, EE Director at (920)702-2305 or email at [svondracek@ymcafoxcities.org](mailto:svondracek@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.

Apple Creek YMCA  
2851 E. Apple Creek Rd.  
Appleton, WI 54913

920.702.2305  
[svondracek@ymcafoxcities.org](mailto:svondracek@ymcafoxcities.org)

Shane Vondracek  
Environmental Ed. Director  
(to schedule a nature program)

920.733.9622  
Front Desk  
(for general info)

Visit us on the web at  
[www.ymcafoxcities.org](http://www.ymcafoxcities.org)



### YMCA Mission:

The YMCA of the Fox Cities is a not for profit organization which puts Christian principles into practice by promoting youth, adult and family activities that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.



## NATURE KIDS

Apple Creek YMCA &  
Bruce B. Purdy  
Nature Preserve

Preschool & Kindergarten  
Environmental Education  
2017-18 School Year



## Nature Kids Programs

Programs are listed below by the month in which they are offered. Two choices are available for each month of the school year.

Fees: \$35 minimum fee for up to the first 20 students, \$1 per student over 20, plus mileage.

### SEPTEMBER

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

**Birds on a Wire**– Hear about common backyard birds, learn to “talk” like they do, and see their nests, feathers and more.



### 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!

### NOVEMBER

**Talking Turkeys**– This big bird is more than just part of Thanksgiving. Learn why we have turkeys in Wisconsin today and try to 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.

### DECEMBER

**It's Snow Fun**– Hear about what some of our winter active animals have to do just to find food or a warm bed, then make something they'll enjoy as a snack!

**Who is a Hibernator?**– Not all animals that sleep during the winter are hibernating. Learn the difference between our many sleepers and hibernators.

### 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.

### FEBRUARY

**Things that go Whoo in the Night**– 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.



### 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 butterfly decoration for home.

### APRIL

**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.

For more information on Y-Environmental Education programs or to schedule a visit for your classroom, please call the Environmental Education Director at 702-2305.