



Georgia Urban Ecologists 2022-2023 Athens Cohort

This program for youth in grades 8 through 12 provides opportunities for hands-on field experiences and fun with peers in the Athens-Clarke County area and beyond. Perfect for students interested in pursuing careers in science or conservation or those who just enjoy being outside in nature--learn alongside experts in the field and establish a network of environmental professionals while having fun outdoors! **Sessions occur one Saturday a month from 10 AM-1 PM**, unless otherwise noted.

Calendar:

Sunday, September 18, 4:30-6:00 PM -- Orientation with Georgia Audubon

October 8 (rain date October 9)

Birding and Banding with Oconee Rivers Audubon Society & Lilly Branch Audubon Society

Stroll through Whitehall Forest for a bird walk, then, observe what it means to conduct bird research through mist-netting and banding.

November 12 (rain date November 13)

Wonders of Water with Athens-Clarke County Water Conservation Office

See first-hand how drinking water treatment and delivery, an invaluable service, is made possible by the Athens-Clarke County Public Utilities Department.

December 10 (rain date December 11)

Behind the Scenes: Animal Care at Sandy Creek Nature Center

Go behind the scenes and learn what it takes to maintain and care for a collection of ambassador animals.

January 14 (rain date January 15)

Birding...at the Landfill? with Athens-Clarke County Solid Waste Department

Where does your trash go after it goes "away"? Witness the process of managing waste and recyclables, then, go birding in a seemingly unlikely place.

February 18 (rain date February 19)

Prescribed Fire: Georgia's Managed Lands at Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center

During this session, students will learn how land is actively managed for conservation to support biodiversity and ecological processes. Then, state biologists will guide us in one of Georgia's most vital land management practices—prescribed burning!

March 11 (rain date March 12)

Connect to Protect: Pollinators and People at The State Botanical Garden of Georgia

Uncover the connections between native wildlife, the environment, and the well-being of people. Students will have the opportunity to conduct habitat samplings and determine the ecological health of different areas of the garden.

April 15 (rain date April 16)

Insect BioBlitz with Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources, Wildlife Conservation Section

How many species of wildlife can you identify? Put your skills to the test by learning how to use iNaturalist and recording as many species as possible!

May 13 (rain date May 14)

River Clean-up and Picnic with Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful

Fight litter and contribute to local conservation through a park clean-up and entering data into UGA's Debris Tracker. We'll also celebrate the end of a great year with a picnic!

Thank you to our partners who make this program possible:

Athens-Clarke County Unified Government, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Lilly Branch Audubon Society, Oconee Rivers Audubon Society, and the State Botanical Garden of Georgia.