



GEORGIA AUDUBON

Georgia Urban Ecologists (GUE) 2023-24: Athens Cohort

This drop-off program for youth in grades 8 through 12 provides opportunities for hands-on field experiences and fun with peers. 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 enjoying the outdoors! **Sessions occur one Saturday a month from 10 AM-1 PM**, unless otherwise noted. Athens Cohort is open to students in Athens-Clarke, Barrow, Banks, Oconee, Jackson, Madison, Oglethorpe, and Walton counties.

Calendar:

Sunday, September 17-- Orientation with Georgia Audubon via Zoom, 4:00-5:00 PM

October 14 (rain date October 15) **Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Conservation**
What do Insects do in the Winter?

Changes in the weather can affect wildlife in many ways, and insects are no exception. In this session, we will explore how insects prepare for their overwintering stage by looking for insect "tracks" and learn how to ID some non-insect species like spiders.

November 11 (rain date November 12) **Concrete Jungle at UGArden**

Growing Food in Urban Spaces

Concrete Jungle Athens works closely with local farmers to glean produce throughout the growing season and collect produce from farmers markets and grocery stores. In this session, we'll participate in a seasonal harvest and learn how urban agriculture helps keep our community fed.

December 9 (rain date December 10) **Athens-Clarke County Solid Waste**

Keeping Athens Clean

Where does your trash go after it goes "away"? How are plastics and other materials recycled and repurposed? Through a facility tour, we will uncover how the essential service of managing municipal waste year-round is accomplished.

January 13 (rain date January 14) **UGA Museum of Natural History**

Georgia's Ecological Past and Present

Blast to the past as we explore Georgia's natural history through the main gallery. Students will also get to meet with the museum's curators who will share their expertise on various collections, including zooarchaeology and ornithology.

February 10 (rain date February 11) **Middle Oconee Water Reclamation Facility**

Where Does Our Water Go?

What happens to water that has been flushed, drained, or otherwise used? Uncover the underground journey that water takes to find the answer. This invaluable service is made possible by the Athens-Clarke County Public Utilities Department and Water Conservation Office.

March 9 (rain date March 10) **The State Botanical Garden of Georgia**

Medicinal Plants

Native plants of the southeastern forests have been used for hundreds of years to treat common ailments. In this session, students will investigate the properties of medicinal plants in the Garden's Herb and Physic Gardens. Through discovery hunts, hands-on science experiments with chromatography, investigating the consequences of over collection, and making herbal products for take-home remedy kits, students will learn about the importance of plants in the past and present medical world.

April 20 (rain date April 21) **9 AM-12 PM* Oconee Rivers Audubon Society**

Spring Migration

**Please note the earlier start/end time.* Bird banding is a vital part of bird research. In this session, students will observe the process of "banding", which involves using mist-nets to safely capture birds in order to attach a metal leg band. Through this process, important data is collected and used to inform conservation efforts. Students will get to see a variety of birds up close and learn about their incredible migration journeys. All birds will be captured and handled in accordance with strict protocols and under state and federal permitting requirements.

May 11 (rain date May 12) **Lake Lanier Aquatic Learning Center**

Aquatic Study and Final Session Celebration with Chattahoochee Riverkeeper

Lake Lanier is the most visited lake in Georgia. It provides drinking water to almost half of Georgia's residents and recreational and sporting opportunities to many people. In addition, over 200 species of birds, dozens of game fish, and a variety of mammals call this lake home. This important resource is also at the center of a dispute between three states that depend on its water and that of the Chattahoochee River system. In this session, students will explore the lake aboard the Chota Princess II, a floating classroom provided by Chattahoochee Riverkeeper. We'll also celebrate the end of a great year with a picnic in River Forks Park!

Thank you to our partners who make this program possible:

Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Concrete Jungle, UGA Museum of Natural History, Athens-Clarke County Solid Waste, Athens-Clarke County Public Utilities Department, the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Oconee Rivers Audubon Society, and Chattahoochee Riverkeeper



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