



Georgia Urban Ecologists (GUE): Athens Cohort

WINTER/SPRING 2025

This drop-off program for youth in grades 7 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-12:30 PM** unless otherwise noted. Athens Cohort is open to students in Athens-Clarke, Barrow, Banks, Oconee, Greene, Jackson, Madison, Oglethorpe, and Walton counties.

Calendar:

January 11 (rain date January 12) **Wonders of Water**

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.

February 8 (rain date February 9) **Georgia's Ecological Diversity**

UGA Museum of Natural History

Deep dive into Georgia's natural history and new migration exhibit through the main gallery. Students will also get to meet with the museum's curators who will share their expertise on the ornithology collection.

March 8 (rain date March 9) **Animal Husbandry**

Bear Hollow Zoo

Students will tour Bear Hollow Zoo, which is home to native, non-releasable wildlife, and learn about our mission. Students will also meet our ambassador animals up close and learn about their husbandry, training, and care. We'll also do a hands-on enrichment activity!

April 12 (rain date April 13) **Spring Migration**

Oconee Rivers Audubon Society

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 10 (rain date May 11) **Park Clean-up and Picnic**

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:

Georgia Department of Natural Resources, UGA Museum of Natural History, Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services, Athens-Clarke County Public Utilities Department, the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, Oconee Rivers Audubon Society, and Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful