



Georgia Urban Ecologists (GUE): Brunswick Cohort 2024-2025

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-12:30 PM**, unless otherwise noted. Brunswick Cohort is open to students in Brantley, Camden, Glynn, McIntosh, and Ware counties.

Calendar:

September 22—Orientation with Birds Georgia via Zoom from 5:00-6:00 PM

October 19 (rain date October 20) Jekyll Island Banding Station

Fall Migration

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.

November 16 (rain date November 17) Glynn County Extension Office

Marsh Ecology

In this session, students will walk in a salt marsh to explore the rich diversity of wildlife that call this kind of habitat home. Participants should plan to dress comfortably for outdoor conditions and bring bug spray, sunscreen, and reusable water bottle.

December 21 (rain date December 22) Florabundance Gardens

Native Plants

Florabundance Gardens cultivates a rich variety of native plants that support a continuous array of birds and other wildlife. The property includes multiple habitats including marsh, maritime forests, ditches and fields. In this session, we'll explore the nursery while learning how native plants support wildlife. During our walk, we'll gather materials to make seasonal wreaths for students to take home.

January 18 (rain date January 19) Manomet

Georgia Bight Shorebird Conservation Initiative

The Georgia Bight comprises important shorebird habitat for resident and migratory species that depend on this southeastern region of the Atlantic Coast. Depending on local conditions, this field trip will be a half day of birding exploration- either on the beach or at a local Wildlife Management Area. Binoculars and field guides will be provided, but students should plan to dress for outdoor conditions including heat/wind/bugs. We will see shorebirds and other wetland species, and discuss how education and outreach are important tools for shorebird conservation.

February 15 (rain date February 16) **Okefenokee Swamp Park**

In this session, we will embark on a paddling adventure in a small section of the Okefenokee Swamp. Aboard kayaks led by our professional naturalists, you will journey deep into the swamp while uncovering the secrets of this incredibly biodiverse ecosystem. With the help of the Satilla Riverkeeper, we will also learn how to monitor water quality and with the help of our great staff, you will learn all about our great conservation projects.

March 15 (rain date March 16) **Solar Astronomy with Charlie Bates Solar Astronomy Project**

Solar Astronomy at Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge

This session will focus on the source of all life on planet earth, the Sun! We will learn about the science of solar astronomy and have the chance to view the sun through an infrared telescope to look for solar flares and sunspots. After our telescope viewing, we'll take a short hike, learning how different wavelengths of sunlight are used by animals and plants, how the sun controls the climate, and other fun sun facts.

April 19 (Rain date April 20) **College of Coastal Georgia**

Aquatic Ecology

In this session, we will wade in a shallow pond behind the 4 H Tideland Nature Center on Jekyll Island, sampling for and learning how to identify invertebrates, and exploring the waters. Waders will be provided thanks to our partners at the College of Coastal Georgia.

May 17 (rain date May 18) **Cumberland Island with Birds Georgia**

Hop aboard a ferry from downtown St. Mary's to Cumberland Island where we will complete a service-learning project. Afterwards, we will get a guided tour of the south end of the island and learn about the history and wildlife who inhabit the island. We will hike at least 3 miles. Wear comfortable clothing, bring bug spray, sunscreen, a packed lunch and reusable water bottle!

Thank you to our partners who make this program possible:

University of Georgia Glynn County Extension Office, College of Coastal Georgia, Florabundance Gardens, Charlie Bates Solar Astronomy Project, Manomet, and Okefenokee Swamp Park.

