



GEORGIA AUDUBON

Georgia Urban Ecologists (GUE) 2023-24: Atlanta Cohort 1

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. Atlanta Cohort 1 is open to students across metro-Atlanta counties who will be participating for the first time.

Calendar:

Sunday, September 17-- Orientation with Georgia Audubon via Zoom, 5:00-6:00 PM

October 21 (rain date October 22) Trees Atlanta

Tree Identification and Service Learning

During this session, we'll gain a better understanding of the dynamic role that trees play in urban ecosystems and learn how to identify a few trees commonly found in Atlanta. Students will also participate in a habitat restoration project by planting trees or removing invasive plants.

November 18 (rain date November 19) Georgia Audubon

Birding and Community Science

Birds are all around, but they often go unnoticed. In this session, we'll explore the important ecological services birds provide and learn how to identify common birds by sight and sound, as well as to how to use observation skills, field guides, and technology to identify unfamiliar birds. We'll also hone our skills using binoculars and contribute to community science by submitting an eBird checklist.

December 16 (rain date December 17) Mason Mill Park

Natural and Human History

During this session, students will explore the ways that humans have affected our local environment over the last 12,000 years, as well as the way the environment affects human history. During our hike with DeKalb County's Ranger Jonah, we'll visit ancient rock outcrops, modern train tracks, ruins of a former park and defunct water treatment plant, and the confluence of two important county waterways, viewing the physical results of human history on the landscape.

January 20 (rain date January 27) Zoo Atlanta

Wildlife Conservation

Zoo Atlanta is directly involved in field conservation programs for wildlife and wild places around the globe right here in Georgia. In this session, students will get a behind-the-scenes tour with Zoo Atlanta staff to learn more about wildlife conservation efforts, career paths at the zoo, and how they can help save species in their own community.

February 17 (rain date February 18) Newman Wetlands Center

Wonders of Water

How often do you think about water — and the vital role it plays in our lives? This program focuses on the importance of watersheds and wetlands in biological, social and cultural ways. On a guided hike

of a wetland, participants will complete a field study that includes water quality testing and biodiversity observations. Discussions will bring attention to participants' personal relationships with the waters around them, their watershed address, and how wetlands mitigate human impact.

March 16 (rain date March 17) **Finding the Flint and American Rivers**

Urban Waterways

During this session, students have the opportunity to tour the hidden headwaters of Georgia's second longest river, learn how to find and "read" urban creeks and discuss the environmental and cultural impacts of urban development on our creeks and waterways. We'll also learn how green infrastructure can help restore natural flows and improve water quality.

April 13 (rain date April 14) **Amphibian Foundation**

Amphibians of Metro-Atlanta

During a field survey at Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve with the Amphibian Foundation, students will learn how to identify common frogs and salamanders of Atlanta, as well as best practices for locating and safely handling amphibians. After the session, students can continue to participate in the Metro Atlanta Amphibian Monitoring Program (www.maamp.us), collecting data on our urban amphibian communities.

May 11 (rain date May 12) **AWARE Wildlife Center**

Urban Wildlife Rehabilitation and Final Picnic

AWARE Wildlife Center rehabilitates injured and orphaned wildlife from across Atlanta. Students will get to meet several of AWARE's rescued ambassadors up close, including owls, hawks, opossums, and more, while learning what goes on inside a rehabilitation center. They will also learn what to do when encountering a wild animal that needs help. After our tour with AWARE, we'll have a picnic to celebrate a great year together!

Thank you to our partners who make this program possible:

Trees Atlanta, Dekalb County Parks, Zoo Atlanta, Newman Wetlands Center/Clayton County Water Authority, Finding the Flint, American Rivers, Amphibian Foundation, AWARE Wildlife Center



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