

2021

Young Naturalist Program Info Letter

Dear Potential Young Naturalist and Parent:

Thank you for applying to the Young Naturalist program for Summer 2021 at the WNC Nature Center! We are so grateful for the trust you place in us to provide a fun, engaging, and pandemic-conscious program to keep you enriched over the summer.

The 2021 program will run from Saturday, June 12 to Friday, August 13. We have no minimum hour requirements for the program this year, however, participants who earn 18 service hours over the summer will receive a small prize for actively participating. **The application closes on Friday, May 7th, 2021 at 5pm.**

As public health guidelines change, our program continues adjusting to support teens, ages 13-17 years old, through a second summer of the pandemic. Our goal is to enrich teens over the summer months by providing opportunities to connect with peers, learn about the environment, earn service hours, and give back to the community through various projects.

Similar to last year, the structure of the program will be mostly distance engagement with some opportunities for in-person workdays following public health guidelines. Highly interactive virtual meetings keep teens connected and learning while the Google Classroom hosts projects and activities that teens can select and complete from the comfort and safety of home. Opportunities for in-person workdays may become available over the summer as needs arise and as public health guidelines allow.

Whether you choose to engage in the program remote only, in-person only, or a hybrid, we are so excited to see you this summer... from a distance!

Requirements for Applicants

- Be between 13 and 17 years of age on June 12, 2021.
- Submit a completed application and a completed Program Waiver and Photo Release Form by May 7, 2021 at 5:00 pm.
- Be excited to try new things and embrace the unknown.
- Be willing to follow the rules of the Nature Center and this program.
- Have an enthusiastic attitude and plan to have fun!

Program Fee

- We ask for a program fee of \$20.00 to be **paid upon acceptance to the program (please *do not* send a check with the application)**. This fee helps to cover the cost of program materials, including a t-shirt (Young Naturalists will be required to wear a volunteer t-shirt during every work shift).
- If you are unable to pay the fee, please still apply!
- If you are able, please consider covering the fees of your student *plus an additional student* who may not be able to.
- Payments are accepted in cash or checks made payable to WNC Nature Center, 75 Gashes Creek Rd, Asheville, NC 28805

If you have any questions, please contact the Teen Program Coordinator, Alayna Schmidt (she/her) at **(828) 259-8085** or aschmidt@ashevillenc.gov.

I look forward to having you join us this summer!