

2022

Young Naturalist Program Info Letter

Dear Potential Young Naturalist and Parent/Guardian(s):

Thank you for your interest in the Young Naturalist program for Summer 2022 at the WNC Nature Center! We are grateful for the trust the community places in us to provide a fun, engaging, and pandemic-conscious program to keep participants enriched over the summer.

The 2022 program will run from Tuesday, June 14 to Tuesday, August 16. We have a **15 hour requirement** for the program this year. **Applications and Release Forms are due by Friday, April 22nd, 2022 at 5pm.**

As public health guidelines change, our program continues adjusting to support teens, ages 13-17 years old, through a third summer of the pandemic. Our goal is to enrich participants over the summer months by providing opportunities to connect with peers, learn about the environment, engage with Nature Center guests, and earn service hours.

The program will be in a hybrid format (online and in-person) to offer opportunities to engage with the public, participate in professional development, in-person work days, and conservation based projects from home. By popular demand, we are having Young Naturalists back on site and plan to offer rotating shifts to engage the public with Nature Play, Citizen Science, and fun activities! Opportunities for in-person work days will become available over the summer as needs arise and as public health guidelines allow. We will also host virtual projects that participants can select and complete from the comfort and safety of home.

Requirements for Applicants

- Be between 13 and 17 years of age on June 14, 2022
- Submit a completed application and a completed Program Waiver and Photo Release Form by Friday, April 22, 2022 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** (**payment is accepted upon acceptance in the program**). This fee helps to cover the cost of program materials, including a t-shirt participants will be required to wear 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.

Additional Information

- Applicants will be informed about admission into the program by the middle of May.
- Participants can indicate their schedule availability on the application and will sign up for specific shifts after acceptance into the program.
- If you have any questions, please contact Education Specialist, Chrissy Cochran (she/her) at **(828) 259-8084** or ccochran@ashevillenc.gov.

We look forward to the chance to work with you this summer!