



2026 Young Naturalist Program Information

Thank you for your interest in the Young Naturalist program for Summer 2026 at the WNC Nature Center! We are grateful for the trust the community places in us to provide a fun, engaging, and educational program to keep participants enriched over the summer.

The 2026 program will run from Tuesday, June 16 to Monday, August 10th. There is a **20 hour requirement** (8 shifts) for the 8-week program.

Shifts will be offered 7 days a week in both the morning (9:45 am - 12:15 pm) and the afternoon (1:15 pm - 3:45 pm). Young Naturalists will rotate through different shift stations to engage the public with fun, nature themed activities. Young Naturalists will have the power to self select and sign up for the shifts that work with their schedule.

Requirements for Applicants

- Be between 13 and 17 years of age between June 16 and August 13, 2026.
- **Submit a completed application and a completed Parent Liability Release Form by Friday, April 17, 2026 at 5 pm.**
- Attend 1 of the 5 orientation sessions in May/June 2026.
- Be willing to follow the rules of the Nature Center and this program.
- Have a desire to learn and teach about native wildlife.

Program Fee

- We ask for a program fee of **\$50.00 (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 mid- May.
- If you have any questions, please contact Teen Program Coordinator, Chrissy Cochran (she/her) at **(828) 259-8084** or ccochran@ashevillenc.gov.

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