



2026 Shift Leader Information

Thank you for your interest in the Young Naturalist Shift Leader 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 **27 hour requirement** (10 shifts) for the 8-week program. Shift Leaders are required to volunteer on a **weekly basis** on the same day and time for the entirety of the program.

Shifts will be offered 7 days a week in both the morning (9:45 am - 12:30 pm) and the afternoon (1:15 pm - 4 pm). Shift Leaders will lead Young Naturalists in their shift duties, participate in community science, and develop an independent project. Shift Leaders are required to volunteer on the same day/time each week of the program and participate in at least 2 additional shifts. Shift Leaders will have the power to self select and sign up for the additional shifts that work with their schedule.

Requirements for Applicants

- Be between 15 and 17 years of age between June 16 and August 13, 2026.
- Be available on a **weekly basis** for the duration of the Young Naturalist program shift days (June 16- August 10).
- **Submit a completed application and a completed Parent Liability Release Form by Friday, April 17, 2026 at 5 pm.**
- Attend 2 orientation sessions in May/June 2026.
- Be willing to follow the rules of the Nature Center and this program.
- Pay close attention to detail, follow directions, and work independently on assigned tasks.

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!