Help Your Students Discover Aurora’s True Nature

Immerse your students in nature and stimulate their minds with experiential learning activities. The city of Aurora offers interactive, naturalist-guided programs to help connect your classroom to Aurora’s natural world.

City naturalists offer a variety of exciting programs designed with the specific needs of school curricula in mind. The programs are hands-on, inquiry-based and age-appropriate and cover a broad range of topics with emphasis on science, ecology and Aurora’s natural resources. The programs fulfill requirements for most Colorado State Standards Life Science competencies and connect Common Core State Standards and STEM principles to real-world experiences.

Our high-quality program offerings provide:

- field trips guided by nationally certified and award-winning naturalist staff
- indoor and outdoor facilities for field trips
- options for programs brought your school
- convenient times on weekdays and weekends

Let us help you support your students as they create deep and personal connections to the natural world.

DISCOVER AURORA’S TRUE NATURE
AuroraGov.org/Nature

MORRISON NATURE CENTER
AT STAR K RANCH
16002 E. Smith Rd. Aurora CO 80011
303.326.8445

Consult our library of field guides, reference manuals and kid’s books and enjoy plant and animal exhibits. Kids can also dress up in animal costumes, play with hand-made wooden puzzles and put on a puppet show.

SENAC CREEK NATURE CENTER
AT AURORA RESERVOIR
5800 S. Powhaton Rd. Aurora CO 80016
303.326.8429

Learn about local ecosystems, food chains and where our water comes from and how we keep it clean. This newly remodeled facility features electronics games, interactive exhibits and a stunning photography display.
Program Options
All programs can be adapted to any grade level and customized to meet time and cost constraints. Most programs can be tailored to accommodate participants with special needs.

AURORA WILDLIFE, LIFE CYCLES AND ADAPTATIONS
Discover the wildlife that lives in Aurora and the adaptations they use to help them survive. Students explore animal pelts and skulls, participate in food chain and life cycle activities, and enjoy naturalist-guided discovery time on the trail.

AURORA PLANTS
Without plants, nothing in Aurora would survive, yet they have some of the toughest lives in nature. Students learn the parts of a plant, adaptations for plant survival and build a plant necklace that actually grows!

AURORA BIRDS
Birds are everywhere and they can tell us a lot about our world. Students learn about feathers and flight, how and what birds eat (through games and owl pellet dissection – a month booking time is required to ensure we have the pellets), and spend time outside watching and learning about our feathered friends.

ANCIENT AURORA
Aurora’s ancient past is as diverse and interesting as its present. Students study the rock cycle, build a timeline of Earth’s history according to the fossil record and journey through Aurora’s ancient ecosystems to discover our earliest residents.

WILDLIFE AWARENESS AND SAFETY
Is it possible to coexist with wildlife? We believe it is, and that coexistence is important for both humans and wildlife. Students learn about the animals that live in our city, why they are here and how we can safely coexist with them.

SPECIAL INTEREST TOPICS
Aurora’s Spookiest Creatures • Aurora Bats • Venomous, Poisonous and Deadly • Aurora Raptors • Coyote Country • Honeybees • Aurora Plants and Wildflowers • Insects that Sting • Prairie Rattlesnakes • Reptiles and Amphibians

If you’re interested in a topic not listed, just ask, we may be able to accommodate your request.

The Details
SCHEDULING A PROGRAM IS SIMPLE AND EASY!
• Choose a topic.
• Select a date and time. Select several date options – our schedule fills up quickly.
• Pick a location. Bring your group to one of our fabulous facilities or we can come to you.
• A minimum of 10 participants is required to schedule a naturalist-guided program and some sites have participant limits as few as 30.
• Contact Joy Thompson, school program coordinator, at 303.326.8445 or jethomps@auroragov.org

FEES FOR NATURALIST-DIRECTED PROGRAMS
The city of Aurora naturalist program requests a donation of $1 per student for those within the Cherry Creek and Aurora Public School districts. The $1 per student fee is required for other school districts. Please make checks payable to the City of Aurora. Credit cards are not accepted.

PROGRAM VENUES
City of Aurora naturalists offer programs at the Morrison Nature Center and Senac Creek Nature Center or we can come to you. Call 303.326.8445 to discuss having your presentation at a park or open space near your school.